

My Trip To The Ohio State Fair

On July 26th, I went to the Ohio State Fair. On my trip I learned about sheep, chicks, chickens, ducklings, pigs, soybeans and new technology.

Some cool facts I learned about sheep are that you need to clean the sheep before you shear the wool off. Also, some tennis racquets have line made of sheep intestine. Wool can also be made into yarn and fabric.

In the poultry barn I learned that chicks need an egg tooth to hatch. In an egg, the yolk is what turns into the chick. If it were not refrigerated, but left with the mother or put in an incubator, it would hatch. It takes about 21 days for a chick to hatch from an egg. I found it fascinating to watch the eggs in the incubator getting ready to hatch while in the Ag building. My grandma and grandpa also have about 50 chickens and they don't hatch them, but I like to help my grandpa tend them and hunt the eggs.

They also have 4 ducklings to eat the bugs off their plants. I like to follow them around and I found out they always return to their pen to swim.

I learned that pigs are normally classified as swine. Pigs can get diseases easily and spread them easily. At the fair I saw piglets that were only 1 day old! There was a toy barn with facts inside where it would show how pigs are cared for on a farm. Barns are built for pigs to protect them from predators and extreme weather conditions. Some barns can also be built to a pig's special needs. There was a group of piglets in the pig room that you could watch. I was also able to taste and buy bacon jerky.

I learned how much farming has changed over the years. Today one U.S. farmer can raise enough food to feed 155 people but a farmer in 1930 fed only 10 people. I learned about new and advanced technology that made this possible. I found out that some tractors can steer themselves using GPS (Global Positioning System). This helps tractors make the straightest lines for maximum yields on crops. Many tractors can go a faster now, increasing harvesting and planting speed.

Did you know that 1 bushel of soybeans yields 11 pounds of soybean oil? I enjoyed having the chance to eat some raw soybeans at the fair. Soybeans are being used in many of the foods in the grocery store and have a lot of nutritional value. And there are some things like soy milk and granola bars made with soybeans.

In Conclusion, I learned a lot of new things at the Ohio State Fair and I had fun doing so. I learned how important farming is to Ohio's economy. Agriculture provides jobs for 1 out of 7 people. I learned where some of my favorite things come from and how animals are used for more than just food.