






**Note:** Mr Morton was first interviewed in his garden and, on playback, parts of the interview were found to be inaudible. A second interview was therefore necessary.

			
<p>Project: Ploughing Up Our Past  Respondent: Wilson Morton  Year of Birth: 1940  Connection to project: farmer  Date of Interviews: 13 July 21 &amp; 23 Aug  Interviewer: Ian McGhee  Recording Agreement: Yes/  Information &amp; Content: Yes/  Photographic Images: Yes/ No  (Number of: )  Length of Interview: 24 mins  Location of Interview: Ochiltree,  Ayrshire  Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n Pro</p>			
Time (from: mins/secs)	Transcription		
00.00	Were you always a farmer? Did you grow up on a farm?		
00.05	Yes.		
00.06	Which one?		
00.07	Low Carston. Just along the road there. This side of the cemetery.		
00.12	So when you left school you went straight into farming?		
00.14	Yes.		
00.16	At Low Carston?		
00.17	Yes.		
00.19	Was it your father's farm?		
00.21	Yes. It was rented then. I was there till we moved to [Holm?]. That was the Mortons; that was my father [inaudible] and I sold it and it's exactly 60 years to the day so it was.		
01.00	You went to school in Ochiltree?		
01.04	School in Ochiltree, yes.		
01.06	And you were there all the time until you left?		
01.09	No. I went to Glaisnock. Are you a Cumnock man? Have you heard of Glaisnock?		
01.15	When I was at school it was the rural school. The farmers' sons used to go there.		

<b>01.21</b>	That's right. I was there the second year it opened. I wasn't there the first year but I was there the second year. I was there for two years and then I left the school.	
<b>01.40</b>	How did it differ from the ordinary school?	
<b>01.45</b>	Well. When I went there to start with, Glaisnock was just newly opened and we got as much work to do outside as what we got lessons. Putting up fences, cutting grass because the place was a bit of a shambles. But we got it ship-shape eventually. As I say, I was just there for two year. I was there from I was 13 to I was 15.	
<b>02.22</b>	And the you went to work for your Dad?	
<b>02.24</b>	Aye. I came home after that.	
<b>02.29</b>	Was it residential, Glaisnock?	
<b>02.31</b>	Yes. There were boys who stayed there.	
<b>02.38</b>	Did you stay there or did you get the bus from Ochiltree?	
<b>02.40</b>	Yes, I got the bus from Ochiltree. [inaudible] from West Kilbride, Stranraer, these bits. I met a lot of folk from different areas.	
<b>03.05</b>	And what kind of farm was Carston?	
<b>03.08</b>	Dairy farm. In those days, that's 65, 66 years ago. Time moves fast.	
<b>03.29</b>	At Carston, what did you do with the milk? Was it all sold to [inaudible]	
<b>03.35</b>	Milk Marketing Board. It started in 1933. [inaudible] for farmers. They got a better [inaudible]. It had its ups and downs. A big farm, then, would milk 60 cows and now, up to 300. That's how just things has went.	
<b>04.39</b>	Along with that, at Carston did you employ anybody apart from the family?	
	[inaudible]	
<b>04.45</b>	And you managed the 60 cows	
<b>04.48</b>	It was just about 40 then. Aye, about 40 then if we had that. That would be 1955 when I left the school. There won't be as many changes in the next 60 years as there's been in the last 60.	
<b>05.20</b>	To go from 40 or 60 cows to 300 suggests an awful lot more technology.	
<b>05.30</b>	Aye. [inaudible] Barturk, just next door. Before we bought Barturk, we bought Auchinbay [inaudible] and we were there for....my son has it now. [inaudible] either '88 or '89 and we sold the ground and steading at Carston; we kept some of the ground and went to Auchinbay and 20 years after that Barturk came up for sale so we purchased it. It incorporated Barturk and Cawhillan. [inaudible]	
<b>07.12</b>	Do you know Russell McNab. He started work at Cawhillan.	
<b>07.15</b>	I know Russell and we had mony a joke about that when we got started. He was some man.	
<b>07.27</b>	So then you passed it on to your son?	
<b>07.31</b>	Aye. At Auchinbay. He's the farmer now.	
<b>07.38</b>	You're actually doing something yourself with the milk because there's no Milk Marketing Board now. How did that affect the business?	
<b>07.49</b>	It's just a [inaudible] fresh milk. When you buy milk in the shops, supermarkets, all these places, that milk could be 2 or 3 days old before you get it. We can sell milk the next day. It goes away to the	

