

Interview #1 with Dianna Hatfield

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Interviewer: Mike Maniscalco

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Maniscalco: Today is July 15, 2008. We're in Fairfield, Illinois, and we're sitting with Dianna Hatfield. How are you doing, Dianna?

Hatfield: Pretty good. How are you?

Maniscalco: I'm doing good. We're going to start out with some really easy questions for you that you're definitely going to know.

Hatfield: OK. (laughter)

Maniscalco: Your date of birth and where you were born?

Hatfield: OK. January 31 of 1989, and I was born in Lincoln, Illinois.

Maniscalco: Born in Lincoln, Illinois? All right.

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: Do you still live with your parents at home?

Hatfield: Yes.

Maniscalco: Can you tell us what's your family make up? You know, like how many brothers and sisters, and...?

Hatfield: OK. Well, it's my mom and dad, and then I have two sisters and a brother. And I'm the oldest.

Maniscalco: And you're the oldest?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: OK. And they're all here today at the County Fair, right?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: All right. What about your grandparents? Do you have any grandparents around?

Hatfield: Actually, they both live pretty far away. My mom's parents live in Staunton, Illinois, and my dad's parents live in Hoopeston. But my grandpa came down today to watch the show.

Maniscalco: Cool! Now, what about your parents? Do they have any brothers or sisters that live around this area? You know, do you have any aunts and uncles?

Hatfield: None that live around here. My mom: there was eight kids in her family, so they have a pretty big family, but they all live in Staunton. And then my dad has two sisters, but one of them lives in California, and one lives up north, too, so... (laughter)

Maniscalco: Cool! OK. Now, to get a little bit more of your family history, how did your family get to Illinois? Do you know any of that?

Hatfield: I don't really know. (laughter)

Maniscalco: You don't?

Hatfield: No.

Maniscalco: That's fine, that's fine. So your entire family pretty much is in Illinois, except for—I think it sounded like one aunt—

Hatfield: Uh-huh.

Maniscalco: —in California. Your father was involved in agriculture, right?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: How was it being a child growing up on a farm?

Hatfield: Oh, I liked it. (laughter)

Maniscalco: You liked it?

Hatfield: Yeah. I mean, it's home. Whenever we lived in Lincoln, we had a big dairy farm. I was actually almost born in the dairy barn. (laughter) My mom was going into labor in the barn. They were still milking cows, though. (laughter) Then we moved to Staunton, and we lived down there for a while, and we still lived on the farm and everything. Then we moved up to Hoopeston, and then we moved to Wayne City, where we live now. We've always lived on a farm, had corn and soybeans, all the normal stuff, and then our cows.

Maniscalco: So I mean, if you were to characterize the child you were on a farm, what kind of child were you?

Hatfield: I don't know—one that got dirty? (laughter)

Maniscalco: You were one that got dirty?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: So I guess you could say you were very active?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: So what sorts of things did you do as a child? I mean, were you out running around and playing in the mud? Were you...?

Hatfield: I don't really know. I mean, I guess we played a little, but my dad always kept us pretty busy helping him out and stuff, so...

Maniscalco: Oh, really? So you had a lot of chores to do?

Hatfield: Yeah. (laughter)

Maniscalco: So what was the good chore to do?

Hatfield: Well, I always wanted to drive the tractor, because I mean, if you were driving, you couldn't be doing anything else, and driving's just sitting there, so... (laughter) That's what I liked to do.

Maniscalco: Well, that's good. What's the bad one?

Hatfield: Whenever we're baling, you don't want to be riding the rack. Actually, I think riding the rack's probably better than stacking in the barn, because it's so hot in there.

Maniscalco: Is there one chore that you would fight with your brothers and sisters to do?

Hatfield: Probably not to do. (laughter)

Maniscalco: Or to not do?

Hatfield: (laughter) Yeah. I don't know. Like here, if one of the cows, you know, makes a mess, we always play rock, paper, scissors to see who has to clean it up. (laughter) So...

Maniscalco: Well that's good. So what about friends? I mean, if you're living on a farm, you're out in the country.

Hatfield: Mmm-hmm.

Maniscalco: Did you have friends come to the farm, or how did—

Hatfield: Not really come to the farm that much. I mean, we would go to school, but usually you just see most people at the fairs, and mainly during the summer.

Maniscalco: So your day-to-day playmates were your brothers and sisters—

Hatfield: Right.

Maniscalco: —then?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: OK. Do you have any specific memories of friends coming out to the farm in general, or ever, or...?

Hatfield: Well, (laughter) I had a friend; she moved down from Chicago, and she had never seen a cow or anything before. And we were driving by the farm one day, and one of the cows was having a calf. We took her out and she got to watch it, and she was just like, “Oh my gosh! I can’t believe that that’s how it works!” I don’t think I’ll ever forget that. (laughter) Which, she didn’t even know what a cow was, but... (laughter)

Maniscalco: Well, that’s good. Now, you are very involved 4-H—

Hatfield: Mmm-hmm.

Maniscalco: —from the way it sounds, and FFA?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: Let’s start talking about 4-H.

Hatfield: OK.

Maniscalco: Can you explain to me what your involvement’s been with that, and how you got started?

Hatfield: OK. Well, I started 4-H, I was actually not even old enough to be in 4-H, so I was a Cloverbud for a year first. My mom was in 4-H when she was little, so she kind of was like, “Oh, we should do this.” She was a leader, and she still is. Me and my sister both started at the same time. She’s a year younger than me. We didn’t start out with cows; e did just general projects. You know, we showed some vegetables, and (laughter) corn and soybeans, and we did like, public presentations and stuff like that. Then we just kept moving up, and doing more and more. I think one year, I probably had like—oh gosh—fifty projects?

Maniscalco: Oh my gosh!

Hatfield: Yeah. (laughter)

Maniscalco: Wow! What are some of your more memorable projects that you worked on?

Hatfield: Well, last year I did one; it was on childcare, and I taught ag in the class at school for third and fourth graders. So I put together like, a portfolio, I guess, of everything I had done throughout the whole year. I don't know—I guess it just brought back a lot of memories of everything that I had done with the kids. You know, we made ice cream and all kinds of stuff, and...

Maniscalco: Oh, wow!

Hatfield: So...

Maniscalco: So it kind of sounds like some of the projects you were doing with 4-H aren't 100% ag-related.

Hatfield: Right.

Maniscalco: You know, it's not raising a chicken or—

Hatfield: Right.

Maniscalco: —raising a cow. So what are some of the kind of less ag-related projects that you've done?

