

Recent immigrant workers in Iowa's meatpacking industry

Archie Green Fellows Project, 2015-2016

Komla Ewu interview, 2016-07-20 : interview conducted by John W. McKerley

Interview ID: afc2015026\_03159

Date: July 20, 2016

Duration: 01:02:06

00:00:00	Introductions
00:00:35	Birth in Yokele, Togo
00:02:30	Farming in Togo
00:03:10	Population of Yokele
00:04:00	Relation between City and Village
00:04:35	Grandfather
00:05:35	Father
00:06:15	Grandfather was a shoemaker
00:07:50	Grandfather lived in Gold Coast
00:09:00	Father was a farmer and policeman
00:10:00	Father as policeman
00:10:45	Growing up in the 1970s
00:11:50	Siblings
00:12:10	How farm land is divided in Togo
00:13:00	Became a teacher
00:14:00	Toil a lot for less in Togo
00:15:20	Wages in Togo
00:17:00	Inequality in Togo

00:18:00	A teacher's wage in Togo
00:18:40	Why become a teacher?
00:20:00	Have Master's degree
00:20:40	Teaching English
00:22:18	Difficult to be a teacher in Togo
00:24:10	Left Togo
00:25:40	Applied for Visa
00:27:10	Work while waiting for Visa
00:27:55	Togo's relationship to France
00:30:40	America as "dream" country
00:32:15	Earned Visa in 2011
00:32:50	Challenges with Visa
00:35:15	Friend's brother lived in Beardstown
00:35:50	Worked at meatpacking plant in Beardstown
00:37:00	Difficulties of transition
00:38:20	Pursuing education
00:38:50	Immigrant Association
00:39:10	Jobs in meatpacking
00:40:50	Difficulties of meatpacking
00:42:50	Current Job
00:43:10	Generational change
00:45:30	Tension between generations
00:46:40	Language barrier for many immigrants

00:47:20	UFCW Local 431
00:48:10	Relationship with Union
00:48:55	Efforts to get Togolese involved in Union
00:49:55	Tension for positions
00:52:30	BRIFU
00:53:50	Coalition for Common Good
00:54:30	JBS and Employee Pressure
00:58:00	People can no longer stand working at plant
00:59:40	America is a country of dreams
01:00:50	Immigration system is broken