



Melody Harding, Rancher, Hardin, Montana

*“My grandpa had me in a blanket on the front of his horse when I was just days old. He’d have me wrapped in a blanket and he would be gone for hours and hours. When he’d come back to the ranch, he would say “this baby needs her diaper changed.” Mom would change the diaper and off we would go again.”*

## Family History Forever



Nola Peterson and Family, Ranchers, Havre, Montana

*“Mixing our work with fun and living in a great community have kept my children involved in agriculture and our family farm.”*

## From the Ground Up...



## Montana Women and Agriculture

## ... Oral History Project

From the Ground Up, Montana Women and Agriculture is supported by:



*During the “dust bowl” days, Congress wanted to promote active voluntary conservation practices among the nation’s private landowners. In 1937 President Roosevelt encouraged governors in every state to develop legislation to form soil conservation districts. In 1939 Montana passed legislation creating conservation districts to promote such efforts. Today there are 58 conservation districts in Montana.*

Montana Department of  
Natural Resources & Conservation  
1625 11th Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620

Linda Brander Project Director  
(406) 444-0520  
LLbrander@mt.gov  
www.dnrc.mt.gov



*“So you see, my life was good, God has been good to me....I’m just a ranch woman, I won’t go down in history, but I’m one of Townsend and Montana’s people.”*

*-Pauline Webb – 94 years old, Townsend, Montana*

## *From the Ground Up,*

Montana Women and Agriculture oral history project builds community memories by recording and preserving the oral histories of women ranchers and farmers. The stories capture a look at their past and a glimpse into their daily lives as they work and care for the land and animals. Glenna Stucky's thoughts amplify the essence of each story, *"Well I am very proud of not exactly what I helped accomplished but of what I have been able to live. And I think that our industry and our way of life is something that everybody needs to know about. It doesn't need to be romanticized, because sometimes it is not very romantic; it can be very difficult. But it's very rewarding."*



*Glenna & Earl Stucky, Ranchers, Avon, Montana*

Your community has a story to tell and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) wants individuals in your town to record the oral histories of the remarkable women who are your friends and neighbors. Their memorable and unique experiences will portray Montana's agricultural heritage from the perspective of ordinary people living ordinary lives.

## *Honoring the Legacy*



*Lauraine Johnson, Salish Kootenai Rancher, Plains, Montana*

*"I didn't want to do it. I'd rather read about other people. But in growing up, we lived way out in the country and there weren't hardly any kids around and so it seemed like the life was just work, work, work. But as I got to thinking and events started coming to my mind, it was also how much fun there was."*



*Janet Endecott & Cora Goggins, Mother Daughter Ranchers, Ennis, Montana*

*Oral history is the best way to ensure that your story is told in your own words. It was a special treat for my mom and I to have our stories together in the same document. So much history is lost every day; it's good to know our family history is recorded and will always be available for others to read.*

## *Making it Happen*



DNRC can help residents in your community record and preserve the oral histories. A tool kit located at [www.dnrc.mt.gov](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov) (quick links "Oral History") provides:

- **Bibliographical Profile:** A bibliographic profile will collect accurate data.
- **Permission Forms:** The interviewee must grant permission for her history to be archived at the Montana Historical Society and DNRC.
- **Recording Equipment:** The interview must be recorded on a digital recorder. To check out the equipment, contact DNRC at 444-0520.
- **Questions:** Questions have already been developed.
- **Transcript:** The recording must be transcribed. DNRC can teach community volunteers or have the interview transcribed for a fee.