

Interviewee: Faustin Martinez
Date: 03.30.2016
Location: Cooper Rm. Neilson Library
Time: 3:00pm

Faustin Martinez is from the San Luis Valley. His parents were fulltime ranchers and farmers and suffered from discriminatory lending, as did Faustin. Unable to farm and ranch fulltime, he spent his career as an educator. He applied for compensation under the *Garcia v. Vilsack* settlement but was not awarded any money.

How long has farming and ranching been in your family?

Your family has deep ties to the region. Can you describe your family's ties to the area?

- How long have your ancestors been in this area?
- Where did they come from before that?

What are your fondest memories of your childhood?

How old were you when you started helping out around the ranch?

Did you grow up speaking Spanish or English at home?

Do you still speak Spanish today?

How important is this heritage to you?

Regarding your ranching, do you still ranch or farm?

This next question addresses a slightly more difficult topic. If you don't mind, could you describe to us the first time you remember being treated differently because of your language or the color of your skin?

I understand that you were part of the *Garcia v. Vilsack* settlement.

- Can you describe why bank loans so important to ranchers and farmers?
- As a rancher, how would one apply for these loans?

Do you remember when you started to notice that you were getting treated differently than other farmers and ranchers applying for loans?

- Can you think of examples?
- What types of things stood out to you?

How long had this been going on?

How did being rejected for loans affect your business?

- How much do you think you lost in terms of forgone income?

How did losing loans affect you personally?

- How did you feel after being turned down for a loan?
- And how did it affect the family?

How did you survive all these years without the financial support you deserved?

When did you first start talking publically about the discrimination you'd been experiencing?

- When did you decide you'd had enough?

When did you become aware of the *Garcia v. Vilsack* case?

- How did you get involved?

Did you meet with other Hispanic farmers and ranchers about the *Garcia* case?

- How did their stories influence you?

What did you have to show in order be considered for compensation under the *Garcia* case?

Did you ever receive compensation?

- If not, what was the justification you received?
- Did any of your family members?

Do you think monetary compensation would have made up for the financial and emotional losses you experienced over the years?

Looking back on it, do you think that the discrimination you experienced change you in any way?

- Did it change your family? If so, how?

What message would you want to give future farmers from the Hispanic community?