

Interviewee(s): Kelvin Pate (KP)	Interviewer(s): Eric Glendinning (EG) & Vivian Hastie (VH)
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REGION	East Lothian
TOWN/VILLAGE	Aikeyside

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EG: Right.

KP: Eh, my name's Kelvin Pate, I was born in Haddington in the Vert hospital in the end of December 1967. I was brought up at Stobshiel Mains Farm, which is roughly a mile away from where I stay today at Akieside, so I haven't really travelled round the world that much. Although Ah spent six months in Australia, eh, and a year and a half up in Perthshire. That's where I've stayed over, over ma life.

EG: I think you should tell us what you were doing in Australia and Perthshire then.

KP: When Ah was in Austral- when I was in Perth I was a student, I spent, fifteen months on a farm just outside Perth, on an arable farm, working mostly with arable crops, eh, helping out a wee bit with sheep an the cows that were there, and then for one spring I calved the cows up near Crieff which was also part o the same estate, and Ah lived in a caravan for, four months, it was ten feet long, eh, it was an absolute brilliant place to stay and work,. We worked long hours, but there was always – there was always tomorrow and we always seemed to have time for each other, eh, the folk that worked on the farm. It was a great social – there was a pub two hundred yards from ma caravan, an it was probably one o the best four months o ma life.

EG: Tell us about your upbringing.

KP: , I was born on a farm. Stobshiel Mains has changed over time but predominantly is the same. Eh, when I grew up, there was, eighty suckling cows,. four hundred Cheviot ewes and four-five hundred black-face ewes on the farm. There was a tractorman, sometimes, a tractorman and a laddie, which was often me, and there was a shepherd, ma dad and his dad, eh,.

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both called George Pate. , as time's gone on, me – my brother and I, eh, both worked at home,. I started doing a bit o contract work, lookin after the next door farm, which I did for sixteen years, eh, which meant – was quite good, really, because it meant we both had our own things we were doing. , the worst thing that can happen to brothers, I suppose, is if you're on top of each other, so that was a really good thing. , and in Two-Thou- sorry, in 1999 I moved to Akieside, we got a tenancy here and erm, I've farmed that for the last twenty years, eh, maself with a bit o help from my brother, but we're – we're at a stage now where our businesses are separate.

EG: Tell us about this farm then. Tell us about Akieside.

KP: Akieside's 350 acres roughly, and I rent another 200 acres of grassland round East Lothian. At its peak, the away from home run was forty-seven miles goin down to Dunbar, Haddington, ehm, Cousland, Humbie and Gifford, and Ah've, Ah've rented ground where Ah've been spreadin fertiliser to make it a – an extensive system which has benefits at certain times o the year. , as time's gone on, I've managed to get land closer to hand, and in the last two years I've got the next door farm which's

med life a lot easier. , I grow roughly forty-five to fifty acres o grain which is all fed to the cows and the sheep on the farm. Grow all our own hay and silage, eh, and tryin – effectively grow as much as possible and not buyin – eh, buy any concentrates in and utilise what we’re usin, or what we’re producin round the farm. . Four years ago we probably hit the peak o production, and eh,.

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had to step back, Ah worked maself out, was tryin to do two hundred bulls, eight hundred yowes, near eighty cows, maself, so I just pulled the plug on it an got rid of half the cows, an I’m keepin the sheep numbers up but, I’m making just as much money now as I was then. You run faster and eh sometimes you don’t get the rewards for it and eh, nowadays I’m lookin at doin other things, started teachin at Borders College and it gets you off the farm, meetin people, which is fantastic, . Farming can be quite a lonely existence and, y’kn[ow] there’s a lot in the media just now about mental health, and actually, people that work on their own – not just farmers – , Ah think that’s, it’s something that’s just never really been recognised and yer meant to just have a stiff upper lip an get on with it but I think, I think that the world’s changed that way, that, lookin forward is,, food production, people think it’s an option, there’s many organisations that’re sayin ye must eat – oh you mustn’t eat this or you mustn’t eat that, but we should have a, we should have a balanced diet, that’s produced in this country and that does in my book, contain meat – meat gives you so much, nutrients as well as vitamins an minerals, that if you cut it out o your diet completely you end up buying in foods from other parts o the world and are they sustainable? It’s questionable, and Ah would just like to see a bit more common sense about what people eat. Ehm, ma son once said to me there’s a lot more allergies in the world nowadays and part o that is that is because food has moved round the world, if your ancestors weren’t used to eating something you might not be tolerant of it an,

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eh, he works as a chef an he reckons that’s one o the reasons there’s more allergies in the world.

