

Essay Entry for "Ag is Cool" - Ohio State Fair 2012

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I learned some amazing things at the nine Ag is Cool sections at the Ohio State Fair. At the Ohio Department of Agriculture section, I learned that Ohio's producers provide food and products to consumers who use the products in their everyday lives. I learned that Beef is an excellent source of protein which helps to keep our bodies healthy by resisting disease. My mom got a brochure with a lot of new beef recipes.

Also, in the Dairy section, I learned that a cow has four stomachs. I thought that a cow only had one stomach, but it turned out that they have four. I even got to experience milking a cow! At the poultry section, I learned that a successful incubation of eggs depended on four factors which are ventilation, humidity, temperature, and turning. I spoke to a poultry farmer who explained this to me. I even got to feel the difference between an egg that was just hatched a minute ago and one that had been hatched a week ago. The new egg was still warm!

In the Pork Section, I learned that the barns protect the pigs from harmful animals called predators, and from extreme environmental conditions and temperatures. My mom even took a picture of a mother pig and her newborn piglets!

I learned from the corn section that corn is a renewable resource that can be used to make plastics, chemicals and rubber, which is usually made from petroleum oil. In the Sheep section, I learned that there are two-hundred, nineteen yards of wool in a baseball. Did you know that's six-hundred, fifty seven feet of wool?

The eighth section of nine sections that I went to with my family was the Soy Section. There I learned that ninety-eight percent of Ohio soybean meal goes to livestock for feeding. The animal that consumes the most Ohio soybeans is the chicken, although this is also food for sheep, cows, and pigs. I also got to sample a soy granola bar.

Finally, at the birthing center, I met a veterinarian that taught me that birds, reptiles and amphibians lay eggs to reproduce. He also told me that mammals carry their babies inside their bodies until they are born.

I learned a lot from the Ag is Cool station at the Ohio State Fair and had a lot of fun visiting all of them! :)