

Once upon a time there was a 10 year old girl named Lexi. She thought she knew a lot about farming and agriculture. That was until she visited the Ohio State Fair with her family and participated in the Agriculture is Cool program. On that day she realized there was many things she did not know about agriculture.

When Lexi first arrived at the fair she visited the Soy booth. Lexi noticed that there was food made out of soybeans. She thought the food would taste nasty! To her surprise, the granola bar that she ate made from soybeans was delicious! Lexi also received a neat pair of sunglasses made out of soybeans. She had no idea that soybeans could be used to make so many tasty and useful products such as pancakes, salad dressing, and barbeque sauce. They are even used to make the crayons she colors with. She learned that one acre of soybeans can produce 82,368 crayons. There are many crayons that could be made out of the soybeans that are planted right next to her house!

Next she visited the Corn booth. Lexi knew that corn was used in some animal's feed. What she did not know was that 1 billion bushels of corn translates to 56 billion pounds of corn for food. She also did not know that there are about 800 kernels on an ear of corn! At that point she realized she was going to learn a lot that day.

Wanting to learn more, Lexi went to the Dairy Barn. Her grandpa was a self-employed dairy farmer for years, so Lexi knew that there are Holstein cows. She learned that each of his cows were producing about 2,350 gallons of milk each year! Lexi didn't realize that there were so many different types of dairy cows. She learned all the different types of dairy cows. She even identified the types of cows in the pens. From being on her Grandpa's dairy farm she knew about the milking machines that are used today to milk cows. What she did not know was some people still milked by hand. Lexi milked a real cow by hand. It was not hard, but easy!

Lexi's next stop was the swine barn. She already knew many things about pigs because she has shown pigs at her local county fair for 2 years. She did learn that pig farms have changed over the years. Now, there are many big long barns full of pigs. Lexi learned that there are 3,700 pig farms in Ohio and 99% of them are family-owned farms. Her dad even told her that she lives around a big family-owned hog farm! Lexi also enjoyed seeing the baby pigs and the big boar.

After a busy, fun filled day, Lexi and her family went back to Morrow County (which she learned was the first county in Ohio to have a Grade A sheep dairy and the first to have a dairy

farm with a parallel milking parlor!). Lexi went home with a better understanding of agriculture and how she uses the products every day. All of this new agricultural information helped her to live happily ever after!