

Interview with Louisa from [Yep Yep Farm](#) - July 16, 2016

Farmer Louisa Waligoske stopped by the [Friends of the Farmers Market](#) booth for a chat one Saturday at the [Lane County Farmers Market](#).

Introduce yourself and your farm.

I'm Louisa. I'm with [Yep Yep Farm](#) and we've been farming, me and my husband Jason, for a year and a half now. And it's been a very interesting ride. We are an aquaponic farm.



Did you think you were going to be a farmer when you grew up?

No, I thought I was going to be a stewardess for sure because I like traveling and airplanes. No, this happened when I met my husband in 2012 and he was all excited about getting a farm. We were hiking the Pacific Crest Trail and I was like, "That sounds cool, I guess. So I'll go move to the U.S. and be a farmer."

Where are you from?

I'm from Germany.

What advice would you give to a market shopper?

Try something you have never tried before because there are all these awesome things that I had never even seen let alone grown before, so be courageous.

It sounds like you've traveled a lot. What's your favorite place that you've visited?

Northern Washington. The Northern Cascades are beautiful. In early fall with the huckleberries and the animals it's just gorgeous. I just love it.

What are some of the challenges you face farming, and what do you love about it?

I love being outside all day. I love being with animals and growing things and tending to my nurturing side. The challenges are definitely in the sales department and getting the business organized and learning all these things that I've never even heard of before. Selling food to people.

You have animals and you have aquaponics?

Yeah, so aquaponics means that we have fish. We have 400 tilapia and 3 chickens, which will hopefully be upgraded to about 60 soon, and a cat.

Do you have time for media? Are you "Netflixing" anything or reading anything?

Oh yeah, I Netflix and I read. I love to read. I would love to read more and I've just recently started to say, "Ok, I'm not just going to read farming books." My brother gave me "The Name of the Wind" for my birthday so I'm reading that right now. And the latest movie I've seen was actually The Lobster, that was recommended by a friend of mine. It was very odd and scary but a cool movie.

Where are you located?

We're in Dexter. We're kind of in the middle of Dexter. So it's neither really an urban farm because Dexter's not a city but it's not an out in the country farm either, so it's got a cool mix of random people stopping by and checking what's going on and dealing with trailer parks all around...