Hatfield: I mean, pretty much anything you could think of, there is a category for it. They do photography, and sewing... (laughter) I don't know. Anything. Collections... And then they have the small animals, just your cats and dogs and fish, and...whatever you could think of.

Maniscalco: What about you? What was your favorite one to do?

Hatfield: I like public presentations, probably.

Maniscalco: Public presentations?

Hatfield: Mmm-hmm.

Maniscalco: So you gave a public presentation to the third and fourth grade?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: Did you do any others other than just that one, or...?

Hatfield: Well, I met with them once a week, and I just did a ag lesson with them.

Maniscalco: OK. Well, did you do any other presentations with anybody other than that third and fourth grade class?

Hatfield: Well, not with ag in the class, but I have, yeah.

Maniscalco: You have?

Hatfield: Oh, yeah. Well, actually, later this afternoon, Kids in Motion is coming out. We're going to take them through all the barns and show them the animals, and then they're going to have a nutrition lesson.

Maniscalco: Really?

Hatfield: Yeah. (laughter)

Maniscalco: Well, that's cool. So now, being an ag. teacher, what are the topics that you covered?

Hatfield: Well, we started out with all the big animals, like the cows and horses, and sheep and pigs. And then we got down to doing like, the food guide pyramid, and just...I don't know. We talked about soil, (laughter) and recycling, and everything to help the environment, I guess. (laughter)

Maniscalco: No, that's good. That's great. So when you're talking about the cows, the chickens, the pigs, are you talking about what you feed them, how they're raised, their life cycle? Or what...?

Hatfield: We pretty much went over all of it. Like with the cows, I took care of that, but with the horses, I don't know anything about horses. So we brought somebody in and they talked about it. We brought in food, showed the kids what you feed them. And then we gave them pictures of what the insides of them look like, and just...

Maniscalco: Oh, wow. So you really—

Hatfield: ...went over all of it.

Maniscalco: —went over the whole thing.

Hatfield: Yeah. (laughter) Yeah.

Maniscalco: Oh, cool! Now, what about some of the... I mean, the animal projects, obviously you've done quite a few.

Hatfield: Yeah. (laughter)

Maniscalco: What are some of the different ones that you've done?

Hatfield: OK. Well, we've showed cows; this is our eighth year in that. And then we showed pigs last year, and we've had two sheep and four goats, and that's it. We had a rabbit one year, but it got really hot and it wasn't good. (laughter)

Maniscalco: It wasn't good? So now, starting a project like that for 4-H, what do you have to do exactly? Do you turn some kind of a form in that says, This is the project I'm going to do, and these are my plans to do it?

Hatfield: Yeah. Well, the 4-H year starts in September, and so they give you until about May to turn in those papers, and you just mark on a sheet, you just sign up for whatever you want to do.

Maniscalco: Do you have to have some kind of goal at the end that you want to...?

Hatfield: Well, with cows, you have to weigh them in in March, so I guess you have to actually know before then. But they get weighed in in March, and then you have to make sure you bring the same steer to the show, so... But other than that, I mean, it's just...

Maniscalco: Kind of whatever you decide to pick—

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: —for yourself?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: OK. Very interesting. What's the great part about 4-H that keeps you coming back?

Hatfield: The people.

Maniscalco: The people?

Hatfield: Yeah. You meet so many people. I went to Washington, D.C. twice and Atlanta, Georgia once with 4-H. I know people from all over the United States and all the different states. You just meet a lot of—you have a lot of friends, and...

Maniscalco: Well, that's great. Going to those national conferences, what's the difference between a kid that does 4-H in Illinois and a kid that does 4-H in another state?

Hatfield: Oh, they're completely different.

Maniscalco: Really?

Hatfield: Yeah. I mean, the projects are pretty much the same, but like, how they're ran and the stuff they have to do—(laughter) it's kind of confusing, really. Like their counties: they might not have a county fair, they'll have like, a six-county fair, and they just get really bigger, and... (laughter)

Maniscalco: Really?

- Hatfield: Yeah. They're called "districts," and they do them all different. Every state's different.
- Maniscalco: Wow. Well, that's cool. Now, let's talk a little bit about the FFA. [Future Farmers of America]
- Hatfield: OK.
- Maniscalco: Because I know you're also involved in that. Can you explain what the FFA is?
- Hatfield: OK. Well, FFA: they also have shows and stuff, but then they have a lot of—it's called "CDEs,"—and they're Career Development Events. They're just contests that they have throughout the year on different ag-related stuff. I mean, they'll have a Quiz bowl contest, and it's pretty much Scholar Bowl about ag. stuff. Then they have land use and you judge soil, or poultry judging, and all kinds of judging contests. Every school—well, I mean most of the schools around here, and some schools don't, but—they'll have their own chapter. Then in the State of Illinois, there's twenty-five districts. Then after you get through districts, then it's the state-wide. (laughter) Most stuff we do is district-wide, so it's about—I don't know—probably ten or fifteen schools that come together for contests.
- Maniscalco: Wow. So in your involvement with FFA, are you mostly involved in those Quiz bowls and those sorts of contests? Or what other things do you do?
- Hatfield: Well, we do that and you also keep record books. Whenever you start out as a freshman, you'll start your record book, and then you keep them all the way through your senior year. You can do them on pretty much anything, once again, but I have three different books. One is on the cows, and then I have one on ag education, and another one on ag services, which I keep track of all my hours working for a crop consultant, and also working at an equipment dealer. So (laughter) I keep track of all that stuff. Then that's what they judge you for your State Degree and American Degree off of, which I just got my American Degree, and I got my State Degree last year.
- Maniscalco: Cool! Congratulations!
- Hatfield: Well, thank you. (laughter)
- Maniscalco: That's a lot of work! What's the thing about FFA that's keeping you involved in it?
- Hatfield: Once again, the people. You get to see and meet so many fun people. And you go places, and it's just—I don't know—it's a lot of fun.
- Maniscalco: Where have you gotten to go with FFA?

Hatfield: Well, we go to the national and state convention every year. The state convention's usually in Springfield, and then the national convention is now in Indianapolis. It was in Louisville a couple of years ago; now they've switched to Indianapolis.

Maniscalco: Cool! Now, we've talked about some organizations that are extracurricular or outside of school. What about church and other things like that? Are those very important in your family?

Hatfield: Uh-huh. Well, we go to a Catholic church in McLeansboro, Illinois, and we have a youth group there. But I mean, it's only when you're in high school, so I'm not in it anymore. But we played softball. There's a couple other churches around us, and we would have just...

Maniscalco: No, that's great. Now, it's kind of interesting, because you go to church on Sunday, but then you also go to church other times, like you just said for youth group. Did you go for church picnics and things like that as well?