EG: I’m just backtracking a little bit – are there any employees on the farm or are – is it just you?

KP: At the moment it’s just me.

EG: So there – you haven’t had anyone else helping or anything?

KP: I usually take on somebody for two to three months in the spring to help with lambing and calving, but eh, ma wife, she works, – she works four days a week so she leaves at seven in the morning and she’s usually back about eight o’clock at night.

EG: So she’s not involved as a – an unpaid worker on the farm?

KP: No no, not at all. Not at all. She does, uh, as you say, she does the books, um, helps out wi them but other than that not, not in a everyday job, yeh.

EG: I know nothing about farming but regarding your tenancy, I mean is that a long – is that a twenty year tenancy or twenty-one year or is it a,.,?

KP: Actually, initially it was a twenty year term, due to end - which we were finished this year but eh, we bought the farm back in 2008.

EG: Oh so, it’s yours now.

KP: Yep.

EG: Right, right.

VH: So you talked about, um, the changes that have come, that people have – are having changes to their diet. So what do you think are the, the main challenges facing farming today?

KP: I think the main challenges of today are convincing people that, um, they need to, buy local when they can. , you can't get bananas in Scotland, you never will, but there are certain things that we can grow in Scotland and Ah think we should look at crops that at the moment we mebbe don't grow, and climate change, if it does happen, may mean that we can grow crops that were not sustainable in the past. , I think that the, the diet that we do eat,

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it's - a lot of it's fads about people thinkin they should eat that – and that's fine, I don't have an issue wi that because they come an go, but what does frustrate me as a livestock farmer is the whole argument with methane. , cows produce methane when they eat grass, they've been doin it for, probably a hundred thousand years, and that's not killed the planet so why all of a sudden should that now be an issue? , Methane comes from lots of sources, eh, but cows and farmers seem to be gettin the blame for all of it. It comes from the Arctic, when the permafrost melts it gets released. , I was readin this morning that, there was a frackin operation in America which leaked more methane than all – than one third of the cows in America belch out in a year, over a period of time. The difference between that methane and the methane from cows is, methane breaks down in twelve years, back into carbon dioxide water. Methane that comes from cows, the carbon – the carbon dioxide came from plants that they've already eaten, be that in the form of grain or in the form of grass, whereas methane from frackin adds new carbon into the atmosphere and people, , look at methane as the same regardless if it's come from underground or above ground – and Ah would, I would classify one as red methane and one as green methane. Eh, methane from cattle has, eh, a twelve year lifespan and then it goes back to carbon dioxide water.

[clattering noises]

EG: [whispering] That's fine.

KP: ,, that's sent me in a different direction [laughs].

VH: What did you do there?

EG: Ah it's OK, I was just checking that this was still recording this, yes, it is recording. [clattering]

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[interference] Um,.

VH: Has it not been recording?

EG: Yes it has been.

VH: Ah right. [laughter]

KP: I can't repeat it! [laughter]

EG: Let me just stop for a moment. There. It is recording. It's all right. It is recording. [interference] Uff! But, still thinking of the challenges there, well, there are a number of challenges for, for me as an outsider. What do you feel about post-Brexit, what are your, concerns there?

KP: Give us – as far as Brexit's concerned, the politicians've been talkin about it and doin nothing about it for three an a half years. , I was a Remainer, I voted to stay in Europe, n quite open about that. ,. but there was a vote and as far as,. democracy is concerned, the vote was to leave the European Union, and Ah think something has to change, which – obviously something will change, but if nothing changed I think there wud be a bigger backlash than if, if , if things proceed as they seem to be doing just now. Ah think for business we need a rulebook, and once we get that rulebook we'll see where we are, we might end up with food comin from parts o the world that,. are cheaper than what we can produce here, partly due to their standards and partly due to mebbe cheaper labour costs. But at the end o the day, we're gonny have to feed, by 2050, 9.8 billion people. And a really good example just now is New Zealand and lamb. Now I know non everybo- lamb can be a Marmite food and some people love it, some people hate it, but, well, we get roughly 40% of the lamb we eat in the UK from New Zealand and we export roughly 40% o the lamb from the UK to France because their market's pay more than ours. But this year the price o lamb in