	creameries, goes through a lot of hands and it could be 2 or 3 days old. I think folk like to have fresh milk, so they say.	
08.41	It seems to work because near where I live is Corton and they're doing that. But that must have changed the business because instead of selling all your milk to one body...	
09.09	[inaudible] but it's not a lot of milk we sell altogether...	
9.17	Do you do anything else or does your son do anything else? Cheese or butter?	
09.22	No, no. We pasteurise it. We have to. They get off with that south of the border but not in Scotland.	
09.39	from starting in Carston you've seen a big lot of changes in how farms operate.	
09.52	A big lot. Farms operate. In the summertime when I left the school hay and harvest. We had good weather then. I don't know where it went to. You need good weather to make hay [inaudible] When I started you couldn't make any hay [in bad weather] but now it's all made into silage [inaudible]. Mind you, it's not for nothing. The big machines they use, the big choppers, they're better than £150,000.	
10.55	That's one of the things that has impressed me. The scale of the machinery you have to have, either buy it or lease it or hire it with GPS and computers and all sorts.	
11.12	There's a lot more hiring than there used to be. Of course, I quite understand with the price of them just to be used a short spell.	
11.27	And the amount of capital you need to run a farm now must be a lot greater than it used to be.	
11.35	Oh aye. It's a big outlay. A young fellow starting farming now it's just about a no go unless he's got a lot of money behind him but if he's got money behind him he'd be better off doing something else, so it is.	
11.55	You wouldn't recommend it then.	
11.57	It's a good life. [inaudible] I kent nothing else. I hadn't the brains to be a doctor or something like that although my father had an uncle, he was a doctor. If you go further back [inaudible]	
12.23	You couldn't have been that short of brains. You were successful and you bought other farms.	
12.30	Ach well, you just worked away.	
12.37	One of the things you talked about extra capital or more capital needed. The relationship with banks must have changed from knowing the local manager to filling in forms.	
12.53	Oh aye. I don't take anything to do with that side now; the banking side. The banker was the main man. You went to see the banker and you spoke to him, aye, and you got on fine as long as the banker understood. There were some who got a transfer from a bit away and come through here: a different kettle of fish so it was. You had to educate the banker first. Could be a hard job [laughs].	
13.49	Also, was there much mixing of folk from different farms socially? Did farms have a social life?	
14.05	Oh aye. There was a social life [inaudible]. There was a social event every year – the Ochiltree Schoolfellows Reunion. It's been going for	

	160 year, och, more than 160 year. It was still going up to last year but like everything else it was stopped by Covid.	
14.40	And were there farmers discussion groups and things like that?	
14.43	Yes, aye but it's not so much now as it was. It was a good thing for a good while but this past ten years it's kind of faded out. It's stopped the now.	
15.00	Is that organised by the NFU?	
15.03	No. Cumnock and District Agricultural Discussion Club. That's what they called it. At one time it had a big membership but like everything else it just kind of dwindled down and dwindled down so it did.	
15.28	I've read that nowadays because very few people are employed on farms the farmer's on his own for most of the time and it leads to problems for some of them anyway.	
15.48	The thing about farming on your own. It can be quite dangerous. If anything happened there's nobody else there.	
15.58	I believe. I've read that farming is one of the most dangerous occupations for accidents.	
16.06	Aye, you've got to be on the ball.	
16.11	Did you ever have accidents on your farms?	
16.14	Not so far. I've been quite lucky that way.	
16.25	You, or your son anyway, has diversified into direct selling of milk.	
16.32	Och, it's very small scale that.	
16.37	One person I spoke to said that farmers' wives do that now. There'll be very few farmers' wives who don't have a job outside the farm.	
16.54	All the young ones now they all have a job outwith the farm. At one time they had hens and helped with the milking. Mechanisation of the milking and the hens now and unless you have thousands of hens...	
17.21	Cows are going the same way. Look at Darnlaw.	
17.29	Oh aye. Going the same way. Just a sign of the times. The whole thing is if you stand still you're lost. Utterly lost. Things go by you and you discover that when it's too late.	
18.02	At least in this area you were spared some of the things that put some farms out of business.	
18.20	Aye. The opencast up at New Cumnock. From Drongan to New Cumnock on the top side of the road there were a load of farms at one time and they all produced milk. They've all been opencast and they're now beef and sheep. That's what's left, aye.	
18.54	But it seems that dairy farming is very tying. The cows have to be milked twice a day.	
19.02	We milk ours three times a day.	
19.04	Three times a day right. So you never get a holiday.	
19.10	If you're milking three times a day you've got to have staff. If you tried that yourself you'd finish up in the nuthouse. The cows do better if they get milked three times a day.	
19.32	What do you think are the highlights of your farming career?	
19.45	The highlights? Good weather and things going well. Weather plays a big part. If you get good year, a good summer, and things going well that's a big lift.	
20.15	Was it you, or your son, won some prizes and things like that.	

