

Fieldnotes

Project: AFC Archie Green Fellowship Project/VFC2014-0005

Accession Number: AU2015-1011

Interviewee: Cushing, Carl

Interviewer: Andy Kolovos

Interview Date: April 15, 2015

Interview Location: Vermont Livestock Slaughter and Processing

This is another interview in a series aimed at exploring the network of growers and producers who supply Fletcher Allen Hospital/University of Vermont Medical Center. I was put in touch with Carl Cushing through Mark Boyden of Boyden Farm. VT Livestock and Slaughter processes his cattle.

Carl's business functions in an older slaughtering facility in Ferrisburgh, VT, just off Rt. 7. Carl is a friendly, amiable man and an excellent storyteller. Carl met with me in the break room and spent over an hour talking. Our conversation ended just as the lunch break began and employees started entering the room. I wanted to get a sense of both his background and how he got into the slaughter and meat processing business as well as get an overview of how his business operates and how it fits into the landscape of the industry in Vermont.

Carl had a lot to say—all of it valuable. He represents an older generation currently engaged in agricultural work in VT, a Vermont native from Milton who has worked in agricultural pursuits for all his working life, and has watched the industry ebb and flow over the course of his long career in meat inspection and running his own business.

Carl's a good talker and I think he'd make a great addition to a panel discussion on agriculture in the state.