

This summer, I had the opportunity to visit the Ohio State Fair for the first time ever—twice! I went the first time because I was a State Fair Delegate with my First Aid 4-H project. It was a wonderful learning experience, and we loved the Ag is Cool stations! We had such a great time that we decided to make the long trip back for another day because we wanted to visit the Ag is Cool stations again with my sisters. We had even more fun the second time! I am glad to tell you about my experiences.

I learned a great deal at the Ohio State Fair while visiting the many Ag is Cool stations. First, at the Ohio Department of Agriculture building, I learned about Ohio's producers and products, like how plants provide food and products for consumers like me. My mom took some great pictures so we could remember what fun we had!

At the Beef Station, I learned that leather is a by-product of cattle. For example, if I bought a leather jacket, it would be a by-product of cattle. Leather could also be used in shoes, baseball gloves, chairs, couches, and clothes. Baseball gloves are my favorite because baseball is my favorite sport!

When we visited the Dairy Station, I learned that cows drink 30-50 gallons of water a day! I learned that cows can be used to make leather, clothes, meats, and dairy products, like milk, cheese, and my favorite ice cream! I can think of two connections with baseball here—ice cream at the games and leather for the covers of the baseballs!

After that we visited the Sheep Station. While at that station, I learned that sheep's wool is used in many more things than I originally thought. Wool also has many uses. It can be used as baseballs, clothing, rugs, carpet, felt, or even pillows! I certainly like all these connections with baseball!

At the Pork Station, I learned that barns protect pigs from predators and extreme environmental conditions, or weather. For example, it keeps swine safe from predators, like bobcats or coyotes, and weather, like very hot or cold conditions. Meats that come from swine include pork, bacon, ham, sausage, and hot dogs. Hot dogs are my favorite thing to eat at my baseball games! Another great connection to baseball!

I learned at the Corn Station that an ear of corn averages about 800 kernels in sixteen rows. There is one silk for each individual kernel! Corn can also be used for popcorn, too. I am thinking of eating popcorn at a Toledo Mud Hens baseball game right now and I will be thinking of my great time at the Ohio State Fair!

While at the Poultry Station, I learned that Ohio is number 2 in the country in egg production at 7.6 billion eggs a year. I also learned that if eggs don't have the right conditions they won't hatch. Eaten eggs are a great source of protein. That made me feel good when I ate an egg-on-a-sick at the Taste of Ohio Café. Yum!

I had a ton of fun at the Ohio State Fair! I learned about agriculture and how much by-products can impact our health, our lives, and how much of a connection there is to my favorite sport, baseball! Thank you for the Ag is Cool program. I am already looking forward to returning next year to learn even more about the treasures of Ohio through the Ag is Cool program!