Hatfield: Well, usually all of our stuff is kept to Sundays.

Maniscalco: Oh, really?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: OK. Now, you've talked about a little bit of high school and stuff. From what I've gathered, you're finished with high school now?

Hatfield: Yeah. I just graduated from Rend Lake College. So...

Maniscalco: So you just finished college?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: Oh, wow. OK. What did you go to college for?

Hatfield: I got my Associate's in Ag Business.

Maniscalco: OK. And what are your plans? Now, this is the classic question everybody asks somebody when they finish college: what are your plans?

Hatfield: Well, I'm still transferring. I mean, I go to Murray State this fall, so...

Maniscalco: Are you going to go for—

Hatfield: Ag marketing and sales.

Maniscalco: Oh, really?

Hatfield: Yeah. (laughter)

Maniscalco: Oh really? And what are your goals with that?

Hatfield: I think I want to sell soybeans, and watch the markets, kind of guess what they're doing. So...

Maniscalco: Oh wow. Well, that's neat.

Hatfield: I think. (laughter)

Maniscalco: You think?

Hatfield: Yeah. I'm not really sure yet, but..

Maniscalco: OK. Well, let's talk a little bit about farming and agriculture, and how it's affected your life, too. Obviously, you've grown up on farms, many different farms since the time you were born. Can you tell us about the farm that you live on now with your parents, what that looks like if you were to bring somebody there?

Hatfield: OK. Where we actually live at is not where our cows are at. My dad manages the farm. It's actually owned by Germans; they live in Germany, and he just manages the farm. It's 11,000 acres, and lots of big grain bins, (laughter) and... So that's where we actually live at, but about ten miles down the road is our farm with our cows. There's a little house there, and some barns. (laughter) A lot of pasture.

Maniscalco: OK. So is your father growing crops, then, for the—

Hatfield: Yes.

Maniscalco: —Germans?

Hatfield: Uh-huh.

Maniscalco: OK. And he's growing corn and soybeans, or...?

Hatfield: Yeah. And milo.

Maniscalco: OK. You have quite a few cows. Are they kind of just a side thing for—

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: OK. Well, that's good. Let's talk about the cows then. What kinds of cows do you and your sisters and brother take care of?

Hatfield: OK. Most of them are all Simmental and Red Angus, but we have some that are crossbred just for out in the pasture. All of them that we show are registered Simmental or Red Angus.

Maniscalco: How many?

Hatfield: We have nine here today.

Maniscalco: You have nine here today?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: How many do you have at home, total?

Hatfield: Oh. Probably about sixty-five or seventy.

Maniscalco: OK. Now, I had asked you before, but why Simmental?

Hatfield: I don't know. They're nice. (laughter) Those Angus are kind of mean. My dad had Simmental when he was younger, so we just kind of stick with it.

Maniscalco: It's kind of a family thing?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: Can you tell us the key characteristics of a Simmental?

Hatfield: They're really tall, and they have really big ears. That's pretty much what tells them apart. They used to be all red and white, but now there's black ones, too.

Maniscalco: But there still are red and white?

Hatfield: Yes.

Maniscalco: See, I'm learning.

Hatfield: (laughter)

Maniscalco: Now, part of keeping these cows is for your 4-H and your FFA projects. How is it decided? Do you make that decision with your parents: OK, we're going to keep this cow for 4-H this year?

Hatfield: Yeah. We pretty much have to sit down and talk about it, because with four of us, we all have to pick out the ones we like. And we also go to sales and buy some of them that we're going to show.

Maniscalco: Oh, really? So for you, what are you looking for when you choose a cow for...?

Hatfield: I don't... (laughter) I like them to be pretty. (laughter) I don't like just the plain black ones. But I don't know. Just if they're a nice little calf. You usually look at their parents and see how they are proportionally, and kind of go off that, what you think the calf's going to look like. Usually we switch a couple. You

know, midway through the year, if we still have some calves, and one looks better than the other one, we'll switch them.

Maniscalco: Oh, really?

Hatfield: Mmm-hmm.

Maniscalco: OK. Is that allowed in...?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: (laughter)

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: OK. So we've talked a lot, and we've seen you show cows today. Can you explain to us again. now that we're sitting down. what's the process of showing cows?

Hatfield: OK. We start breaking them usually about November. We always like to say we're going to start as soon as the fair gets over, but that doesn't really happen. (laughter) We'll wait till about November, and we'll get them into the barn and try to lasso them up for the first time—all the calves—and get them halter broke. We just tie them up, and then we have a place in the barn pretty much like this that has the fans up and everything, and we'll leave them tied overnight for a couple nights. You just brush them down and get them used to people, first of all. We usually leave the radio on so they get used to noise. Then we usually do that till it gets warm. Then whenever it starts getting warm, we'll start washing them for the first time, and we'll hook them on the donkey and everything, and get them halter broke. Sometimes we have to tie them to the back of the tractor and pull them around if they don't want to lead very well. (laughter) And get them washed off. Then you start leading them, and just lead them in circles and circles and circles until they get used to it, and get them used to the show stick. And then wait for fair time.

Maniscalco: Great! What sorts of other things do you have to do to take care of the cows besides just getting ready for show? I mean, you have to feed them and all these other things. Are there certain types of feed that you're feeding a show cow over...?

Hatfield: Yeah. We're trying some new feed this year. We used to do just straight corn and supplements, but this year we have a mixture. It's got a little bit of corn in it. It also has cotton hulls and some supplement. Then we take some beet pulp, and you get it wet, and you mix it in with it, and... (laughter) They're gaining a lot of weight, so I guess it's working. (laughter) Then we feed them hay. Usually they get the better hay than the just-pasture cows.

Maniscalco: Oh, really?

- Hatfield: Yeah. We'll give them the alfalfa.
- Maniscalco: Now, the rest of the cows, are they being raised for meat as well? Or...?
- Hatfield: Most of them we just keep in rotational grazing and—I don't know. We'll just get more heifers out of them, and keep them just to make babies and get some more good cows out of them. But usually we just butcher the steers every year that we show.
- Maniscalco: OK. Now, you were explaining to me earlier that after the show, there's going to be an auction of the cows. Can you explain that again?
- Hatfield: OK. Well, on Thursday night, they have an auction—and it's not just cows. It's all the livestock animals as long as it's a male.
- Maniscalco: Oh, that's right.
- Hatfield: They go in, and they don't actually buy the animal. It's a donation for a picture with the animal. It's usually just businesses that buy them. I mean, usually individuals won't buy them. And they just get their picture taken with them and make a donation to the 4-H.
- Maniscalco: Very neat. That's kind of cool. So I guess the culmination of the whole 4-H project is you come here, you show it, but then you are eventually selling these cattle off for slaughter—
- Hatfield: Mmm-hmm.
- Maniscalco: —if it's a male—
- Hatfield: Right.
- Maniscalco: —and then they're going back into the herd if they're females?
- Hatfield: Right.
- Maniscalco: OK. So I guess with the changing prices in corn and soybeans, and seeing as you're going into marketing and everything, how is that affecting the sales of cattle in the market?
- Hatfield: Well, the markets are all going down, which I think that's why we've switched to the other feed, because it doesn't have as much corn in it. You've got to feed them all that corn, which makes it—I don't know—more expensive, I guess, to have them. And hay is really expensive now—which we bale all of our own hay—but it's really expensive. I don't think most of the people... You know, the big farmers are going to stay in it, but a lot of the smaller cattle raisers are going to drop out, I think.

