

*Excerpted from a 1998 interview with Gertrude Lepine, Morristown, VT conducted by Jane Beck.*

**Gertude Lepine:** *The Freedom of Farming*

The thing that I, that I think impresses me the most about farming is that you are so committed. But yet I got this feeling of complete freedom. You know, but you're so committed, so tied down, you know? Even though you've wanted to go something, I mean, you've got those chores night and morning and 365 days a year. But still, you, I don't know. I guess when you're doing what you want it's...especially when you get up on a, get out on a tractor on a beautiful, beautiful summer or spring day when things are just so great. Because we've got a beautiful farm to work here, you know, we've got mountain views all around us. But you've got that, and you ask Jeannette the same thing. She's got that same feeling of that feeling of freedom, almost as though you could fly. It's just a wonderful feeling. And that's, you know. I knew when I quit that that was, I had done the right thing. For me, it was my...I never regretted it. And now when I face the, I'm 62, and I'm the sole owner of this farm. I will be when I finish paying, making my payments. And I want to keep it as a farm. And I'm seriously thinking about the Vermont Land Trust or something like that to keep this open. Because I don't want a whole lot of development. It's such a great farm and it's, you know, I think there's a lot, a lot of future farmers that can make a good living here for a long time to come.