

VFC2023-0001 - Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife Turkey Project  
AU2024-1023-010 - Krizzia Soto-Villaveuva  
March 20, 2023  
Burlington, VT

**Krizzia Soto-Villaveuva** [00:00:00] --been doing an internship through the community news service at UVM with Vermont Public, and I went to this turkey farm in West Corinth to interview them about bird flu that year. And so something compelled me to take my sister there on processing day just to get her to learn a little bit more about where food comes from, and she was very mad at me. <laughter> Mostly because I woke her up at six in the morning to go. But also she was like, "I don't want to touch a bunch of dead turkeys. I want to buy them at the grocery store and not think about where they came from." And I said, "that's exactly why you're going to go touch a touch of dead turkeys." And so I bought her some overalls, and thankfully were the same size, so I kept them. And yeah, I took her to West Corinth and we processed turkeys all day, and by the end of the day, we were eating lasagna in the house of the people who owned this farm. It was the first bit of meat I had in years, almost a decade, and she was covered in blood and turkey juice and feathers, and I hadn't seen her smiling and laughing that much in a long time. And so in the end she thanked me for the experience and I stopped being a vegan and--no dairy though, keep that cheese off my sandwich. Yeah, I stopped being a Vegan she thanked me for the experience, we ate and laughed with the farmers at this place in West Corinth, and eventually I found myself craving more and more that connection to my food and to wildlife and to the animals here in Vermont. So much so that I came to Vermont to research and I started with agriculture in Puerto Rico and now I study hunting in Vermont. And it was kind of self-serving because I'm hoping to learn as much as possible, and this will be my first turkey season. I got my hunting license a month ago. And I'm really, really happy to be in this place with people like you all, who come out to something like this and have all of these stories to tell. And I can only hope that next year I have some fun stories to tell about turkey season this year. <applause>