

Ag is Cool! Mother Goose Style
By Corinne Shull

Once upon a time, my family took me to the Ohio State Fair in Columbus, Ohio. When we got there, we saw the many rides and the concessions filled with yummy treats. Once we went past the rides and the treats, we stopped at the Agriculture is Cool station filled with fun facts about Ohio. I picked up my Passport for the Ag is Cool program and started on my adventure. The first fact for my Passport was at the Ag is Cool station, and I found out that about 20 footballs can be made from one cowhide. I really enjoyed the connection to sports because it's one of my favorite hobbies. We also learned at the Voinovich Building that crayons, soap, and paper are other cattle by-products that are used in everyday life.

As we continued looking for more fun facts about agriculture, I discovered that the facts made me think about nursery rhymes. The first fact made me think about Humpty Dumpty. Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall and had a great fall and since he couldn't be put back together again there would only be 299 more eggs left since an average hen lays 300 eggs in a year. That's a lot of scrambled eggs!

When we went to the Brown Sheep Building, I thought of Mary who had a little lamb. That little lamb grew up and its white wool had to go through up to 70 processing steps to ensure its highest quality. Mary could go to school with the best wool sweater!

On our way to one of many stations we stopped at the Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center. Looking at the cows made me think about the cow that jumped over the moon. I thought about how thirsty the cow would have been after that jump. I think the cow may have been trying to cool off because its average body temperature is 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Did you know that a typical Ohio dairy cow will drink a bathtub full of water every day? I think the cow that jumped over the moon would drink all that after jumping over the moon!

We then headed to the Ag/Hort Building and thought of Little Boy Blue who blew his horn while the cows were in the corn, which I learned an ear of corn averages 800 kernels in 16 rows. Little Boy Blue needs to blow his horn again to get the cows out of the corn!

In the Ag/Hort Building, we also saw soybeans which made me think about Jack and the Beanstalk. Jack threw out the magic beans to get the golden goose but soybeans are even better because you can make pancakes, salad dressing, and barbecue sauce out of them. It just takes a combine to harvest the soybeans in the fall to make meals magic.

We went to the O'Neill Swine Building and that made me think of "This Little Piggy". I found out that barns protect "these little piggies" from harmful wild animals called predators and from extreme environmental conditions or weather. When we left, my family's "piggies" went "we, we, we" all the way back to Lucas County where it has 59,000 acres of farmland.

I had a fun learning experience at the Ohio State Fair, and we look forward to returning next year. Until then, my family will live happily ever after in Lucas County, Ohio.