Maniscalco: Really?

Hatfield: Yeah. I see it a lot around here. Most people are selling out.

Maniscalco: OK. Now, you mentioned to me earlier that you are doing work in soil testing, or...? Well, can you explain to me what you're doing, and...?

Hatfield: OK. Well, we take soil samples; we just walk around in the field or drive a 4-wheeler around, and we take soil samples. Then we send them off to a lab, and they test the pH and all the different levels of everything to make recommendations on what kind of fertilizers need to go on the crops.

Maniscalco: OK. So now, are you taking samples from certain areas, or what are you looking for?

Hatfield: Well, there's two different ways to do it. One's on GPS. I worked for two different people; that's why (laughter) there's two different ways. But one's on GPS, and you just go to like, a certain dot, and then you get off and take three samples and put them in a bag, and that's a sample. But the other guy I worked for, he does it all just with, like, handwritten maps; you just look at the map, and then you drive—there's a certain section, and you'll take ten samples out of that big section. It's about an acre and a half, and then that's what gets tested. So with the GPS and stuff, they can plug them into the sprayers, all the information that comes back, and the sprayer will actually adjust to the different sections.

Maniscalco: Oh, wow.

Hatfield: Yeah. (laughter) So it's taken a lot of the work off the farmers, I guess.

Maniscalco: Yeah. So how did you end up in a job like this?

Hatfield: Well, that's who does all the soil sampling for my dad, so I guess he kind of got me the job. Right now, I'm working at 4R Equipment in McLeansboro and Carmi; it's a Case IH [International Harvester] dealership, and I'm selling parts through them. So...

Maniscalco: So you've really been involved in agriculture on all sides.

Hatfield: (laughter) Yeah! Yeah.

Maniscalco: All different sides of the spectrum. So you have a really good view on what's going on in agriculture now. Can you explain your views and what you think?

Hatfield: Oh...I know these higher prices are really hurting everybody. I mean, the farmers, it's harder for them. They're not wanting to make as many trips across the field because they're using that much more fuel. It's a pretty tough time in farming right now. All the prices of parts are going up, and cows are

going down. (laughter) It's not really equaling out, but...I don't know. Everybody—I mean—if they want to do it bad enough, they'll keep doing it. It'll get better.

Maniscalco: Good. One thing I forgot to ask you about is, when we were talking about the Simmental cows, can you tell me what it is that they're looking for when they're judging?

Hatfield: OK. All of our cows are sitting down. (laughter) You want them to be really wide in the back. If it's a steer, it's going to be different than if it's a heifer. A heifer: you're going to want one that's built wide enough that she can carry a calf. In a steer you're looking for the meat. If you noticed during the steer show, he ran his hand down the side of all of them to see just how much meat was actually on them. You want them really wide in the back because that's where all their meat is. But then in the heifers, you want them to be proportional, and a lot of them tend to lose it in their back. Like right before you get to the back feet, they go up, and you don't want that. You want it straight across the bottom and the top, and just—I always think bigger is better—you want the nice big ones, really wide.

Maniscalco: So what are some of the “tricks of the trade” that you employ to get those larger cows?

Hatfield: OK. Well, first of all, you start with their hair. Whenever you're clipping them, you can keep their hair longer around their backs, and it'll make them look wider. Or stand it up, and lots of hair spray and stuff is also used in that, show foam that just makes the hair stand up. And whenever you're setting them up out in the ring, if you set their feet farther apart and back, they're going to look wider and longer. Or you can shorten them up if they're kind of long. I know my sister's steer is really big, so she wanted to make it not look so big, so she had to shorten it up a little bit.

Maniscalco: OK. Now, you said you also have shown pigs.

Hatfield: Yeah. (laughter)

Maniscalco: Can you tell me about the pigs?

Hatfield: (laughter) OK. Well, pigs, it's pretty much, you just chase them around. (laughter) They go wherever they want to, and you just follow them around. I don't even know what to say. They are a lot different to take care of; you just feed them a couple times a day. And to wash them, it's a lot easier; you follow them around just with a little scrub brush and wash them out. I'm not a very good pig judge, but whenever they're judging pigs, they'll look for a lot different stuff. They want them really big. And most of the pigs, male or female, are going to slaughter, so you just want to make them ready for that. (laughter)

Maniscalco: OK. And the other question I wanted to ask you was, are there certain types of people that show cows? Are there certain types of people that show pigs? Are there certain types of people that show goats, let's say? I mean, are there certain types, different types of people that show different types of animals?

Hatfield: What do you mean, "types of people?"

Maniscalco: I mean is there a personality that would show a cattle?

Hatfield: Oh.

Maniscalco: Show cattle, compared to a personality that...?

Hatfield: I don't know. I mean, a lot of the people do show more than one. I know probably three or four of the people that have cows here today are also showing pigs. Usually, it's a pig and cow thing, and then the sheep (laughter) I guess, are kind of off by themselves! (laughter) I don't really know what's up with that. Most people show—they usually have at least two different kinds of animals on their farm. But I don't really know if it's a personality thing, really. I don't know.

Maniscalco: They just like to...?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: Now, you said you want to watch the markets for corn and soybeans.

Hatfield: Mmm-hmm.

Maniscalco: What are your plans with doing all this? I mean, do you have a larger plan, something that you're striving to get to?

Hatfield: Well, I know a lady now, and she works for Cargill. She has a job where she goes out and talks to all the farmers, and she actually takes all of their—I don't even know what it's called—like, takes in what they're going to bring in, what they're going to sell to her that year, and she takes care of all that. That's kind of the job that I want, and that's what I guess I'm working towards.

Maniscalco: OK, OK. The other thing is that all these jobs and the different things that you've done, they've all been agriculturally focused. What is it that's keeping you focused on that?