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New Zealand is higher in the UK- it's higher in New Zealand at the farm gate than it is in the United Kingdom, and not as much lamb is comin from New Zealand and there's only one major supermarket that's sellin New Zealand lamb this year and that's a first. But the, the parallel you have to look at is, if you take a country like say Australia which is tryin to get hormone beef into the UK, at the moment it gets non-hormone beef in small quantities, but if, we d– we decide that OK we're going to take Australian beef in bigger quantities, eh, and at the end o the day the UK beef herd disappears altogether, it's not just about replacing the cows to get production back, it's about th'infrastructure, and there's no point in producin cows to produce beef when you've not got a slaughterhouse, an a cutting plant, an a processing unit, to actually turn that into food that people can eat. So, so ma kinna view – ma message to [clattering] th'general public is, don't use it then you'll lose it, and then what'd happen if you don't have an industry in the UK, you get the guy who's in charge of marketing in Aust – in Australia, as an example, sayin well, it's £5 a kilo last month but they don't have any so could just charge eight quid this month, and because there is such a demand for food round the world, if, if y'won't pay it we'll just send it to a different country and we'll, we'll never lose out. So then suddenly you, you'd end up with large increases in the cost of food over time. This might happen next year, it might happen in twenty years, but it will happen sometime. But once we've lost that infrastructure, we're absolutely snookered. People think that we could live on vegetables, which,. I think we mebbe eat too much

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meat, to have a balanced diet, but there are parts o the country that, eh, you can't harvest a crop nevermind, some vegetables because the land's not good enough. And to me it makes most sense to have grassland which protects, it protects the soil,. Last – two weeks ago we hired a coup– well four guys with metal detectors, and they found a couple of coins on, on Akieside, one in a place which hasn't really been ploughed and it was from eighteen, eh,. 1840, a big penny coin, and it was a foot, foot underground. An th'other one which has been ploughed but it was from 1650 –

EG: Mm!

KP: - , and it just shows you that all the time the soil builds up on, on fields that are permanent grass, and when we get extreme weather, which we look like we will probably get more of goin forward, it's really important that w'protect our soils because without soil you can't grow crops,. So, I think it's, it's all about keeping organic matter in soil, because organic matter in soil, if you go back fifty years you recall that: nutrients – because in your old mixed farms you would mebbe put grass down

for four or five years, you'd plough it up and put in a crop o wheat, which would extract the nutrients from the soil that the grass had built up, and then you'd put in a crop of barley mebbe, mebbe turnips or some sort of, brassica crop, and then it'd go back to grass again. An that was a sustainable way of producing food. If you look at – there's a lot to be learned from organic farming, that's how organic farmers work, because

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they build nutrients in the soil and then they harvest it, to just tie carbon up the soil over the long term, to me,. it's just, people that fly in aeroplanes or burn fuel, it's givin them an excuse tuh, tuh appease their conscience and it's, it's not a solution, eh, just storin carbon in soil. Storin carbon in soil for the right reasons, and that's to – to increase its nutrient value and protect the soil, is definitely a plus. But , Ah kinna appeal to people not to do it – to think that it's gowna save the planet.

EG: How do you feel about the whole question of how, well, what used to be called subsidies, permits in the future from the government, and they say it will have to involve an environmental improvement of some sort. How do you think that's gonna work?

KP: It already is. 30% o subsidies are already a green payment, uh, and we've got that already, and eh, you can opt in or opt out, you d– it's, it's not something you have to take. If you're an arable farmer you've to put in grass margins or margins round arable fields to, to get this money. So I don't see it bein an issue.

HV: Do you think there'll be more pressure to grow trees?

KP: I think there'll be a lot o pressure to grow trees, but Ah think for the wrong reason. , Ah think,. a really good example would be, if I went and planted this farm in, in forestry – got rid of all my livestock, and got carbon credits for the trees that Ah've planted, then Ah sold these carbon credits to Easyjet, which already claims tae be the first carbon neutral,. air – what d'you call that? Aircraft –

EG: Airline.

KP: Airliner, sorry. So, so they're, they've bought enough carbon credits from people that have trees and other, other things that qualify

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to be carbon neutral, as an airliner. And at same time, Scotland is going to be carbon neutral by 2045. So if I sell my carbon credits to Easyjet, how does Scotland become carbon neutral? Because already the carbon credits have been accredited to Easyjet. So to answer that question,. it might answer the reason why we plant trees, I don't know.

EG: Some – we hear that hill farmers in, in – I'm thinkin of the Borders, my part, that eh without subsidies, something like 40% would not be viable.

KP: More, more than that.

EG: More?

KP: Yeah. 90%.

EG: Good heavens.

