

Excerpted from a March 19, 2015 interview with Jack and Anne Lazor, Westfield, VT conducted by Andy Kolovos (AU2015-1008) for the AFC Archie Green Fellowship Project (VFC2014-0005).

Jack and Annie Lazor: Starting Out

We're actually like one of the first, I think we might be the first micro dairy. You know, at that time, you know, 10 years before that or 20 years before that, there were dairies all over this state. You know, just very, very small ones, very much more decentralized. And then as time went on, the larger dairies bought out the smaller ones. And then time went on a little bit more, and larger larger ones bought the regular larger ones. And I mean, I just saw, you know, like for us, I can remember when we first started, Kilfasset Farms in Passumpsic just south of St. Johnsbury was around and then Kilfassets was bought by Billings. You know, Billings Dairy just in White River, in Wilder. And then Billings was bought by Idlenot in Springfield, North Springfield. And then Idlenot was bought by Hood. And so now all we have is Hood. And then we had Booth Brothers, and then Booth Brothers was bought by Hood. And you know, back then Hood had a plant in Burlington just, you know, on South Winooski there, and but so for us, we are, and there was Palmer's in east Middlebury, and so we went to a lot of auctions too. And that's how we got all, that's where we got a lot of our equipment from, you know? And um, and then [inaudible] I remember we went to Palmer's auction and bought, I think we bought a little vat pasteurizer there and that's where we met this guy named Kevin Johnston who had, you know, he's from New Hampshire, and, you know, he was, he actually helped the Stonyfield Yogurt people get started and he, you know, he really liked us. And, you know, I still know him, and he still helps us once in a while. And we bought our filling machine from him up there and in the yogurt room that we eventually got, you know, a filler capper. And, you know, just so, you know, I think it's all about being out there, being friendly and receptive, and it all comes to you, really, you know, and it's still the way I operate. You know? And it's really I don't know any other way to do it, really.