Hatfield: I guess that's just where I grew up, and that's what I know. Really, most of the jobs around here are ag-related. So where you live has a lot of effect on what you do. (laughter)

Maniscalco: What about your brothers and sisters? Are they kind of in same line as what you're doing, or...?

Hatfield: Well, my sister, she is going to go to school. She doesn't want to be a vet, but she's majoring in animal science; she is going to stick with the cows, and I think she wants to raise some pigs, too. She works on a hog farm now, so... And my brother's kind of a—I don't know. He's "the smarter one" of all of us. He like, wants to go into astrology and stuff like that—or I think that's what it's called. The rockets and stuff? (laughter) And my other sister, I don't really know what she's (laughter) going to do. I mean, she does a lot of the ag stuff, but I think it's just because that's what she knows. I don't really know what she'll do in school or anything yet. She doesn't know either. (laughter)

Maniscalco: OK. Now, let me get back to the farm. Your father is working a really large farm. Does he have people that are helping him?

Hatfield: Yeah. He has six full-time guys and then three part-time guys that help him.

Maniscalco: So are these helpers, are they kind of—do they become part of the family—or ...? What's the dynamic between them?

Hatfield: I mean, I don't know. If they need something, then they'll call us. But usually, they're always out in the field by themselves, so we don't really see them all that much.

Maniscalco: OK. Now, being a child on a farm, I'm sure you've heard of government programs that are going on, heard your parents talking about those sorts of things. Can you tell us a little bit about how you feel about the different government programs that affect agriculture?

Hatfield: Such as...? Like what kind of programs?

Maniscalco: Oh, gosh. Farm subsidies; there's a new Farm Act, I think, that is being passed, or something like that, or not too long ago...

Hatfield: OK. Like CRP [Conservation Reserve Program, Federal subsidy for setting aside ground for wildlife] ground and stuff like that?

Maniscalco: Yeah.

Hatfield: OK. We don't really have too much of it, but I guess it's good for the wildlife, and just keeping some of the natural stuff that's there. But I don't really know too much about any of it.

Maniscalco: OK. So being a girl that's growing up on a farm with a brother and your father as a farmer, are there certain roles that girls are supposed to do and boys are supposed to do, or vice-versa?

Hatfield: Not really on our farm, because I mean, all the girls are older, so (laughter) it's pretty much no, you know? But I see, like, at work, since I'm working in parts, sometimes the older men that come in, they don't really think a girl should be doing parts. They'll be like, "Well, I'll just wait and let him help me" instead of just letting me do it. So –

Maniscalco: Really?

Hatfield: —you still see that some around here, but...

Maniscalco: So how do you deal with it?

Hatfield: You know, it hurts my feelings a little bit, (laughter) but—I don't know. I think that if you try at something hard enough that a girl and a guy are equally about it.

Maniscalco: That's great. Now, growing up on a farm, did you go to a town school for elementary and middle school?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: What was it like going to that school and having the town kids there as well?

Hatfield: I mean, we only had 48 kids in my graduating class. So it wasn't that big. Everybody was pretty much from the same place.

Maniscalco: From a rural area?

Hatfield: Yeah. Really, everywhere around here is like that, though. (laughter) Maybe Mount Vernon is pretty—they have a pretty big school. So whenever we would go there, like to play sports and stuff, it was kind of weird to see all those people. It's just different.

Maniscalco: Really? Were there rivalries between people like that, or...?

Hatfield: I don't know. Some people say there are, but I'm not really sure. (laughter)

Maniscalco: Did you play sports when you were in high school?

Hatfield: I played volleyball in high school.

Maniscalco: You played volleyball?

Hatfield: Mmm-hmm.

Maniscalco: Did you ever run into problems going to some of these more town schools like Mount Vernon, like you said?

Hatfield: Not really. People just think you're a bunch of hicks, but... (laughter)

Maniscalco: Really?

Hatfield: (laughter) Yeah.

Maniscalco: But that's not true.

Hatfield: Right.

Maniscalco: OK.

Hatfield: (laughter)

Maniscalco: How did you deal with it?

Hatfield: I don't know. Just brush it off.

Maniscalco: Just ignore them?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: OK. And finally, do you have any other hobbies outside of 4-H, FFA? Any other hobbies that we missed?

Hatfield: Let's see... That pretty takes up all of it. The last couple weeks, I've been—on top of all of our stuff at the fair—I'm also helping at the fair office, taking all the entries, and working on the books and the computers, and making checks for everybody, and... So I stay pretty busy. (laughter)

Maniscalco: I guess so! How are you getting recruited to do all these (laughter) things at the fair?

Hatfield: Well, (laughter) my mom runs 4-H in Hamilton County, so she got me in over there, which she volunteered me to do it. And my dad's on the fair board in Wayne County, so he volunteered me here. (laughter)

Maniscalco: Ohhhhh... (laughter) I see. Now, you're on a family farm, but your father is working for some other people. The family farm dynamic historically is changing. Can you tell me how that makes you feel, and what you feel about it?

Hatfield: I guess it's for the better. I mean, most people are just combining and putting two people in with one, and maybe it's better for their economy and financial situation. It's kind of sad to see all those farms go down, but if that's what's working out for them, that's what they got to do, so...

Maniscalco: OK. What do you see for the future of agriculture? I mean, in the next five years?

Hatfield: Oh, man. I think it'll be pretty rough. (laughter)

Maniscalco: You think it's going to be rough?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: Do you have any reasons why?

Hatfield: Just all the prices of everything. I think everything's going to be rough. Not even agriculture, just everything in general. But I don't think really anything... People are going to keep doing what they're doing, and just make it through. (laughter)

Maniscalco: Just make it through?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: What about in the long, long term? Let's say 20 years.

Hatfield: Well, there are a lot of—more technology and stuff coming up in agriculture, with all the GPS and satellites and everything. I mean, they're making tractors that drive themselves now, and I think that's going to change a lot of stuff. It all costs a lot of money, but (laughter) you know, it's like computers: it'll go down a little bit. (laughter) But I don't know. I mean, I think it's all going to work out pretty good, and most people—not really around here, but in a lot of other places—they're putting in irrigation, so they're going to be able to control and keep their crops watered when they need to be, and not just depend on the rains. So that's good, I think. I mean, agriculture's always going to be here. I don't think it's going anywhere. (laughter) We've gotta eat! (laughter)

Maniscalco: That's for sure.

Hatfield: (laughter)

Maniscalco: That's for sure. Well, I have one last question for you, and this is a question everybody gets asked, and it kind of leaves a lot of it up to you. The fact is that this is an oral history interview, and it's going to be in an archive, and it's going to be kept forever and ever, and ever, and ever, and ever. One day, one of your great-great-grandkids, or even maybe one of your kids down the road, might walk in there and say, "Hey, look—there's great-grandma Dianna."