<b>20.23</b>	Aye, my son won Young Dairy Farmer of the year. I don't know when that was. He could maybe tell you better than me. Ten year maybe since that. Oh he was quite into it, quite into it, aye.	
<b>20.56</b>	Did you ever think about doing anything other than farming?	
<b>21.04</b>	Not when I was young, no. But when you look back there could have been easier ways of making your money. Still, hindsight's great.	
<b>21.21</b>	Once you start on something..	
<b>21.24</b>	Well, you've got to go on.	
<b>21.25</b>	It becomes very difficult to change, make a big change in course.	
<b>21.27</b>	My son, he's very impressive too. Mind you, there's not much point in a farmer going on if his son's not interested. You see that more and more now every year. There are better ways of making their money, easier ways. Off every weekend.	
<b>21.56</b>	As an outsider it strikes me that the amount of work involved, how tying it is, you really have to love it to do it.	
<b>22.10</b>	A lot of jobs are the same. If you don't love the job that you're doing might as well get out: no matter whether it's farming or what it is.	
<b>22.31</b>	Given the number of farms we identified – 400 or so in the 4 parishes – about 200 years ago and the number there are now, I can't remember what the number is but it's a lot less. Amalgamation and losing to opencast and stuff like that, although some of it might come back as rough grazing.	
<b>23.01</b>	Oh aye. It will be rough. It's never the same once it's been opencast. And amalgamation was a big thing.	
<b>23.11</b>	Do you see the amalgamation trend continuing?	
<b>23.14</b>	It looks like it.	
<b>23.29</b>	Is that because they need to be bigger to survive?	
<b>23.26</b>	It's like everything else, back what I said, if you stand still you're lost. Things will always change and we'll see a lot of changes yet.	
<b>24.12</b>	Thanks for your time	
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continues with second interview



Project: Ploughing Up Our Past  
 Respondent: Wilson Morton  
 Year of Birth: 1940  
 Connection to project: farmer  
 Date of Interview: 23 Aug 2021  
 Interviewer: Ian McGhee  
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 Information & Content: Yes  
 Photographic Images: Yes  
 Length of Interview: 35 mins  
 Location of Interview: Ochiltree  
 Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n Pro

## INTERVIEW 2



Time (from: mins/secs)	Transcription
00.00	You're too young to remember the wartime but maybe your father talked about it. What difference did the war make to farming?
00.13	Well, well I was born in 1940. The war was started then. I was too young then. I know it finished in 1945. I just went to the school then. I would just be starting.
00.36	I just wondered if your Dad had said anything.
00.43	No, no. He should have been in too, speaking. Oh you mean my Dad, not my son. I heard bits and pieces.
01.02	I just wondered if it had caused problems. There would certainly be a big demand for all the product.
01.05	Oh aye. A big demand for the product and what I can remember during the war we had land girls who were out working on the farms so they were and they did a good job, a lot of them. In fact a lot of them they finished up farmers' wives. So they were in those days, aye.
01.38	Actually, now you mention Landgirls, I'd also heard about milk recorders that came round the farms.
01.46	You're right. Milk recorders came round the farms and they stayed on the farm for a day. They did the evening milkings and the morning milkings and did all the bookwork and then went away on to the next farm. That was going for a long, long while and then they got a van to run about with. A van that took about 2 or 3 of them and dropped them off here and there and milk recording still on the go yet; in fact, maybe

