

Interviews

Family Farm Project

2-23-1995

Interview with Dale Grassbaugh

Andy Legant

Dale Grassbaugh

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.kenyon.edu/ffp_interviews

Recommended Citation

Legant, Andy and Grassbaugh, Dale, "Interview with Dale Grassbaugh" (1995). *Interviews*. 24.
https://digital.kenyon.edu/ffp_interviews/24

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Family Farm Project at Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Interviews by an authorized administrator of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact noltj@kenyon.edu.

Andy Legant
February 23, 1995
ANSO 67-68

Interview With Dale Grassbaugh (Father)

Thursday Afternoon, February 23, 1995. 21461 Schenk Creek Rd. Howard,
OH 43028

AL: Well let's begin. How large is your farm?

DG: Oh well the formal operation consists of a little better than a thousand acres. We raise about five hundred acres of corn, about a hundred of soy bean, about a hundred and fifty acres of alfalfa, about eighty to a hundred acres of wheat, and the rest is pastured and grass hay. We milk about 140 head of cows in the herd, raise all the heffers and bull calves, feed our steers off to finish weight.

AL: How long have you been in Knox County?

DG: I've lived in Knox County my whole life and I've farmed about 37 years.

AL: I remember you saying yesterday that your father was not a farmer. Why did you want to get involved in farming?

DG: My father did not farm. My grandfather farmed and I was always, I enjoyed it and I thought that's what I always wanted to do. I really don't have a definite reason.

AL: Do you think that...you said that you felt that that is what you always wanted to do. Do you think that you were kind of born a farmer?

-Counter--19

DG: Yeah I think maybe that might be kind of a good way to put it. I like to work with my hands and I think the reason I wanted to farm is the satisfaction I get out of farming. I think you take a field and you prepare and plant it, watch the crop grow, and see it come along, I think it's a very rewarding. Same way in the livestock business you breed a cow and watch the calf and heffer come along and see what kind of a dairy replacement it calfs, and I think that those are some of the rewarding parts about it. I think that's the main thing that I like about farming.

AL: I remember you were saying yesterday also that it was difficult for you to get started that a lot of people doubted you. How hard

was it for you to get involved with farming?

DG: When I started farming it was very difficult because I started on my own. A lot of people never thought I could make it. In fact I felt that sometimes myself. But we just kept plugging away. We started out small, and we just kept expanding. It was very difficult a lot of the time. Our cash flow was very short. It was hard.

-Counter--32

AL: You said you started out small. Was there anything here or were you pretty much starting from scratch when you came?

DG: When I started was my father happened to buy fifty acres of land, a house because he wanted to live in the country. I cash rented that off of him and I bought six dairy cows. And then I shared the farm with my granddad for about seven or eight years. And then I preceeded to buy this present farm that we're living on today and one thing has led to another. We acquired several acres of land since then.

AL: How did you know what you needed to do? I am just thinking that if I wanted to get involved...I guess your grandfather did it so. But did you kind of work with other people or how did you know how to get started?

DG: Well I just....you just start and build I guess. I worked with my grandfather and the reason I got the dairy started...we started with some dairy cattle I needed an every day income and with that one we had milk to sell and we had a steady income. And then I share cropped with my grandfather and worked for him in some of his things. We worked with extension quite a bit. We received feed consultants and things like that. It's just I really don't know how to answer the rest of that. It's just one of them things you just kind of start and then you go, you don't dare look back. You've got to go forward.

-Counter--52

AL: How has your acreage and stuff grown over the years? Did you tend to ...are you graduallyy amounting more land or did you kind of acquire it all at once?

DG: No we bought...and only on the land that we own...I bought the first farm here in 1962. And I can't tell you the other years but the first farm I bought was 130 something acres. Now we own about 800 acres. And we just bought...kind of as land comes available why most we tried to buy the land that was close to us if it come available because it was easier to work in. And as our cash flow would permit it. To do it.

AL: Being that you weren't raised on a farm....again not so much how did you know what to do or where to go...but was there more of a community of people to help you out as far as when you were getting started 30, 35 years ago, than there is now do you think?

DG: You mean the community helping out. You know there were some things that was easier back then than there is today. We had more...our implement dealers we had two or three implement dealers at Danville. We had at Howard a feed elevator. We had more suppliers and stuff was smaller and we could work with them a little bit. I don't think we had to be as big at that time.

-Counter--75

AL: You were saying yesterday you tended to help people out.

