

Agriculture is Cool
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I had a great time at the Ohio State Fair and had fun doing Ag is Cool. I went to all the stations around the fairgrounds. I saw all kinds of animals and learned lots of facts about agriculture.

At the ODA tent there was a huge John Deere combine which I usually don't see since I live in the city. Ohioans plant and care for 15 million trees every year. I identified different seeds that grow in Ohio and learned facts about each plant. Ohio ranks 3rd in tomato production.

I saw people showing Dorset sheep when I visited the sheep barn. Nearly 3,200 Ohio farms raise sheep. Sheep wool is used not only for clothes. My baseball is sewn with wool thread and the rubber lining and cork are made from sheep bi-products.

Since I like to drink milk, milking a cow named Skylar was fun. I also saw a calf that was not even 24 hours old. I also watched a cow being milked by a machine. Dairy cows drink lots of water every day to make milk. At the beef barn cross bred cattle were being shown. Some were feisty! I noticed the difference between dairy and beef cattle. Beef cattle are heavier and broader than dairy cattle. The typical beef cow eats 2% of its body weight each day. That would be 1.66 pounds for me.

Ohio produces a lot of soybeans, corn, and wheat for not only food but also products. I made soybean soap at the soy station. Soybeans make bio-products like grill cleaner and paint. Corn can be used to make ethanol and lubricants. Wheat can be used to make plates and cups.

Ohio is 10th in turkey production. It will take 20 weeks for a turkey to become 35-40 pounds. At the swine barn I saw a replica of a pig farm. Pigs need to be in the right temperature and need clean and fresh water all the time. Piglets grow very fast. They weigh about 2-3 pounds at birth and about 250 pounds at 6 months. I heard an auctioneer talking really fast and selling pigs.

I now realize that you do not have to be a farmer to do agriculture. Agriculture creates jobs, food, and bio products. If Ohio didn't have agriculture we would have to depend on other states and we would not have as many jobs and that's why ag is cool.