KP: And people – public benefit, people think of as – well, what is public benefit? Inverted commas, food. Seemingly it's not public benefit. Without that subsidy, that food won't get produced. „And it's, it's quite a shockin statistic, Ah mean, all – all food production in England and Wales is, is not tied to production. And the only two, two things in Scotland, there's a payment for beef calves and there's a payment for hill ewes – that are – none of which qualify in Lothian and Borders but some do up in the Highlands o Scotland. , so, people think of subsidies are tied to food production but they're not.

EG: Gosh. A, another challenge that we hear about in the news certainly is rural crime. Is that a problem at all in your – any experience of that?

KP: It's gettin worse. , there's been, three instances I can think of where, tractors huv l– that, have been stolen from, well in two cases, two farms lost three, three machines worth over a hundred thousand pounds each, as in total value of

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two tractors and a forklift in one case. , the big things are gettin targeted where we never heard that before. Eh, quad bikes huv always been, something that folk can grab and chuck in the back o a transit van, but ,. There's more hare coursing than a lot on, as I've seen, and in general it's – the people have come with hare coursing, are more of a wurry to farmers than actually, than actually the actual hare coursing. But I know a local farmer than chased a couple and they came back two weeks later, he's not sure if it was them but they lit fifty bales o straw in the middle o his field.

EG: Aye, aye.

KP: So, so rural – rural crime is definitely an issue, the police are tryin to help but they – I don't think they have the resources.

EG: What about livestock disappearing?

KP: It, it is an issue in parts o Scotland but touch wood not in this area. , more in the West of Scotland there seems to be more of an issue. , but in general round about this area I've not heard many, many people losin livestock.

HV: So how do you see the future for Akieside?

KP: Akieside in the future,. Ah reckon the cows'll disappear. I think I'll buy calves from dairy herds and fatten them to produce beef. Eh, the sheep numbers'll go up. I'll probably grow more grain to feed the stock I'm, producing. This is – the last three years I've used urea-treated barley to reduce the amount of protein I'm buyin and , it's worked really well because it increases the PH in the feed which actually makes their rhumant less liable to have issues. So that's how I reckon things'll go. And I'm not just sayin that because you're a dairy farmer. [laughter]

EG: How do you keep the – uh retreat – I mean

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you're doing some teaching at the Borders College –

KP: Yeh.

EG: - how, wh- what is that about?

KP: Eh, I've only started just the last, eh, month an a half. Two months really. , I've always fancied teachin and, eh, the best way tae learn is how I learned, and it's what I call over the shoulder

learning. Eh, my grandfather as a kid, you follow him around, he would show you how to do things and eh, you mebbe didn't do it yourself but you saw somebody doin it and the best way to learn is what Ah call over the shoulder learnin. So I had a class of third years from Kelso High School last week, and Ah found an old triple K so we stripped it to bits, took everything off it then stuck it all back together again –

EG: What's a triple K?

KP: Triple K is a culti- a springtime cultivator. And , it , they had to use spanners, they all wanted to use angle grinders and the gas torch but I made use the hacksaw, [laughter] Kept busy and eh, but they learnt how to pull something apart but more importantly put it back together, . An Ah think teachin, teaching has become too theoretical, the – if you look, if you look at the number of people that have started to do apprenticeships, that's what employers are lookin for is, when somebody appears to work in the morning, they want to be able to say go and do such an such, and the person says that's – can say that I've done that before and they can get on with it unsupervised, and if you want to employ someone to be able to do certain jobs unsupervised at the beginnin of the day is a really important thing for people to learn, along with timekeepin.

HV: [chuckles]

EG: Tw- two things that relate, nowadays, how do young people like that get involved in farming or any aspects related to farming?

KP: , at school now it's part o the school curriculum,

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agriculture. Come March there'll be,. four, I think it's four courses that will be available to the students at school, mixed farming, arable farming, eh, poultry and,. Ah think maybe dairy, I'm not so sure of dairy but , they'll be on the national curriculum.

EG: Ah.

KP: Which is something that, uh, has been looked at just now in the background. So hopefully by next year that should be on the national curriculum.

EG: And the other side of the coin is, eh, how do you keep up your own learning, I mean clearly agriculture is – everything you've said suggests that agriculture is changing and is going to have to change faster in the future, so how do you keep up?

KP: Th'internet.

EG: Ahh. Right.

KP: An if Ah don't know, Ah get it wrong, an it costs me money! [laughs]

EG: Is there any sort of social,. eh,. network on the internet [KP coughs] for farmers?