	more than ever. A lot of the bigger farms use it now to keep track of the cows, giving the quality of the milk.	
<b>02.52</b>	So they keep track of individual cows?	
<b>02.53</b>	Individual cows. There's a sample taken from every cow, twice a day and that gets tested.	
<b>03.08</b>	You'll probably laugh at this because I'm a townie but when I was at Darnlaw I saw the cows walking in and completely automatic milking. The cows walked into the pen, were hooked up and I thought these cows never set hoof in a field.	
<b>03.33</b>	That's right. No, with the parlours nowadays and 3 times milking and the robots, they're better being inside. Although you can maybe milk them twice a day they can be outside but when they're coming out and in it's a lot of work. But there's no doubt with the cows nowadays milked 3 times a day you do get more milk. And the cows are better, they're healthier so they are.	
<b>04.24</b>	So they're healthier for being inside all the time?	
<b>04.27</b>	Ach I think so. Aye, yes. You don't get so much trouble among them. We milk 3 times a day.	
<b>04.36</b>	So who does your son sell his milk to? Because he can't sell it all through the shop.	
<b>04.40</b>	Oh no, it's just a fraction goes through the shop. We sell the milk to Grahams at Stirling. What goes through the shop is just a fraction of what we produce.	
<b>04.55</b>	Something else you might tell me. What's the difference between hay and silage?	
<b>05.01</b>	Hay is grass that's been cut and wilted and dried and baled up. Silage is cut and wilted; mind you, it's not as mature when it's cut. It's cut when it's not too mature and maybe wilted for a day and then put in the pit.	
<b>05.32</b>	Does it ferment in the pit?	
<b>05.33</b>	It ferments in the pit, aye. It's covered with a big sheet to keep the heat in to cook it as you may say, to cook it. It comes out with a good smell. A lot of folk don't think that but it's a good smell.	
<b>05.58</b>	One of the other things I wanted to ask is about extreme weather. Now 1947, 1963, they were extreme winters. How did you manage with that?	
<b>06.14</b>	I managed. I enjoyed it. I was off the school; we were locked in with snow. That was March 1947. The place was at a standstill for two, three days. 1963 was a hard, hard frost. It started in December and went on to the end of March. Continual frost without rain and we had a good summer after that. I was left the school by then.	
<b>07.00</b>	How did it affect the farm if it was frosty? Because at that time not all the cows would be in the parlour.	
<b>07.05</b>	No. They were all tied by the neck then in milking stalls, just individual stalls, and a pipeline took the milk from the cow straight into the tank. In 1963 there wasn't so much of that. After that it was taking off.	
<b>07.36</b>	When you were growing up your father was a tenant farmer and he bought his farm in sixty?	
<b>07.46</b>	No. Eighty, no, I'll need to think about that [pause] the late seventies.	
<b>08.00</b>	What difference did that make? If any?	
<b>08.02</b>	None.	

