

# Ag is Cool

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In fact, ag is *really* cool! And it's fun to learn about all the cute animals like sheep, pigs, cows, horses, chickens and rabbits. First, I learned how agriculture is a huge part of Ohio's economy, plus I got to pretend to milk a cow. One out of seven people in Ohio raises livestock or provides the food that we eat, and many more have family ties to the farm.

Although the animals are adorable, they are not raised to be in a zoo. Each animal has a specific role in a healthy diet. Chickens provide eggs and meat. Pigs produce pork, hot dogs, sausage and bacon. The average cow can produce 70 pounds, or about 120 glasses, of milk each day. More than that, cows can assist in making things like paper, crayons, glue and even gum! Sheep, along with cows, can produce things other than food. Their wool is used to make yarn which is then woven into things like sweaters, hats, mittens and rugs.

One of my favorite parts was petting the baby animals. We were walking by when all of a sudden I spotted piglets through the window. Jumping up and down, we went in and saw the little creatures. The lambs were extremely soft and white. The calves were only a few weeks old and their fur was crisp. I talked with a veterinary student who answered all of my questions.

Even though animals are a large part of agriculture, crops like soybeans and corn are just as important because they feed humans as well as animals. It takes about 100 million bushels of corn to feed livestock in Ohio each year. That's a lot of corn! At the fair, we tried Soy Joys and to my surprise, they tasted like Nutri-Grain bars. When I got home, I looked at the Nutri-Grain label and found soy as one of the main ingredients.

I had so much fun that I went to every station and saw the butter cow, carved pumpkins, honey bees and people showing their livestock with pride. And to top it off, we went to the tractor rodeo. Boy was that fun! Then I ate ice cream and wished it was winter. It was a hot day!