DG: Yeah that's a good point. At first I know I kind of just got into farming when there was just a small amount of working back and forth. One of the things I had when I first started was a chopping outfit. I filled silos. I filled 27 silos that were sold yearly from home, to help justify the equipment. We done some combining, some hay barrelling away from home. As our operation got bigger we don't do that anymore were busy here at home. And I think that helped justify the equipment. We had some people to do some things, we created some work back and forth with other people with equipment which has pretty well ceased now because everyone has about enough to do...with all you can do with the equipment in the time span you have to do it.

AL: Why do you think that...or just because of the technology and the size of the farms?

-Counter--90

DG: I think basically it's because of the size of the farms. It's a profit. You have to roll over so many acres. The margin of profit is small and you have to do a lot with volume. You have to increase your volume every year. You have to...you either have to...and like in the dairy business you either have to every three or four years you've got to either increase numbers, increase production per cow...cause basically our prices we are receiving are the same now as they were...milk is less now than it was ten/five years ago. But we are having to do it on volume and being more efficient. And you don't have time...you are committed at home so much you don't have time to take that equipment away from home to work.

AL: Do you think farming is more individual families now or individuals rather than a community effort or are you still involved in numerous organizations?...more so or less so than you use to be as far as Farm Bureau or extension....

DG: I think we are more as an individual unit anymore than we used to be because...I think in our case I think we have tended to go less to some of the things that we used to like Farm Bureau meetings, and Grange meetings and so on because of the...your committed at home, you have a larger operation and then when you get done at night your tired and you stay at home. We...I think we do more reading now than we used to. I don't think in our case we work as close as extension as we did 20 years ago...I really can't answer...I think maybe they have tended to lean more toward...to the gardens and houses...people with yards and stuff like that...and I think it's naturally because their budget has been cut, and they have only so much time and there's more people in that. There's a big demand for their time. And we have turned more towards consultants: feed companies, chemical companies. And that type of people to get a lot of our information to work with.

-Counter--122

AL: Sounds like farming has become more of a business than...

DG: Yeah I think the day of saying that farming is a way of life.

You've got to look at it from a business aspect now. Definitely there is still a trend, a way of life, part of farming but you have got to make your decisions, have got to be business decisions. We've got to realize that we are an agri-business man just the same as the implement dealers, any other. Some of these operations and these family sized farms now will overturn a lot more money than some of your businesses over there on Main street. And I think that we have jsut got to look at it as a business aspect.

(phone interrupts...tape paused)

AL: Let's start that up again. I think we were talking about farming as kind of changed from being a way of life and being turned into kind of a business. Do you see any advantages to that at all?

DG: Advantages to that...well.

-Counter 138--

AL: I know yesterday you were saying that it is difficult for farmers to get medical insurance.

DG: Well no. What I was saying on that is that if you are an individual farm...it's one thing that I always thought was very injustice. We can...health insurance is not a hundred percent deductible. They are changing that all the time. Where a man that works in town, the company furnishes your hospitalization. It's not taxable on your part and the company don't have to pay taxes on it because it's a company expense. But for us if I remember right, I think we can only deduct 25 maybe it's 50 percent this year. But in our case now we have employees and we are carrying it on everyone so we can

do it. But that is just one of the things for being self employed and it's kind of an injustice. And it makes it pretty difficult.

Here if you...about two years ago we was paying 700 bucks a month for hospitalization and we changed and got into a different group and we're real happy. Were paying about half that now. And have better coverage. It's quite a problem. It's quite a big expense.

People don't realize what that costs if you do not have it.

AL: As far as advantages to farming becoming more toward a business, you can't see any then?

-Counter--159

DG: Well I think a high percentage of farmers would like to stay in the good ole day's if you might say it. But it's just not there and to survive and to justify the equipment you have to...And basically we're changing there a little bit. A dozen eggs is costing almost as much today as the same price today as it did fifteen years ago but a car or truck and the price of milk and stuff, has not changed very much...is the stuff we buy so we are having to do it with volume.

We are having...we are making smaller profits per unit but we're having to do it with volume and that's why...that's the whole secret.

That's why the American people can buy their groceries, a few years ago it was like fifteen percent of their income and now it's down less than twelve. And it's because of the way we have produced in the homefront. I really think the bigger farms and the people who gain the most out of it is the consumer. To keep their, the way we operate in efficiency, it's a really good buy. You complain when you go to the store and we complain to but what you take out and the quality and the amount and the selection we have we are very fortunate.

