

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   |