

5-28-2008

## Interview with Shari Sirkin, Dancing Roots Farm, 2008 (audio)

Shari Sirkin

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**PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY  
PROJECT**

**INTERVIEW INDEX**

INTERVIEWEE: Shari Sirkin

Interviewer: Brian Francetich

Date: May 28, 2008

Location of Interview: Dancing Roots Farm

Research Assistant: Tyler Anderson

Interview Series: Sustainability History Project

Recording Equipment: DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILE)

WITH AN

EXTERNAL, OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

<i>Time :</i>	<i>Notes:</i>
0:50 –	Background – California
1:48 –	Left for Alaska – Fairbanks
2:20 –	Hooked on gardening
3:00 –	14 lb zucchini! Moved to Portland, Oregon 1992
4:45 –	Changed major- learn Alaskan- degree for teaching
6:00 –	Husband background-taught in Fairbanks- writing curriculum
8:00 –	Moving to Portland- bought house in 1994
8:45 –	Bought house- because dorm at house, motivation to buy farm
10:00 –	Why farm? How Shari got into Activism
11:34 –	Community involvement in A.K.- role as citizen
12:15 –	Drive for C.S.A.- Activism for common good
13:30 –	C.S.A. provide an option for food people want
15:09 –	How to aptitude test lead to agriculture
16:32 –	Going back to school
17:01 –	Bryan (husband) has interview on C.S.A.- '94
18:20 –	Connection of C.S.A. w/ numbers- physical/educational/activism
19:40 –	meets Will Newman
20:15 –	Favorite part of farming
21:00 –	Feeling of why C.S.A. is so great
22:00 –	Transition ('97) to current farm- Job at Oregon tilth
23:00 –	Laura Masteison- working 7 days a week!
24:30 –	An area to farm
26:00 –	'97- first C.S.A.- 35 shares- 47 <sup>th</sup> Ave farm
27:00 –	'98-'99- farmed solo- Serruria family – first tractor
28:30 –	Credit for starting a C.S.A

- 30:26 – “I grow what I love” – partnered with Barry
- 32:00 – Straight C.S.A. 100-130 farming
- 33:15 – Trouble with farming land you do not own
- 34:07 – Took year off to look for house
- 35:00 – Learning about C.S.A.
- 36:15 – Certified food organic- social certification program
- 40:19 – House for sale by owner- bought from woodards
- 42:12 – More on history of this farm
- 44:00 – Honor of house- purchased in 2002 (full)
- 45:00 – Constructing and beginning of a house
- 46:20 – 2004- started farming squash- first crop
- 49:00 – Operating a C.S.A. on own land- proud of new farmers
- 50:30 – Irrigation plan
- 53:00 – Buying old pickup truck for water
- 54:19 – Bucket water story
- 56:19 – Pickups for C.S.A. shares- S.W.
- 58:21 – 2004- Shares- large and small- 90%
- 60:38 – 150 small Shares
- 61:28 – last comments