AL: Can you describe a typical day on the farm? I know it probably changes quite a bit.

DG: Well we start out around here a typical day this time of year would be. We try to be at the barn between about quarter after, five thrity. It takes us a few hours to milk right now, and two people will be working around...usually two comes at that time and they'll start milking. And about seven a couple more will come and some of them will go to breakfast. And during that time we are milking.

While we are milking we're feeding, taking care of the calfs. We won't finish up milking until about nine or nine thirty. And some of them will stay around and clean up. Wash cows, breed cows, doctor cows, anything that has to be done in that line. A couple of us will go in different directions and feed the young stock and take care of that. Then we'll come back and the rest of the day we'll grind feed, haul manure, clean fence rows, just different things.

Then we'll start about 3:30 in the evening and do the same thing all over again. We used to think we liked to be done by 7:00 and we still do but it's usually 7:30, quarter of eight now. Because we are milking more cows and getting more milk per cow. And it takes that long to do it. And in the summer time we our days are probably the same length or a little longer but a couple of us try to get to the field about 8:00 or 8:30 and leave about 1:00 or 2:00 and spend about all day taking care of live stock and that kind of stuff.

-Counter--209

AL: So it changes quite a bit depending upon the season for the most part.

DG: It changes a lot from one today to tomorrow. Today was...for example. Were trimming...we've got a guy down here so we get more expertise about every six weeks we have someone come in...we are trimming cows because the cows that we dry up and the cows that get sore feet...Mother nature made cows to walk on ground and we put them, we've got them on concrete. Mother nature made a cow to produce enough milk to raise a calf. And since I have been dairying to show you how we've changed so much...we've produced eight thousand pounds of milk...about eighty five hundred...when I first went on test about 30 years ago....and now we're producing about 23 thousand pounds of milk out of the same basically designed animal that was designed just to make enough milk for the calf. So we have to push her harder on proteins, energys a big thing, and that causes more feet problems.

We have them on concrete. But for example today we have a man down there trimming feet. One of the boys is helping him run cows in.

And Doug went and got a little sawdust. And our hard man that works for us...he's grinding and feeding today. Tomorrow we'll probably bed stalls and just a different routine to keep the whole thing going.

One day next week we will probably tear the front end out of one tractor and that may take two days. We'll tear it all out, we'll have to go clear down to Cambridge and bring them back. That will be a two day proposition for about two or three of us. We wear a lot of different hats...One minute you are a verterinarian, the next minute you are a mechanic, the next minute you are something else.

-Counter--241

AL: But I take it there are some things that you have to do every day...like milking and..

DG: Yeah like milking and feeding the livestock. That's twice a day 365 days a year. And it's just the way it is. That's the downfall of dairying in and large livestock operation. Someone has to be here. We have to have two people here every morning and every night. Sundays and all.

AL: With this type of a commitment why do you think anyone would want to go into farming these days?

DG: Well I ask myself that question and I don't come up with an answer. I think it's a challenge. I think it's something you've got to like and want to do and you've got to see the rewarding sides of it. Most farm people I think we're kind of independant, we...in my case I don't like to do the same thing all the time. I mean I know I milk three or four hours every morning and every night and that's the same thing but in the free time we do a lot of things...different things and it's a challenge. I think there is a real challenge in today's agriculture to survive and to make it work and I think you have to be a self motivator. I think even the people that works for us...if we have someone that works for us, they have to be really self motivated. When they go some place to do something, to see what needs to be done and...it's not like a factory. I can't tell a guy to go up the road and drill seven holes in a board so far apart. If he goes up there to take care of cattle, he goes up there and a water line busted he has to know enough to fix it, come back and get parts. He has to check of things. If there is an animal that doesn't look very good, he has to be able to doctor it. It's just...or come back and tell us so we can do that. It's a challenge to do it I think.

-Counter--274

AL: It seems in talking to Doug and Dwayne that they seem more interested in farming than your daughters. Is that true?

DG: Well I think because the boys, I think the farming...I think the girls, especially Anna Marie has a lot of interest in the farming, but I think she tends to be more in agri-business and likes to do the books. She always done a lot of the milking before she went school. The boys I think they see it as a way that they'll be making their livelihood, and I think with the girls it depends a lot on where they go. If they get married or so, and where their family commitmants go that way. And the same with the boys too. I mean if they get married they may want to change or something. But I think the boys are right now are more...and they are a little older and the girls are still in school and the boys are out here and they have either had to work here or go somewhere else to work to make a living.