08.26	Were you just doing exactly the same things?	
08.07	Yes, my father retired then and went into Ochiltree and I went into the farm. That was the difference but otherwise we just worked away the same.	
08.25	But bigger?	
08.26	It was aye getting bigger. Of course that was the trend, even up to the present day. It's aye bigger and bigger.	
08.34	You went from Carston to, was it Auchinbay next?	
08.42	Auchinbay aye	
08.43	And then Barturk? But you kept a bit of Carston?	
08.45	We kept a bit, yes.	
08.49	When you got a farm, did you name the fields, to differentiate them?	
08.55	Yes. There are names for all the fields. It's for bookwork. For the Department.	
09.08	Right. How did you get on with the Department?	
09.12	All right. Aye, I never had any bother with them.	
09.19	Were they giving subsidies for dairy farming then?	
09.24	No. Beef got them. The only thing was that you got a subsidy for dairy bull calves but more or less, the subsidy is more or less for beef. Beef cows.	
09.46	Apart from cows did you keep any other animals on the farm?	
09.52	No. Well, we had sheep through the winter; winterers. They come on on the 1 <sup>st</sup> of October to the end of March. About 6 months.	
10.06	So you're sort of keeping them for another farmer.	
10.10	For a hill farmer. They came off the hills and went back to the hills because they're not grazing up in the hills through the winter.	
10.22	So your cows would go into a barn or a byre until the 1 <sup>st</sup> of March, sorry April and the sheep would come.	
10.34	Aye, until 1 <sup>st</sup> of April. Usually the cows would go out to grass about the middle of April.	
10.50	On the farms did you ever come across any kind of historical or archaeological things? Any Roman coins or anything like that?	
11.00	I wasn't lucky enough. There's aye some about. A farm along, one of the neighbouring farms has a mound next to a wood and they've got a name for it. Let me think. It was something about the monks. I just forget what it is.	
11.48	Which farm was that on?	
11.50	Hill of Ochiltree.	
11.59	Another thing that occurred to me because I heard Robert Stevenson talking last week about the amount of water a cow drinks and it's a fair amount so how did you get on for water supply?	
12.16	Well, water supply. We had our own water supply off a spring in a field further up. That fed the farm, so it did. The main water was put in, oh a long while since now. I couldn't exactly tell you but about 50 year ago.	
12.47	And did you use that for the cows?	
12.48	Yes.	
12.49	Is it metered?	
12.51	The main water? Oh aye, it's metered. You don't get that for nothing. It's a dear item now.	





<b>13.00</b>	That's what I was thinking. Can you not still use the spring?	
<b>13.04</b>	Yes. But the spring we were on is pretty dried up over the years. We did use the spring for a while but latterly there just wasn't enough water.	
<b>13.19</b>	Not now your son has 300 cows.	
<b>13.23</b>	Aye, they drink quite a bit of water in a day. It's surprising how much they drink.	
<b>13.33</b>	I can't remember the figure now but when Robert mentioned it I thought that's a lot.	
<b>13.36</b>	Robert would have a good idea, you ken.	
<b>13.51</b>	You talked about the land girls and some of them becoming farmers wives. Was Mrs Morton of farming stock?	
<b>13.58</b>	No. Her father had a market garden up in Kilwinning and had a shop forbye.	
<b>14.13</b>	You mentioned sheep. Did you have hens on the farm?	
<b>14.17</b>	Aye. We had some hens, aye. Not in the numbers they have nowadays. There were maybe 2 or 300 hens. Something like that.	
<b>14.29</b>	So that was a business then; they weren't just laying for you.	
<b>14.33</b>	That was the wife's pocket money. It's big business now. It's 20-odd thousand hens in one house and 2 or 3 houses.	
<b>14.56</b>	I've seen them on the television but of course much of that will be automated now.	
<b>15.00</b>	It's a big lot of work. All automated now.	
<b>15.14</b>	When you had the hens, were you just selling them locally to butchers and grocers?	
<b>15.22</b>	The hens. Well, there was a man came round for the hens that were off the lay, old hens, and they went to...I don't know where they went to. Away to Glasgow somewhere and they were processed. We usually kept the hens for about 2 years or something like that. There were aye new chickens came in every year.	
<b>16.06</b>	Looking back on it what did you think was the best thing about working on a farm or owning a farm?	
<b>16.15</b>	You're your own boss. The thing is... the present day... it's a lot of hard work but it's not the hard work it used to be. A lot easier work, more with mechanisation. Years ago that the old farmers used to talk about it would be hard, hard work for them. Them and their wives. Aye, it would that.	
<b>16.54</b>	I suppose nowadays, although there's less manual work it must be just as hard doing the brainwork.	
<b>17.08</b>	Oh aye. You've to work with the brain. They say anybody can be a farmer but you've got to work with the brains. You've got to have brains now. The bookwork and everything is astronomical.	
<b>17.21</b>	You must have had some brains because you expanded the holdings from a very small base.	
<b>17.32</b>	I just worked away quietly, that was all.	
<b>17.41</b>	Nobody knew what you were up to?	
<b>17.44</b>	No, well, we'll say that anyway [laughs]. We'll say that anyway.	
<b>17.58</b>	Just getting back to you saying Mrs Morton came from a market garden background. How did she adapt to the farm? Was it a big shock for her?	

