

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Jody Pennock Heavner

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's and Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project
Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-051

Jody Heavner, a life-long farmer who specializes in more exotic breeds and operates the Pea Ridge Elk ranch, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and IL State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: June 12, 2008

Location: Pittsfield IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Michael Maniscalco, IL State Museum

Technical Support: Robert Warren, camera, ISM

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Mike Maniscalco and Rachel Thompson
Rozanne Flatt, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Volunteer

Video indexed by: James Oliver, ISM

Total Pages: 40 Total Time: 1:15 + 0:38 / 1.25 + 0.63 = 1 hr 53 min / 1.88 hrs

Session 1: Jody discusses farm's transition from tradition to more exotic breeds

Session 2: Walking interview of the farm & exotic livestock

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 07/29/2009.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Jody Pennock Heavner, *Oral History of IL Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-051

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Jody Pennock was born in Pittsfield Illinois on March 5th 1970, and grew up on the family farm. As a young girl, Jody enjoyed doing the same jobs as the boys. She has numerous fond memories of taking trips with her father to check livestock. Jody's parents strongly imbedded in their children the idea that they must spend some time experiencing the world before deciding if farming was for them. Jody attended college at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she studied Animal science for both her B.S. and M.S. degrees. Eventually Jody and her husband Dan Heavner, who hails from the Pittsfield area, decided to move back to the farm.

When she returned the family farm was a different place. No longer was it a crop and livestock operation but it was now a testing ground for her father's exotic animal handling equipment. Jody put her skills to work and helped create Pea Ridge Elk ranch where over 200 head of elk and cattle are kept. Jody explained that while these are seen as livestock, they are still very wild animals. The ranch raises both the cattle and elk for meat that is sold throughout Illinois and the country.

Topics Covered: Elk ranching; Livestock vs Wild Animals; University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Animal Sciences; rural churches; Livestock Judging; Calf Spotting; Elk Markets; 4-H; Future Farmers of America;

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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