-Counter--293

AL: I know you were saying yesterday that because they are older they tended to already be doing things that the girls didn't have a chance to do. Do you think that had anything to do with maybe the way that they went now?

DG: Well...where I was coming from there was like in the field, the girls have never done a whole lot tractor driving and stuff like...they never really had the opportunity because the boys learned how and done it before hand and they were their to do it. Doug has always done a lot more tractor work and fieldwork than what Dwayne did because he liked that better. Dwayne would rather work with the cattle. I think that's the thing...If you've got a family operation of this size and if there is different people that likes different aspects and can take that and go with it, it makes a lot better deal. I mean if Dwayne likes to work with the cows and spend the time fine. And he'll do better than if Doug is doing it, and he is just doing it because he knows its got to be done. The little things...you'll do better because you really like it and your hearts in it. And one the other part, Doug likes working on the machinery, he likes running it, and he has a tendency to do that a lot better than what Dwayne does. Not put off something till tomorrow that should be done today, but you can get away with it tomorrow because you don't like to do it. And the girls they didn't get that opportunity. They've always done a lot of calf feeding and helped milk, and that type of stuff.

-Counter--320

AL: So you said Anna Marie is continuing in agriculture, more along the line of agribusiness. Do you see her on a farm someday?

DG: Well I see Anna Marie probally more in agribusiness. She is taking agribusiness and environmental agronomy right now, she is going to be taking a...in the Spring...she is at a one or two year school at ATI at Wooster. And they have to do an internship. And she is going to be starting the first day of April at Farmers exchange in their agronomy department working in there so she can get some more hands on experience with the chemicals and working with people. And I can see her pursuing that. I think she really likes that kind of stuff. Being outside and working and it just...I think some of the things that come to our family, especially the girls, but the boys as well...through FFA, like Anna Marie likes agronomy, soil judging at school, and I think all four of the kids has been on soil judging teams and worked, I think they have all got to go to Oklahoma for a national, and that really gets them involved and they like it and it's fun. It's a good excuse for them to get out of school for a week to go to Oklahoma, and I think that's made a lot of difference.

-Counter--347

AL: You were saying that you encourage them, or maybe it was Kathy that was saying that, you both encourage them to do things off the farm. Why do you think they want to come back and stay here?

DG: Well, I really don't know why they want to come back. I've always used the approach to it...with Dwayne we talked him into...he always wanted to go to college, and he always said he was going to go to college. We really tried to talk Doug to going to a two year school. He went one day and quit and come home. I think he would have been better off if he would have went a little more. But I have always used the approach it's here, if you want to go and try something you can come back. I have done what I wanted to do, and I want youins to...I want you to do what you want to do. And I think life is not really a matter of how much money you make if you are lucky enough to be doing something you like and enjoy...is a lot more satisfaction means more to you than great big money. I know people that hate to go to work tomorrow, and dread today thinking about it, because they don't like it. And I have days that I would give this place away, and other days. But basically I like it. And I think that's the thing that...the reason they come back. I am anxious to see what you find out from Dwayne. What he thinks.

AL: Have you always wanted to pass down the farm?

DG: Oh yeah. I think that's everybodys goal. You like to see when you work and build something, you like to see it continue on. I'd love to think that this farm would gone on and the next generation, next generation, and next generation...whatever it may be that would certainly be my goal. And I think that becasue it was so hard to get it started and get it built this way. And I feel the next generation has a golden opportunity to go on and I really the last thing I hope to see is the land all put houses on it. And...I have nothing against that. I know we have to have that but when you've got something that you built and worked, and that's your life, you like to think that it will carry on.

-Counter--393

AL: What kind of steps are you taking to gradually pass it down?

DG: Well really we are just getting started in that. The boys is coming home and they've acquired some cattle and we really haven't done a whole lot, but we are figuring getting a lot of stuff laid in place here and we are starting...especially if we decide to do anything substantial or anything, in the future this will all be laid out. We'll get a lot of this laid out ahead of time, and we're...Dwayne just came home from college a year ago and we're just now getting...and this is something that takes a lot of thought and try to figure out where to go. We are just now getting started in that. That is a tough thing to figure out.

AL: That kind of goes along the line of farming being a business again.

