



Getting Started

This is **(name of interviewer)** and I'm the **(title or descriptive of interviewer if relevant)**. Today is **(date of interview)** and I'm here with **(full name of interviewee)** at the **(name and location of ranch)** **(OR, in location, town)** Montana.

This history is being recorded on behalf of the Oral History Project, From the Ground Up, Montana Women & Agriculture, that is sponsored by the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation.

Name:

Name at birth:

Date of birth:

Place of birth: (city, county, state, and country)

Name of family ranch or farm if applicable:

General

Tell me about yourself. (Working, retired). This can act as a warm up to the next series of questions.

Your Parents

Parent's names & places of birth.

Were they farmers or ranchers?

Where did they farm/ranch?

How many children did they have?

Did they implement conservation practices? If so what did they do?

How did the division of labor work between your parents?

What were their viewpoints on education?

What are some of your memories about your mother and dad?

What were some of your fond memories with your family?

Your Grandparents

Tell me about your paternal grandparents—where they were born and dates of birth.

Tell me about your maternal grandparents—where they were born and dates of birth.

Were any of your grandparents' homesteaders?

Where did they ranch or farm?

Did they have a name for the ranch or farm?

Were they alive during your childhood?

How did they influence your childhood?

Can you share some memories of your grandparents?

Did they have conservation values and practices for their land?

Can you give me some examples?

Childhood

Where were you born and what is your birthday?

Did you grow up in the same town that you were born in?

How many siblings do you have and where were you in the birth order

What are their names (as children)?

Please tell me about your childhood.

What was it like growing up on the farm or ranch?

Tell me about your chores and your play time.

Did you have any hobbies, interests, or clubs (e.g. 4-H) that you enjoyed?

Tell me about some of your fond memories as a child.

Did anything happen in your childhood that was challenging? If yes, how did you and your family handle the challenge?

School

Grade School

Where did you go to grade school?

What was school like for you.

How did you get to school every day?

What were your favorite classes/subjects?

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities during grade school?

Do you have some fond memories from that time?

High School

Where did you go to high school?

Tell me about high school.

How did you get to school every day?

What were your favorite classes/subjects?

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities during high school?

Do you have some memories from this time you would like to share?

After you graduated from high school, what did you do? If you didn't graduate, why?

Beyond High School

What did you do after you graduated from high school?

Make sure you ask questions about this period. If they went to trade school or college, ask them about it? If they went to work, where did they go to work, how long did you work there?

Married Life & Family

How and where did you meet your husband? Was he a rancher/farmer at the time?

Would you like to share any memories during the courtship?

What date and where were you married?

Tell me about your early life as a young couple running the operation and raising your children.

Was there a division of labor (your job and his job)?

What activity did you enjoy the most?

Tell me about some of your memories during your early years as a young couple.

Were there any significant events that impacted your life during this period?

Are there any places on your land that hold special meaning?

How would you describe your lifestyle to a non-agricultural person?

Your Children

How many children do you have?

What are their names?

How were the chores divided among your children?

What have you taught your children about conservation?

Please share a fond memory when your children were young.

Your Grandchildren

How many grandchildren do you have?

What are their names?

Where do they live?

Are any of them interested in the farm or ranch?

What are some of the values or lessons you taught your grandchildren about the land, agriculture, and conservation?

What is the best thing about being a grandmother?

Conservation

What are your views on conservation?

Was there a particular time in your life when you started to make a distinction between conservation and common practices to care for the land? (This question may be confusing – couldn't common practices be one-in-the-same as conservation practice?)

Are there specific examples of conservation practices you learned from your grandparents and or parents?

Tell me about some of the conservation practices you implement on your land.

Do you have an example of something you did that made a significant difference on your land or animals?

What is the biggest need going forward for agriculture in terms of conservation?

Have conservation values and practices changed? For example, do your children or grandchildren have different views about taking care of the land than you or your ancestors?

How did you instill conservation values into your children and grandchildren?

What are your viewpoints about agriculture and conservation for the future of your land?

If your ranch or farm is still in the family, what practices are implemented? (When she the talks about them, ask her to describe in more detail because a non-ag person may need clarification).

Do you think women view conservation differently from men? If yes, what are the differences?

Legacy

What legacy did your parents and or grandparents leave for you?

What legacy do you want to leave for the next generation?

How do you want to be remembered?

From the Ground Up Oral History Project

From the Ground Up is an oral history project that is collecting stories about Montana agricultural women? It is not meant to diminish the importance of men, but capture the unspoken voices of the women.

What does it mean to you to have your story recorded in Montana's agricultural history?

What would your mother and or grandmother think of this oral history project?

Do you think men and women have different perspectives on conservation's impact on Montana's agricultural industry? (still not sure if I understand this question.)

Last Word

What is the one thing you hope non-agricultural people will understand about you and your life?

Any Thing Else You Want to Say