

6-6-2008

Interview with Michael Menzies, Braeside Farms, 2008 (audio)

Michael Menzies

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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW INDEX

INTERVIEWEE: Michael Menzies

Interviewer: Joel DaMetz

Date: 6-6-08

Location of Interview: Braeside Farms Estacada, Oregon

Research Assistant: Joel DaMetz

Interview Series: SUSTAINING NORTHWEST LANDSCAPES & COMMUNITIES

Recording Equipment: DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILE) WITH AN
EXTERNAL, OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

Time	Notes
0:00	Joel DaMetz interviewing Michael Menzies of Braeside Farms
0:45	37 years old, married
1:12	Growing up on farms, eastern Maryland
1:45	Grew crops for the family farm
2:20	Knowing that farming was what I wanted to do
3:30	Meeting the wife, buying the farm
5:25	Needs of the farm
6:15	Starting the CSA after 3 years
7:00	Trying to buy the farm
8:05	Government subsidies, a double edge sword
9:48	Successful farming and sustainability of the farm with commodity prices
11:18	Becoming more sustainable and less reliant
13:25	Methane digester, solar panels
15:10	Becoming a shareholder
16:15	Growing seasons, summer/winter, 40 week year
17:30	Troubles this year with climate
18:18	20 shares, half/full, vegetable, meat, delivered
20:53	Delivering the shares

Time	Notes
21:38	Shareholder repeats, newcomers, drops, farmers markets, restaurants
25:40	Feedback from the shareholders
29:16	Choosing what to grow
30:14	Number of fields in 1 acre and style of growing
33:18	Types of animals and uses
37:10	Butchering and sheering
39:25	Methods of farming, organic, biodynamic certification
44:45	Crop rotation, fallow fields
46:53	Largest crops, weight/value/quantity
48:57	Normal day during the summer
52:35	Farmers Market experience
56:00	Price of a share
58:20	Shareholders working on the farm
1:00:18	Weather problems
1:01:40	Any backlash from grocery stores or other farms
1:04:15	Excess crops
1:05:15	Going back to a sustainable farm
1:06:50	Ideas for the larger farms to become more sustainable
1:09:55	Partnering with other local farms
1:12:00	Maximum potential
1:14:25	Staying sustainable and growing
1:17:44	Getting to the 40 shares
1:19:30	Staying away from the problems in the future
1:21:32	Things for the community to do to help
1:24:40	News letters, recipes and feeding the family
1:25:54	Hours a week working on the farm
1:27:30	Any jobs away from the farm
1:30:15	Any big changes on the farm
1:32:25	Right price for the share
1:34:18	Thank you Michael Menzies