DG: Well yeah you got to think about...you can't give it all away to them in case...you know there have been cases where...we've got to have something to live on too. It's a tough way to figure out where to go and what to do. And we will have to get a lot of professional help to help us, and ideas and go from there.

AL: Do you ever worry about, I'm sure you do, but worry about the future of this farm?

-Counter--419

DG: You mean the future of farming in general?

AL: Well either or. Specifically this farm because I know you said this is your first...time on this farm. Your not first generation farmers, but you are first generation on this land.

DG: Yeah theres first generation. Yeah, I'm concerned about what I see coming down the road. I think we have some really tough times. I think the economic thing is really tough. I see the environmental thing...you know there is so many things coming about from the environmental that has no scientific basis. And people decide they don't like something, and that concerns me greatly. With the animal thing and the animal disposal of animal waste, were trying to do a good job on that...and you can do a good job and someone don't like it, you can have a lot of problems. The animal rights thing is...there's some things in there some things that's really scary for me. I've heard them quote that they don't want no domestic animals for food. And I see a lot of challenges and a lot of things that really concerns me down the...where you have to be involved and watch and really work at them.

AL: Do you think that makes it harder for someone to get involved in farming today?

DG: It definitely makes it much harder. Use the animal waste product for example...handling the animal waste. If you have to spend 20,30,40 thousand/50 thousand dollars solely to hold animal waste, it adds nothing to the volume of the product and to the milk you are handling, and you don't get anymore for it, and you have to work that into the total cost. Course on the other hand if you do a good job handling the animal waste, we can take it out in the field. We can cut down on fertilizer and it's a whole thing but still its a lot of money to outlay and the sad situation is I can build something today and build it...and get all the right reccommendations and stuff that they recommend and build it, and it can be obselete tomorrow if someone comes up with a new set of guidelines or something that

someone doesn't like from Washington, county, state level, and that's the scary part. You spend a lot of money for something and then...and you done it right, what you though was right, and it's obselete and not the way to go.

-Counter--479

AL: With all these kind of new changes is it possible for anyone who doesn't already have an in, to get involved in farming these days?

DG: Well, that's a good question. I've thought about that. I don't think you can get in farming today if you don't have someone to help you. But I'll come back and say people told me that 35 years ago and I think that all depends on the individual and really how dedicated, how hard you are. And a lot of it's luck and I know you make a lot of your own luck. You've really got to be dedicated and youve got to really want what your doing and really try.

-Counter--499 (End of Side A)

AL: Being that it is so difficult for someone to get involved in farming today who hasn't...doesn't already have an in, could you maybe say that rather than necessarily people being born farmers anymore kind of being raised into it? Into that kind of line of work now is easier, or not necessarily easier but you have less opportunity to go out and do exactly what you want to do rather than...it's a lot easier for someone that has been raised on a farm to want to become a farmer because that is already kind of in there blood, but its not born in their blood but its in their blood because its been kind of socialized into it a little bit.

DG: Well I think maybe that makes it easier from a standpoint of if they were raised or worked on a farm there is a lot of things that children learn from you. And even when they were small their watching you and seeing you do things, they learn and they get a lot of that. But I think I think one of the things that help I think they really know more of what they are getting into and I think this is why a lot of people, young people are not staying on the farm.

They've seen how hard it's been and they know more of what they are getting into. And if you take someone that thinks they want a farm, and it looks glamorous to see what's going on across the field in a big combine. But of all the things that it takes to get into that, and they start and then they find out the other side of it. And the financial stuff. But I think that a young person that is raised up in it, they fully know, they really know a little more what they are getting into. Now the question you had before something I didn't think about, you asked about getting into farming and I think, and I don't have the name on the tip of my tongue, but there is an outfit now there is an awful lot of farm people now that don't

have family that want to take over and so on and there is different organizations or things where they are putting the farmer that's 65 or whatever the age is that you may retire, with a young couple that is interested in farming. And you work with them for...and that's something that's all an individual basis. They put you together, you kind of work, buy part of it and go on to kind of adopt...the old person kind of adopts the young person or a young couple and go from that. And your reading a lot of really things in some of the farm magazines and I don't know if there is anything written on a local like that or not. But I think that you will see a lot more of that. And people really, like myself if I didn't have a family that you would like to see the thing carry on and there are people out there that really wants to...and this outfit they are putting people together. And I think it's a wonderful thing.

-Counter 546-

Another place where I think that works too is if you know, our operation is big enough where a couple or two or three of the family members can make a living here even without each paying each much.