KP: , there's the Scottish agricultural colleges have eh what they call monitor farms, an Ah chaired a group down in Peeblesshire for three years, and eh that I would say is one o the best ways t'learn things because, probably twenty farmers who come along to these meetings every two or three months, and it was, it was a fantastic, ehm, way of trying things out by gettin other people to try them out. Because the college were there to oversee it and quantify it. And a really good example of that was, in the past we've always – you take one cut of silage, or hay dependin on the weather, to feed, feed yer livestock and somethin that the dairy industry have been doin for years is they've cut

more frequently to get a higher quality of silage t'feed the stock. And eh, what I wanted to know was what- how much was it going to cost. So, so they did it and it was quite easy to quantify because on the farm down at Peebles it was a contractor that did all the operations, and it worked out at

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£1.50 a bale more to cut twice than cut once. But the increase in nutrient value was, was huge. So , it saved that farm six and a half to seven thousand pounds in the first year because their sheep didn't have tuh – the quality of silage was so much better that they didn't have to buy any concentrate to feed their sheep. So I would say that's one o the things that's how we kina, keep up to speed. An at the SAC, that's Scottish Agricultural College, they also put out kina monthly newsletters which tell you what's going on. But Ah'm – as an industry we probably should be doin, doin more. On the crop side, the crop side for sprayin an that sort of thing, it's a bit like being a bus driver, they get so many points a year to keep their, their spraying license up to date. So. That's what they do.

EG: Does the government issue anything, or is it just directives to do X, Y and Z?

KP: A lot o these things are legal requirements and you just have to get on with it. The government tend,. their computer doesn't work very well. [amused exhale]

EG: How do you, would you – you've been involved in politics at one stage. Tell us about that. Just interested.

KP: Well Ah stood as a counsellor back in Two Thousand An Twelve and again in Two Thousand S Seventeen. , Ah'm out o politics at the moment, partly because I'm, Lothian an – Lothian an Borders Chairman of the National Farmers' Union and it's an apolitical movement so it just is so much simpler not being involved. , back when Ah was involved, Ah wanted to do stuff for the c- for the – that was relevant locally, an Ah got fairly scunnered because people vote on national issues, eh, regardless of what you're standing for locally. , an I think that's, –it's quite sad actually because there are, there's some really good people out there that stand in local

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elections, an Ah've met a few of them, and they don't get elected cos of things that are completely out of their control. Eh, and eh, Ah think Ah've, I think Ah've had a go at it and Ah think that's me finished with it. , Ah would rather teach young people Ah think. Make a difference.

EG: So, do you see your work with the National Farmers' Union as the best way to, to make voices and farmers' voices heard?

KP: Well I've been involved for fourteen years, with the farm- the Young Farmers' Union, and I was National Livestock Chairman for two years which was, I really enjoyed. , it was a huge undertaking, it's a – it's one o the biggest jobs in the union. But farmers – farmers need the union to have a voice because at the moment the union is in a really good place from the point of view that people come to them and ask what happens if X, Y and Z, and it gives the people that makin decisions an easier way to find out implications of their decisions. And it's really important that there's – there's three different types of NFU members, there're ones that, they pay their sub and they just let somebody else get on with it, and that's fine. There's some that float in an out, and they're really good, but it's engaging wi them and gettin them to come along to meetings so they do feed into it because decisions have to be made by people on the ground. And it's all very well people in an office in Edinburgh makin decisions but they can't make good decisions unless they get feed in from the

members. And then you get people like maself that get very involved in it, and, it, it's,. to get, to get your voice heard you have to have an organisation. If you look at any other industry they have unions and we're no different. , you need somebody to be able to stand up with,

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with a bit o clout behind them from the point of view of the number of people they represent from, from industry, because a lot o people in politics haven't had a background in industry and that's – that's never been more true than it is today. Politicians forty years ago used to be people that made it in life and then decided to be politicians because they had time on their hands a wee bit, and that's all changed, a lot o politicians now are career politic- career politicians. Ah still remember, back in 2007, comin from – going out to the airport at eh, Heathrow Ah think it was, on the train, and there was a group of pol- political students which Ah think they were about twenty. And the way they were talkin, they should be runnin the country now. And Ah just thought to maself, if that happens we're stuffed. [chuckling] . That – life starts with education, . The shockin thing Ah've – in Two Thousand Seventeen there was no h- home economics teachers in East Lothian in Two Thousand Seventeen. And to me, cookin food is a life skill that every student should have when they leave school. , and if, if you can't it's detrimental to your existence from the point o view that it means you're probably buyin more processed food. The cleanest food you can eat is unprocessed food that you cook, cook as a raw ingredient and accept yourself. And it's somethin my mother did, ma dad's still goin strong at eighty, still think he's twenty-one, lived off mince an tatties a few carrots an a few sprouts, and , it's never done him any harm.