Hatfield: (laughter)

Maniscalco: "You know, she did this interview." What do you want them to find in this interview?

Hatfield: Oh my. That's deep! (laughter) I don't know. Just look at how everything is now, and see how it's changed. I know since I've been little, everything's changing. You know, every day they're coming out with different stuff and

doing everything different. I don't really know. (laughter) I don't know what to expect, really, but... I don't know. (laughter)

Maniscalco: That's good.

Unknown: That's great.

Maniscalco: Good. Great. Well, thank you very much.

Hatfield: Well, thank you. (laughter)

(End of Part 1)

Interview # 2 with Dianna Hatfield

AIS-V-L-2008-086

July 15, 2008

Interviewer: Mike Maniscalco

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Part 2 – Interview continues at the Fairgrounds

(Note: very heavy background noise, apparently from large fans, makes many words unintelligible.)

Hatfield: Okay, well, we brush starting from back. You pull all the hair forward and then in the front you pull it down.

Maniscalco: Okay. Is there a reason for that?

Hatfield: Uh, it makes them look longer. There's a lot ... whenever you're showing, you could do a lot with the hair. I mean, how you do the hair it can make them look wider or thinner. You can fix a lot of your cow just by doing the hair different.

Maniscalco: Really?

Hatfield: Yeah. And there's a lot of ... we clipped them all before we came and stuff like that just to make them look better.

Maniscalco: Explain to us exactly what kind of breed cow this is.

Hatfield: This is Simmental. All these are Simmental except for the two red ones and they are red angus.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: And ...

Maniscalco: Why Simmentals?

Hatfield: Uh, I don't know. The angus breed is really competitive and we've always had Simmental, so that's just my Dad's thing I guess.

Maniscalco: So now this ... you're not going to show this cow by ... when your brothers and sisters ___??

Hatfield: My sister, yes.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: Yep.

Maniscalco: So, now, they are trusting you to pull ___??. It's got to be a little ___??

Hatfield: Yeah, well. I don't know.

Maniscalco: Now, do you have a certain sister or brother that combs it all better for you, or?

Hatfield: No, well, my one sister, she does. She's the big cow person but we just try to help her.

Maniscalco: So, now you got him all combed out, is there anything else that you have to do to get them ready for the ring?

Hatfield: No, not ... I mean this is just a county fair. If we were at the state fair or something we would want to get all their hairs exactly right, take a lot more time on them, but here it's not that big of a deal.

Maniscalco: So how long will you be here doing this today?

Hatfield: Um, I'd say the show will last until about noon. And then, yeah, uh, our cows have to stay here until Friday.

Maniscalco: Until when?

Hatfield: Friday.

Maniscalco: Oh, really?

Hatfield: Yeah. We got here yesterday, so ...

Maniscalco: Oh wow.

Hatfield: This is our third fair and we still have two left after this one.

Maniscalco: Oh, really? Wow. So it's quite the season.

Hatfield: Yeah, well, we start them usually about November we start tying them up and getting them broke. We actually hook them up to a donkey to get them broke to lead. We just hook their halters on it, leave about three feet of room between them and the donkey, I guess is stubborn enough that if they don't do what they want them to, it kicks them. So, then they learn to follow him.

Maniscalco: So you have been preparing for this for quite a while then?

Hatfield: It's pretty much a year round deal.

Maniscalco: Year round.

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: So, you obviously have a donkey at home.

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: What other animals to you have at home?

Hatfield: Right now, that's all. We got a dog. But in the past, we've had a couple of sheep and four goats. We tried _____pigs last year.

Maniscalco: It didn't work out, or...?

Hatfield: They make a lot of mess. Dirty up the barns and stuff, so ... I like cows better. We're better equipped for cows.

Maniscalco: Okay, so now this is the next one in line that will go in?

Hatfield: Yep.

Maniscalco: Basically ... do they give you a schedule of when you go in?

Hatfield: Yeah, we have a book.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: And then, at this fair, they show angus and then all the other breeds go together. There are so many angus that they have their own class. So, that's what was going on this morning. And then, now it's all the other breeds put together.

Maniscalco: Is this everything else?

Hatfield: Yeah. Yep. And then they'll bring the top ones in from angus and show them against each other.

Maniscalco: Oh, really. Now, what are the prizes? I mean, there has got to be something.

Hatfield: Well, this is the 4-H show and the junior show at the same time.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: So, that's why they are bringing in, like they'll bring in on, and then they'll wait a couple of minutes and bring in another. That's the junior show entries. And, junior show pays premium. Like, first place is fifty-five dollars and then fifty and forty-five.

Maniscalco: Oh, wow, okay.

Hatfield: And then, they have the open show tomorrow and then they do that up there but it's a lot more.

Maniscalco: A lot more.

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: Now will you be in a different show, or ...

Hatfield: Yeah, we have the bottom six are all going in the open show.

Maniscalco: Oh, wow. So then will you camp out here with the animals, or ...

Hatfield: Usually, we just go home. We only live about twenty miles from here.

Maniscalco: Now if it was a different fair and a different location, you camp out?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: Well, that's fun.

Hatfield: Put up some cots in the barn and ... well, at night we tie all the cows outside of the barn so their soles can dry out.

Maniscalco: Oh, okay.

Hatfield: And then we'll tie them out.

Maniscalco: So you tie them all outside and then you sleep inside the barn?

Hatfield: Yeah, yeah.

Maniscalco: Now you said you were going to show one of these. Which one is the one you're going to show?

Hatfield: Mine is the third from the end.

Maniscalco: Third from the end, okay.

Hatfield: Yep.

Maniscalco: You were saying it wasn't behaving.

Hatfield: No, it's not.

Maniscalco: He's not behaving?

Hatfield: He's kicked four times since he's been here.

Maniscalco: He's not happy.

Hatfield: No, I don't guess so. This is his first fair that he's been to.

Maniscalco: Oh, really.

Hatfield: Usually when get them away from the farm the first time, they kind of act up a little bit.

Maniscalco: Okay. So, can you kind of explain some of the equipment that you got to have, you know, to show here?

Hatfield: Okay. And then the one that goes around their neck, that's just a neck rope. And that's ... you lead them with their halter but their neck rope is just to keep them tied up so they don't get lose. If they get one off, they still got the other one on.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: And, then the stakes that everybody has in the ring doesn't show six. Just to set up their feet and make it look as wide or thin as you need them to.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: Then you have all kinds of brushes. There's the curry comb, which is – there's one over there – it's like a circle gets out clotted messes in the hair. And then, a brush like this one.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: And there's also curry comb which is what's in all the pockets.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: And that's if the judge touches your animal, you're suppose to fix the hair.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: And we have our fans.