I mean with the base we have got to start with today. But see when we was only at 100 or 200 acres, and a 45 herd and no waay to expand see there is no more land available and so on...maybe both sons would want to stay but there is just not a way for them. So maybe they could go up to the neighbor or some other of these persons that's wanting to find someone and they could work themselves into it or something like that even. That's one of the problems some times in families there is just not enough opportunities there for them to make a go at it. And you have to make some commitments if...and if I figure on the boys to stay and the girls...I keep saying the boys thats because there here right now but you know maybe we will have to build a new milking parlor. Weve been going to some seminars and stuff and there milking 4, five hundred cow herd. It takes a lot of commitment on my part and I don't want to get where I am tied in where I have to and can't quite some day, and there is a lot of commitment to help them to carry on and there is a lot of fcommitment to them to help you go on too in the transferring stages and stuff.

There has got to be a lot of trust and understanding that really can't be put on paper or just...And I think that is something that is real hard to know what it is.

AL: You were saying that you never or rarely look back and are always looking forward...

-Counter 569-

DG: Well I told you a story yesterday that I think is a very fitting one. My granddad when I was renting and farming off of him...I was renting land and stuff and I bought this farm right here where we are sitting today and he really wasn't to pleased with it at the

time, but I was renting farms off of him and he said "The way you have been operating now you've been on a plank out into a pond and he says any time you wanted to quit up until now you could back off and quit. But he says now that you stepped over to the next plank and someone picked up the one behind you and the only way to go is forward." And I have tried to operate that way. If I get ready to buy something big or expand or do something I try to really think about it really hard and decide that's what I want to do. And once I do it, I go on and I don't worry about oh I shouldn't have built that silo that size, I shouldn't have done this. We've done that we've got to be looking down the road so you can see what's up ahead instead of what's behind. I think you have to look behind sometimes to see where you have been, and history and that. But to make business decisions you've got to be looking out ahead and thinking and seeing what's in front.

-Counter 586-

AL: That seems to be something that kind of everybody has to do in everything.

DG: I think that's life.

AL: Is there anything you think that I haven't asked you that you have been dying to say.

DG: No I just I think this program is good to get, to get...I hope a lot of people learn where their food comes from and they take a lot of things for granted and I think they really need to know about and more understanding. This great country is only less than 2 percent of us raising the food in the production. I mean the raw product. And we eat like we do. And we all eat good and we all have food and fiber in the greatest abundance and I think that agriculture people it's taken for granted. I still think the family farm you talk about the family farm I don't think nobody can describe a family farm but the backbone of the food supply comes from operations like this, smaller and bigger. And I think it is really important that sometime and somehow people will really realize this...what we do. If it took 25 percent of their income to buy food they sure couldn't go on as many vacations and things they do. And most of other countries its that or higher.

-Counter 611-

AL: My next question was what ideally would you want the project to do if it could do....

DG: I think I pretty well just answered that question don't you.

AL: Kind of an awareness...

DG: Awareness and make the people understand where there roots are.

One of the things I think that my generation like myself, my father didn't farm but we went back to his brothers farm. My grandad on my Dad's side died when I was 2 or 3 years old. With my grandfather even if I wouldn't have farmed, my kids would have had some access back to the farm going to their uncles their grandfathers or so on.

And I think your generation and your children and people your age that we are getting so far removed that nobody has any ties back to agriculture and I think this is real important so people know.

You ask an awful lot of kids. I bet you go to a school in Mount Vernon and ask the kid's in the 3rd or 4th grade where their milk comes from and they tell you the bottle. We have always had kindergarten classes here. When Dwayne was a kindergartener their teacher asked to come down and we've had every year since then we've had...some years we have had three or four different classes here.

We show them where the milk comes from, we let them feed calves.

And some of them kids have no idea. And I enjoy the mothers usually that comes along with them. They're as enthusiastic as the kids.

And we have lost that. And I think that's one of the things...I feel that this is one of the things this project will help do.

-Counter 637-

AL: (Looking out window, I see a large tank truck leaving the driveway)
Was that the truck that was taking the milk just recently?

DG: Yeah.

AL: How often does that come?

DG: It comes everyday now. With that big tank we can't get it all in. Our milk goes clear to Marrietta now.

AL: WOW. Well I think that's about it. Thank you.

(End interview with Dale Grassbaugh)

-Counter 642-