



Project: Ploughing Up Our Past
 Respondent: Bryce Sloan
 Year of Birth:
 Age: 66
 Connection to project: Farmer
 Date of Interview: 25th June 2021
 Interviewer: Roberta McGee
 Recording Agreement: Yes
 Information & Content: Yes
 Photographic Images: Yes/
 No (Number of) 1
 Length of Interview: 42 mins 14
 secs
 Location of Interview: Little Heateth
 Farm,
 Auchinleck
 Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n
 Pro



Time (from: mins/secs)	Time Coded Summary/Transcript	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)	
00.00 - 00.18	Introduction		
00.19 - 00.25	Details of Respondent Bryce Sloan		
00.26 - 00.32	Connection to farming		
00.33 - 01.20	Bryce explains that his family have been farming Townhead Farm, Auchinleck for generations and that his brother is still farming there.		
01.21 - 02.09	The Respondent relates how his grandfather was born in Little Creoch farm, New Cumnock and moved to Townhead Farm after WW1 with his wife		

	and they had 4 sons - Robert (Bryce's father), Bryce, John and Willie.		
	'....born and bred to be farmers and all doing different types.....'	01.59-02.02	
02.10 - 07.01	Bryce talks about his father's Townhead Ayrshires, Pedigree Cattle Breeding, preparing for the Ayrshire Sales and the care of cows		
	'It was a great atmosphere and there was a great camaraderie amongst people in those days.'	04.43-04.47	
07.02 - 08.42	The Respondent remembers how the introduction of Round-the- Byre Pipeline Milkers and Pollock's Byre Muckers made things a little easier for them. He talks about the purchase of Darnlaw and how he worked with his father with the Ayrshires.		
	'That was the start of how dairy farming evolved through the years.'	08.06-08.11	
	'The thing about farming is it changes and the demands and the requirements change as well.'	08.36-08.42	
08.43 - 09.40	Bryce recalls when he was 18yrs old and went to work in Canada he noticed a breed of cattle called Holsteins and despite a lot of criticism imported some back to Auchinleck.		
	'You've always got to look ahead and see what changes can maybe happen.'	09.30-09.35	
09.41 - 11.59	Bryce talks about his move to Darnlaw, the improvements they made and the building of the new by-pass which went right through the middle of the farm.		
12.00 - 13.48	The respondent talks about he and his wife Anne building up their Pedigree Black & Whites over the years and their delight in getting a first in champion.		
13.49 - 17.36	Bryce explains how they used to make barn dried hay and had to change the farming system to using firstly self-feed silage then easy feed silage. He compares the old farming system to the more modern one.		
17.37 - 24.09	Bryce discusses the split up of the family business, expansion of Darnlaw & Little Heateth and his son		

	coming into the business. He talks about climate change and the effect rainfall can have on ground conditions. When his son Robert got married Bryce and his wife Anne moved into Little Heateth and Robert and his wife Emma moved into Darnlaw.		
	'Darnlaw is quite a heavy farm, quite a wet farm. It can grow grass for Scotland.'	22.00-22.05	
24.10 - 25.30	Bryce continues the interview by talking about how they built a new greenfield site - a dairy farm, new silage pits, new storage buildings and a new dairy unit for 200 cows to marry in with what they already had.		
25.31 - 33.07	The respondent talks about the benefits of robotic milking		
	'The big advantage about robots is that the cows do everything.'	27.39-27.43	
33.08 - 35.33	Bryce recognises a new niche market for high fat/high protein milk and introduces Jerseys from Denmark and London.		
	'Between having robots and Jerseys we're probably quite different to what most dairy farms are.'	34.30-34.38	
35.34 - 39.30	Bryce explains their breeding plan, growing their own silage and self-sufficiency.		
	'If you can look after your cows well, their fertility, they settle better and they milk better.'	37.25-37.33	
	'The idea is that we have this uniformity of crops throughout the year.'	38.34-38.36	
39.31 - 40.50	Bryce explains how their carbon footprint is below 1 because they're making use of their own slurry and silage and generating most of their own electricity by fitting solar panels to the roofs of their buildings.		
	'Darnlaw has evolved through the years and that's the way it's going forward.'	40.44-40.50	
40.51 - 42.06	Bryce tells us about winning Master Breeder Award for the UK which highlights herds which reach a certain standard and the Royal Association		

	of British Dairy Farmers Gold Cup which recognises the top herd in the UK.	
	<p>‘A real surprise for a wee hill farm in Auchinleck.’</p> <p>‘It’s no’ so much what you have, it’s what you do with what you have.’</p>	<p>41.30-41.32</p> <p>41.36-41.41</p>
42.07 - 42.14	Thank you	