

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Tom McCoy

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Agriculture in Illinois* Oral History project, in Conjunction  
with the 'Will to Farm' project

Interview # AI-V-L-2012-004

Tom McCoy, who is a life-long farmer from Will County, Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Agriculture in Illinois – Will to Farm* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: February, 14, 2012    Location: McCoy Residence, Shorewood, IL 60404

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Sherri Kiefner, ALPL Volunteer

Technical Support: Tony Bateman, Illinois Information Service

Transcription by: Sherri Kiefner, ALPL Volunteer

Edited by: Cheryl Wycoff and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 24 pgs    Total Time: 1:18 / 1.3 hrs

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The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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# Abstract

Tom McCoy, *Agriculture in Illinois/Will to Farm*, AI-V-L-2012-004

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Harold Thomas McCoy was born in Joliet, IL on August 17, 1926. McCoy's paternal grandfather was born in Ireland and started the family farm where McCoy was raised. McCoy grew up during the Great Depression on a family farm in Romeo, Illinois (which would later become Romeoville, Illinois). The farm McCoy was raised on was located near a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp as well as a Chicago streetcar line. The farm operation originally focused on raising dairy cattle, hogs, grain, and forage. Draft horses were also a crucial part of the family operation at that time. McCoy has always had a fondness for animals and livestock, particularly horses. The family farm moved to Shorewood when the property in Romeo was needed for the installation of high power electrical lines. McCoy married and started his own family shortly after the move to Shorewood. Dairy cattle were phased out of the operation and beef cattle were added after the move to Shorewood. McCoy has also done a lot of custom farm work, primarily hay baling, harvesting, and hauling livestock to the Chicago Stock Yards. He has been involved in 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, Will County Farm Bureau, Will County Livestock Feeders, Illinois Pork Producers, the Minooka Methodist Church, as well as numerous other organizations. McCoy also has done a considerable amount of cooking and grilling for various organizations.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Farming in Will County, Illinois; farming with draft animals; grain and livestock farming; Civilian Conservation Corps; Romeoville, IL from 1930s through 1940s; draft animals on family farms; Will County Farm Bureau; Chicago stockyards; Fordson tractors

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