

“Agriculture is Cool”

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WOW what a lot of “COOL” agriculture information I learned from all the eight stations at the 2011 Ohio State Fair.

I learned at the birthing center that veterinarians work to help animals stay healthy through regular exams and shots that help prevent disease. I know how important that is because I have twenty three animals, fourteen hens, two goats, five dogs, turtle and a rabbit. I take care of them all, it is a full time job but when I am in school I get help from my mom. I talked to the veterinarian taking care of the three pregnant dairy cows. I learned they were stressed causing them to be four days past due on giving birth to their calves. I came home after the fair and shadowed my veterinarian for a day. I was involved with two surgeries, one ultra-sound and many office visits, WOW what a day, I am looking forward to next year. My big decision is if I am going to be a big or small animal veterinarian.

I visited the poultry station and learned that it takes twenty one days to hatch an egg under the correct conditions of temperature which is 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit. There are two kinds of chickens, laying hens which produce eggs and meat chickens. My hens are free range hens that produce white, brown and multi-colored eggs.

I learned at the soy bean station that soybeans are a renewable energy source and they provide high quality protein and is low in fat. I had a soy bar at the station did you? I also learned at the corn station that animals on Ohio’s livestock farms will eat more than one hundred million bushels of Ohio field corn this year. I am so glad that this year I grew seventy-eight stalks of corn to help out my hens. My hens eat one hundred pounds of Ohio soybeans every six weeks and one hundred pounds of corn each year. I sell my eggs to my customers to help pay for their food and what it left over I put away in the bank for my college fund. Sometimes I sneak some money out to buy the chickens some treats. I sell them for three dollars a dozen or five dollars for two dozen, call me if you need any, I deliver on my bike guaranteed not broken.

The sheep station, I learned that one pound of “thin” wool can be used to create over one mile of yarn. I wonder if I can talk my parents into getting a sheep? I got two goats this year because I got straight A’s two quarters in a row. I start school very soon and maybe I will have a sheep by Thanksgiving. I can sell the wool or talk my mom into making sweaters to sell so I can buy my feed for the sheep. What do you think? Sounds like a good plan to me. I love spending time with all my animals. I love them and they love me.

I can’t wait to come back next year to the Ohio State Fair, it was “Fairtastic” and I want to learn some more. Agriculture is COOL and ROCKS!!!!