Maniscalco: Okay, so you're saying all the fans?

Hatfield: Yeah. We just have fans set up. We usually put them four or five to a fan.

Maniscalco: Now, are these your fans, or they supplied by ...

Hatfield: No, we brought them.

Maniscalco: Oh, really. Oh, wow.

Hatfield: And these cows, whenever they're tied up at home, they also stay under the fan. It helps their hair grow if you get them wet and put them under the fan.

Maniscalco: Really? Now, you were saying that you give them a hair cut before you bring them here.

Hatfield: Yep.

Maniscalco: I mean, how much hair is actually, was there that you are cutting off?

Hatfield: Okay. Well, everything from their front shoulders forward is completely shaved off. And, then you do their tails like to make them ... shave off all right here and then this line across here and some of it down through there.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: You just kind of blend it so you don't see lines.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: Usually their bodies are okay unless they just have lots of hair. It's quite a bit of hair that comes off. You're not allowed to shave their ears. They don't ... cows don't really like you messing their ears and whenever you're washing them, if you get water in their ears, they kind of don't like that very much either.

Maniscalco: Um, now you use any soap on them or anything when you wash them?

Hatfield: We just use Joy. Like kitchen soap.

Maniscalco: Oh, really.

Hatfield: Yep. You just take it with your hands, smear it on there and brush it in.

Maniscalco: Cool. Now, ...(cows bellowing)

Hatfield: Yeah, I think they're on the cow.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: Yeah. So, they'll show all of them again except that black one.

Maniscalco: Okay. So maybe we'll see if we can get him to move down. Because you're going to be showing the third one, correct?

Hatfield: I will later.

Maniscalco: Oh, later.

Hatfield: Right now I'm going to show one of these again.

Maniscalco: Oh, one of these again, okay.

Hatfield: Sorry, it's kind of confusing.

Maniscalco: Hey, you got to just keep us informed.

Hatfield: Okay.

Maniscalco: Alright.

(pause for showing cow)

Hatfield: Good girl. You're okay. You're okay.

Maniscalco: Congratulations.

Hatfield: Thanks.

Hatfield: Everything going alright?

Maniscalco: You going to tell us what is going on?

Hatfield: Okay, right now they are showing a ___?? offspring which is just a cow and its calf.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: And this is the 4-H show part of it. I don't know if there is any more interest in Junior or not.

Maniscalco: So now what is the judge going to be looking at when he is looking at these two?

Hatfield: How closely they look like each other. How much the baby looks like its mom. And just how nice the actual cows are.

Maniscalco: So what is he looking for in the cow?

Hatfield: Uh, make sure it's wide, uh, depending on how big the offspring is, see if it's, uh, matured over its having a baby and everything. Everything went up like it was suppose to.

Maniscalco: Okay. Now in terms of showing them, I mean, I'm noticing that there is certain ways they want the cow to stand and everything. What's the technique to that?

Hatfield: Okay. Well, with the show they just want to make the feet, like that's not right right there, but they want to make the feet look straight and that will make it look a lot wider in the back end and you want them really wide in the back.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: And then if you push them out farther, it will make them look longer, or if you scrunch pull their feet more towards you like...

Maniscalco: Okay.

(pause for background announcements)

Maniscalco: Seems like your sister is doing a lot of the showing.

Hatfield: Yeah. Yeah.

Maniscalco: That's her thing?

Hatfield: Yeah. We help her at home and stuff and we let her do it in the ring. (laugh) It's a lot easier to put them all in one name instead of all four of us.

Maniscalco: I got you. So, then you'll go in and let's say, she might enter two cows ...

Hatfield: I'll take the second one.

Maniscalco: And you'll take the second one in for her. I see.

Hatfield: Yep. And like to have a pair they have to both be entered in the same person's name. So, like you could show them in their class individually and then the pairs class so they have to be both in her name.

Maniscalco: Oh, I see. Okay.

Hatfield: It's kind of confusing.

Maniscalco: No, no.

Hatfield: Right now they are showing all other breeds versus the angus to see which ones ...

Maniscalco: Okay. This is the angus that they just brought in?

Hatfield: Uh-huh.

Maniscalco: Now what are some of the key differences between the angus and the ...

Hatfield: The Simmental are taller and they have really big ears. They are known for their big ears. Angus are solid black. There is not any other ... no white on them or anything. Simmental started out as red and white and now they have mixed them in to being black. So ...

Maniscalco: Huh.

Hatfield: And I think angus are meaner.

Maniscalco: They are meaner?

Hatfield: I think they are. We've had a couple angus cross and they're the ones that like to jump fences and tear up stuff, so ...

Maniscalco: So do you still see Simmental that are red and white?

Hatfield: Um-hm.

Maniscalco: You do?

Hatfield: Yeah, we have a few at home.

Maniscalco: So, now I mean, your family is very involved with this. Are there other families that are equally involved that you see all the time?

Hatfield: Oh yeah. Yeah, most, I'd say four of these families go to most of the other shows that we go to too.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: So, it's kind of a big group thing.

Maniscalco: Now is there any like rivalries between families or ...?

Hatfield: Well, all the other guys are all angus so, not with us because we never show against them. But between those families, yeah. (laugh)

Maniscalco: Oh really?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: Wow.

Hatfield: Because, you know, depending on the judge, it depends who is over who that day. You know, they might go to six different fairs and be placed different at all of them.

Maniscalco: Wow. So every judge is kind of looking for something a little bit different than ...

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: So for this judge what would you say he is looking for?

Hatfield: He likes them big. Yeah, he's the superintendent at the DeQuoinn State Fair. He's the beef superintendent so he's ran a lot of cows but ... I don't know, he wouldn't place a breed over another just because of the breed.

Maniscalco: Yeah.

(long pause for background announcements)

Hatfield: The girl that is getting ready to bring hers in, she also has a brother and they usually show ... they usually have that whole side of the barn filled up.

Maniscalco: Oh my gosh.

Hatfield: This is the same week as junior nationals for, it's like a big show in Kansas City, so they are all out there so we're missing a couple of cows from them. Most of their higher class stuff is out there.

Maniscalco: Okay.

(long pause)

Maniscalco: That's your category.

Hatfield: Uh-hm. They will have three ...

(recording stops, restarts)

Maniscalco: I'm just now noticing some times he is having them walk around. Some times he's not. What's ...

