



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

Mailing Address:
15610 Vaughn Road
Brecksville OH 44141
Visitor Center:
1550 Boston Mills Road
Peninsula, OH 44264
www.nps.gov/cuva

Farming in the Valley: 2011 Oral History Project

The following are transcripts from three audio clips in the **Making a Living/What to Farm? /Straw and Hay** section. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/cuva/historyculture/straw-and-hay.htm> to view the entire page.

Pat Morse, who grew up near Hale Farm, describes community wheat threshing in the 1940s.

Wheat Threshing

“The threshing of the wheat that occurred each summer, or fall I guess it would be, farmers came from all around the valley and up toward Bath and wherever. And they would trade off every time threshing needed to be done. They would help each other.”

Threshing by Steam Engine

“That might have been Hale Run Creek that went right through the corner of our property, and they would always stop with this huge steam engine with a threshing machine, to fill up with water, that had great big wide belts and it was really large. But it was really a big engine, and you would . . . well, like you would with steam trains, you would have all the steam and looked like smoke, whatever it was, and it was very noisy and we just thought it was pretty cool.”
~laughs~

Curing Hay

Ernest Ogrinc, a Valley View farmer, describes the modern process of curing hay.

“Today’s process is a combination called a [indistinguishable] disk bind or maybe a new idea had there [mumbling] cut conditioner. What you do is you cut it and crush it to some extent to open up the stems to allow it to cure better, to be able to dry. And you don’t really dry hay, you cure. There’s a difference. And we’ll come in with a tedder, and we’ll ted the hay up to fluff it, to help the air and sun get through. Mother Nature was drying, or curing hay . . . I want to use the word ‘curing’ . . . is amazing that this stuff is so wet, so thick when you cut it, and yet it cures up and dries the moisture out of it so quick. It’s unbelievable. And then we come by. We have to rake it into what’s called a “windrow” and generally I don’t like to windrow unless I don’t got a bailer, ‘cause it’s . . . when . . . if you don’t have to . . . if you have to let it go overnight ‘cause you didn’t get it bailed up, now you got moisture underneath so you gotta flip it or fluff it or somethin’, so the least you have to handle that hay, the better off you are.”