

### **Tonya Cherry - Where Food Comes From**

Ann Ferrell: What are some of the things you know now that you didn't know when you were growing up in a subdivision? Which I did too, by the way. [laugh]

Tonya Cherry: I did not realize where my meat came from, where the milk came from, where the vegetables came from. Just ignorance. You know you didn't need to know that. You just went and bought it. We did have a garden growing up, you know but the eggs. I literally did not even think of where or how any of that happened until I started farming. The first animal that we ever had slaughtered, I couldn't eat it, because I had fed it every day. You know, it was in a stall pretty close to the house, and we petted it, and we named it and then whenever- I knew what we were doing but then when the time came and we took it, that didn't bother me. But when it came back in packages? It did. And it took us forever to eat that first beef [laugh] because you know, it was like I wouldn't cook it. We would have chicken or whatever. [laughter] I would avoid doing it. You know I guess just the not knowing. And the hard work that farmers- This is really bad. So, I'm gonna be honest here. We had, even though I grew up in a subdivision there was a barn directly in front of our house. We used to play, me and all the kids in the neighborhood would play in this barn. And I never will forget, because now I feel terrible. We got up in his barn loft and there were potatoes up there that he had dug. And we had potato fights. So, we threw potatoes at each other and just had the best ole time and all that. You know, we didn't realize all the time that he spent digging those potatoes, packing those potatoes up in that barn loft, and keeping them and everything. And you know there weren't any potatoes left up there. And he never came to our parents, he never said anything, but now, and he's been dead for a really long time, but every time I go to my mom's, because she still lives in that subdivision with that barn across the road, I remember what we did to that poor farmer. 'Cause we just didn't have a clue.