VH: So in what range of ways do you think you can involve young people more and educate people better about the food that they're eating and the agriculture industry?

KP: If you look

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at – if you look at,. the general population now, thirty years ago we had – most people had a connection with a farm. It might've been an uncle, it might've been a grandparent, it might've been a cousin. And, when they went on holiday they quite often went out to the farm and they saw things happen. That's not happening now. But what Ah would say to young people is, y'know, you're not goin to do the same job all your life, so you need to get a skillset that you can chop an change. And one, one skill that regardless of where you are in the world is, is – to be able to pick up when you want to, is agriculture. So for example, if you want to travel the world once you've mebbe been to university, eh, or help finance your way through university, is to be able to do jobs on farms that are seasonal. So for example, drive a tractor at harvest time, or help somebody lamb sheep or calve cows. It's somethin you can do for a short period o time, on an off, so say three months workin on an arable farm, when you're in Australia, would pay for the other three months that yer travellin round, and by learnin how to drive that tractor, you may not do it for the rest o your life, but it'd give you an option to, to actually travel and see what you want to do with your life. And if, if farmin ends up to be part of it that's great. If it, if it doesn't end up to be part of it, it's a skill you have that you can pick up, and when you're on the farm you'll see how your food's produced, and Ah think that's somethin that a lot o people don't, don't know about, and , if – if,. A lot of people are frightened of agricultural because o the long hours, but what Ah'd say about that is, well that's fine, you can do ninety or eighty hours a week, sometimes more, but you get paid for that, and agriculture

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wages are such that you get paid time and a half for, for – extra overtime. And there's not many industries now that do that. If you look in the catering side now, a lot of them are on the living wage, it doesn't matter how many hours you do, you don't get much more than the basic minimum living wage. So agriculture is, it's actually probably from a quality of life point of view, you're living in an environment that the air's clean, you're doing some physical work so you don't have to go to the gym at the end of the day, and actually, Ah wouldn't change it for the world. Ah would like to do other things, but I'll still come back and part of my life will be farming.

EG: We hear that a lot of – farmers are aging as a group, and it's less common now for younger members of the family to take on the farm. Is that the case with you then – is your son, is he –

KP: I've three, three boys.

EG: Ah.

KP: And none of them are coming back to farm. The oldest one works in a bank, the middle one is a chef, a bleak baker, the youngest one's working with horses down in Newmarket just now, and I'll be very surprised if any of them come back to a farm. Which, Ah'm the sixth generation of farmers so we've done all right! [chuckles]

VH: Hm! Does that alter the way that you farm? The fact that you know that the – none of them likely to take on,?

KP: Ah think a few years ago – earlier, when Ah was talking about what Ah was doing, it was in the hope that one of them would come home. And now that that's not happening, Ah've cut things back so Ah can manage it myself. Eh, Ah don't mind as long as they're happy. Ma dad's old saying is, if you're, if you're happy with your job you'll do it well, and I think that's so true. Hm. Ah'd be lying if I said I wasn't disappointed

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one of them isn't gonna come home, but if they're interested elsewhere there's no point pushing it.

EG: Is there anything else you'd like to tell us that we haven't asked you about, that you feel that we should know?

KP: Ah played rugby all my life, also refereed for about seven or eight years, and that was – that was a team sport and Ah think, – the modern world is losing that. People are, walking around with their phones in front of them. It's – quite a funny, funny story on the telly the other night, when, one of the comedians said, so when you're walking along the street and the person that's walking towards you is looking at their phone, do you deliberately walk into them? [chuckling] And it kinda sums up the world we live today where everything's going digital and we're losing the ability to speak and communicate with each other to, to an extent where things like rugby and other team sports where, eh, you have to be at a certain place at a certain time or, or your team doesn't have a team, is something that's maybe, maybe being lost, and the attitude of some youngsters, some would say, is, is, making it difficult to actually teach. Somethin' Ah've not come across yet, somebody that doesn't want to learn what do you do?

EG: Mm.

KP: So, that's about everything Ah can think of.

EG: Well, many thanks indeed!

VH: Thank you very much.

[laughter]