Hatfield: Well, whenever the arena is full, he is not going to walk around. Usually, they bring them in and line them up and then he will walk around probably twice and then line them up again just so can see how they walk and carry themselves.

Maniscalco: Okay. I see this one girl getting pushed around and I saw your sister get pushed in to a corner a couple of times.

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: Does it hurt?

Hatfield: Uh, they usually catch your feet at least once a day and ... but then you want to stand there to see where you got kicked. Uh ... it hurts pretty bad when they kick you. They leave some pretty nice looking bruises, but ... I don't know. Hopefully it don't get away from him. That's what my Dad always told me. He said, "No matter what, just hold on."

Maniscalco: Just hold on.

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: Does it ever happen?

Hatfield: Oh yeah.

Maniscalco: Yeah.

Hatfield: Especially when you're just starting them out, getting them halter broken and stuff. But, usually there is a least five that get out leading from here to the tie outs, they'll get loose, and run all the way up to the fairway, and get in with all the people and, you know, those people have never seen cows before. What's going on.

(pause)

I'm going to get my steer up and get brushed off and get ready for this rodeo.

(pause, showing cow)

Just be good. All we got to do is walk around a couple times. It will be alright. It will be okay.

(pause)

Maniscalco: Okay, now this is the heavy weights?

Hatfield: Uh-hm. That one right there on the end weighs almost thirteen hundred pounds.

(pause)

Maniscalco: Is this the first place then?

Hatfield: No, that one is first place.

Maniscalco: Oh, Prairie Farms.

Hatfield: Yep.

(Pause)

Maniscalco: Now why does everybody scratch them?

Hatfield: Just ... it calms them down.

Maniscalco: Really?

Hatfield: At big shows, they make you use leather halters and they have a chain on them and if you jingle the chain, it's right in their ear and it calms them down too. But, they like it if their belly is scratched so it makes them stay in place most of the time. Usually if they are jumping around a lot, they got a horsefly on them. There is lots of horseflies out in that ring. It's making them go kind of crazy.

Maniscalco: Now, I mean he's judging the animal. I mean there are some that are, you know, a little more ruckus than others that pushing, you know. Is he judging them on how well handled they are in the ring?

Hatfield: Not, no, not in this. They have a showmanship class when he is judging strictly on how the kid deals with the animal and he is suppose to be watching them all day and stuff. Everybody will eventually have one that acts up and just how to handle it. But right now he's just judging on the cows.

Maniscalco: Okay. So, now which award is the award to get? You know, which place is the one that is really sought after? There is all these different categories but which is the best one?

Hatfield: You want to get the overall grand champion heifer and reserve champion heifer and grand champion steer and third champion steer. Those are the trophy ones, I guess. Then they pick a showmanship winner out of each species and then on Thursday, they do a round robin and have all the kids like the pig kid and there's pigs and horses and goats and sheep and cows. And then they will all switch and show each other's animals.

Maniscalco: Really?

Hatfield: Yeah. I did that last year. It's pretty fun. Now, I never showed a horse before, but ...

Maniscalco: You did this time, huh?

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: Well, that's kind of neat.

(pause)

Now, what is the biggest fair that your family gets involved with?

Hatfield: The show at the DuQuoin State Fair. That is in late August, early September. Somewhere in there. There is a lot of competition up there.

Maniscalco: That's the big one.

Hatfield: Yeah. I mean, we don't show in Springfield at that state fair, but that's a big one too. We usually try to go up and watch. (Pause) Now these are the classes where he is just going to judge on the kids. This is showmanship now.

Maniscalco: Oh, it's showmanship, okay.

Hatfield: Yeah.

Maniscalco: And this is kind of like overall. He's been watching all day long.

Hatfield: Yep. I won in beef last year so I'm not ... They don't let you get it two years in a year. So, I'm out this year which is fine with me.

(pause)

Maniscalco: Now do you get assigned a certain spot in the barn or ...?

Hatfield: Yeah. Most of the people have been here long enough. That's just ... everybody knows that's their spot. We've been doing this for, I don't know, eight years, I guess now. And that's always been our spot. So, ...

(pause)

Maniscalco: Now, I see that you guys are all getting ribbons. Do you keep them all in the same place someplace, or ...?

Hatfield: Mine are actually all in my room. I have a thing like this big they are all lined up on there.

Maniscalco: That's cool.

Hatfield: Yeah.

(pause)

Maniscalco: So, now a lot of the larger cows that you showed here today are going to be auctioned off?

Hatfield: They only let you auction steers.

Maniscalco: Oh, okay.

Hatfield: And when we auction them off, the buyers don't actually keep the steers. They like just do a flat price. It's not by the pound or anything and pretty much it's just a donation to 4-H and they get their picture taken and put up in their business, but we actually keep the animals. And then if they want the animal, they have the option to buy it at, again, at market value.

Maniscalco: Okay.

Hatfield: So, that's kind of confusing too, but ... I know a lot of counties, their 4-H actually do keep it. But here, we keep them.

Maniscalco: And that kind of raises money for the next year?

Hatfield: Right.

(pause)

That's my sister's favorite bull.

Maniscalco: That one is?

Hatfield: Yeah. It has its own pen by itself because she doesn't want it near the other ones. And she sits in and talks to it every night before she goes home.

Maniscalco: Oh. Why is it her favorite?

Hatfield: Well, she went and picked it out when it was really little and they bought it at a sale and then she brought it home and it's pretty nice little bull and, I don't know. She just got close to it, I guess.

Maniscalco: Do you guys name them, or ...?

Hatfield: Uh, we used to when we were little. We don't really name them that much anymore. Some of them have names but I don't think that one does. It's just the little bull.

Maniscalco: The little bull.

Hatfield: Yeah.

(pause)

Maniscalco: So, now once the showing is over, your family would stay the rest of the day?

Hatfield: Yeah. Well, we'll stay down here and watch the cows and take care of them. I'm sure we usually feed them twice a day when they're here and feed them hay three times and then water them at least twice. And, then we stay until right before dark and then we take them to tie outs.

Maniscalco: Okay. So, do you do anything else while you're at the fair then while you are hanging around?

Hatfield: There's usually a lot of stuff going on down here and I might walk up there a couple of times. There's all the open shows, cows got in to today, so, go look at all them and check out what everybody has.

Maniscalco: So then you just kind of sit around here with your friends or family and visit?

Hatfield: Yeah. We usually have baseball games going on in the arena when nothing is showing and ...

Maniscalco: Oh, see.

Hatfield: There's always a water fight and ...

Maniscalco: Well, that's cool.

Hatfield: It usually rains at least one day during the fair so we get some mud and ...

(End of transcript)