18.09	No, no. There were young farmers and a lot of her pals were farmers. She ran with them.	
18.23	Talking of young farmers, last time you mentioned the agricultural discussion club.	
18.33	It's defunct now. It's a pity that because it was a good thing. They had a trip once a year and it was a good day out but as time went on there were less folk going to it.	
18.50	Why do you think that was? Were they not getting anything out of it?	
18.56	Too much on. Too many things on. When that started, aye that started away in the early 30s before I was born and there was a big attendance then. They had a meeting once a month. It was held in the Royal Hotel. They had a speaker at it. Sometimes they showed films too. Aye, that was a good thing.	
19.34	That might have been one way but how did you keep up with the latest developments in farming as things became more mechanised and whatnot? How did you know about them?	
19.48	We'd read about them and there were aye folk talking about them. Try to pick other folk's brains, what they're doing.	
20.01	Did the NFU put out sort of information sheets and things?	
20.06	Aye. We got a lot of information from them too. The NFU was a good thing. A lot of farmers are insured with the NFU. NFU Insurances.	
20.29	I've got my car insured with the NFU.	
20.32	A lot of folk in the towns have got that now. My wife's uncle, a headmaster in Ayr Academy years ago – he's dead now – his motor was insured with the NFU and it wasn't me who put him up to it.	
20.50	I just looked for quotes and their quote was the best.	
20.57	I'll tell you too that you have less bother with them. There's some insurances it's not easy to get money out of them. No easy. You'll find it's less bother with the NFU insurance.	
21.13	When I saw you a week past Sunday you looked as though you were still working.	
21.19	Aye, I'd be jouking aboot.	
21.23	So you're not fully retired?	
21.24	Oh no. I wouldn't like to be. You've got to have something to do. And the mind would go too.	
21.33	True. And your son's all right with you working away?	
21.40	Aye. Some days he'll be quite pleased to see me. Other days I'll be a nuisance.	
21.48	Does he have any labour on the farm or does he do it all himself?	
21.51	Oh no. He has 2 men.	
21.56	How easy or difficult is it to get farm labour these days?	
22.08	You can be lucky or you can be unlucky. There's aye good men about. They're well paid now from what they used to be, farm workers. It's good pay now. Well, working with machinery they've got to have a bit of knowledge too and milking parlours and all they've got to know what they're doing.	
22.39	With a dairy farm you can't just leave the fields as they are, you have to attend to them?	
22.54	Aye. You've got a rota. Reseeded maybe every 4 years.	

23.07	So they don't reseed themselves?	
23.09	Oh no. They're ploughed and in the olden days maybe with corn with grass seed in among it and that would be a hay field for next year.	
23.38	And that's still the case today?	
23.44	Round these parts very little barley comes on or oats. Years ago every farmer had oats but it's all just silage and grass now.	
24.01	I was going to ask, presumably there's some sort of additives too?	
24.07	Aye, you get additives too to put in the silage but a lot of it is a waste of money so it is. We once put additives in, spent a lot of money on it. There were 2 pits, one got the treatment and the other was just the silage. It was all analysed later on through the winter and there was no difference. No difference. They didn't like me telling them that. When they came to analyse it, well they took the sample and they says "what pit got the treatment?" I said that's for you to tell me. They came back and there was no difference. They didn't like that.	
25.20	Again when I was at Darnlaw there were all sorts of stalls for companies selling additives. These would make your calves...so there must be some folk buying them.	
25.37	Some would do all right. If a calf gets a good start it goes on well all its life but if it gets a bad start they're never just the same.	
26.00	Did you have to call on the vet much when you were farming?	
26.05	Aye. Occasionally, no that desperate. There were a lot of things you could do by yourself. Milk fever and there was a jag for this and a jag for that you could do yourself.	
26.27	Was there any compulsory vet testing, like for tuberculosis?	
26.33	Aye, tuberculosis and brucellosis and that kind of thing. Of course they were paid by the government.	
26.49	Were there ever disputes between you and the vet about what was going on?	
26.56	No really. No I never had disputes with the vet.	
27.10	I can remember 2 outbreaks of foot and mouth; the last one maybe about 2000, something like that and one, maybe about the late 60s, something like that...	
27.26	That's right.	
27.27	Were you affected by that?	
27.29	No. We weren't near that bit. It was more down the middle of England.	
27.36	They were slaughtering some cattle in Dumfriesshire.	
27.40	Aye. The virus had worked its way up to Dumfries – Sanquhar; that was the kind of bit it stopped at.	
27.48	How did they manage to stop it at Sanquhar?	
27.50	Because Jim Walker was there [laughs]. That's aye what we said. The virus wouldn't get past Jim Walker.	
28.02	Was it just the slaughtering policy that stopped it there or...?	
28.07	No. It kind of faded out then. Mind you that went on for a long while. There was a big lot of cattle slaughtered during that time.	
28.23	I remember that. I remember seeing the pictures. It must have been awful for the farmers involved.	
28.31	Aye, working with beasts and had them all their life and then you see them just getting shot. Aye, a farmer has his ups and downs.	

28.46	I asked you what was the best thing about being on a farm. What was the worst thing about being a farmer or living on a farm?	
29.02	The worst thing? When everything's going all right it's a great job but there's some days...there's off days whiles when things don't just go to plan.	
29.36	We all have days when things don't go to plan. Did you ever have to confront a real crisis on the scale of, say, foot and mouth?	
29.51	No. Not really. For a while there, I can't remember what it was. When the beast starts staggering about.	
30.14	Oh, the JCB, no JCD, Jakob Creutzfeldt Disease, mad cow disease.	
30.28	That's right. Mad cow disease. But we were lucky, we never had one then. But there were days, quite a few back and forward on some farms. We did well.	
30.48	Although they say that was because they started feeding cows bits of sheep.	
30.59	Well, so they say. They had to blame something.	
31.08	Although, as a layman, a cow is a vegetarian animal and feeding it something else is maybe not all that good for it.	
31.22	No, no.	
31.30	Here in Ochiltree you're close to Auchincruive and to the Hannah Dairy, well, what used to be the Hannah Dairy. Did you ever have any dealings with them?	
31.41	Well, occasionally on the veterinary side. Maybe a calf wasn't very well, or one or two calves died we got it sent to the veterinary department at Auchincruive and they did a post mortem to see what was what. But that's no longer at Auchincruive now; that's shifted away to Dumfries.	
32.11	When did the Hannah shut? Do you know?	
32.20	No. It's a good while now since the Hannah shut. Soon be all built up.	
32.30	And it's about to be built up at Auchincruive.	
32.35	That's what's going to be the end up among that.	
32.39	I just wondered if the Hannah had been a resource for local farmers as well. You know. Research into milk production.	
32.45	Oh aye, it would be with research into cows on the veterinary side.	
33.02	That's all the things I particularly wanted to ask you but I don't know if there's anything you wanted to add about farming, particularly farming in the past or changes that have occurred...	
33.22	I don't know what's going to happen in the future with the farming, more so with the mechanical side. They're bringing tractors out now that can drive themselves [laughter]	
33.39	How do they manage that?	
33.40	No wonder you're laughing. We've got a wee lawnmower...	
33.46	I saw it last time...	
33.49	Aye, it works away. I don't know when it's going to stop.	
33.57	Probably won't ever stop.	
34.00	No. Never stop.	
34.02	You've just got to try to keep up with it I suppose.	
34.04	If I put that out in the fields I couldn't keep up with it. It would be away on its own likely. I'd wonder where the hell it was. No, I don't know. There must be something goes round the fields, kind of wires or	

	something so when it gets near the wires it knows when to stop and turn and then come back up.	
<b>34.27</b>	Like your wee lawnmower?	
<b>34.30</b>	Something the same idea.	
<b>34.34</b>	You must have a strip round the garden	
<b>34.38</b>	Yes [indicates] that out from the edge of the grass and when the lawnmower comes to that it stops, reverses, turns round about. Technology!	
<b>34.48</b>	Thank you very much for your time. It was good of you to see me twice.	
<b>35.04</b>	Aye well, I hope it's been some good to you.	
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