

## Ag is Cool

By: Andrea Rodeheffer

I learned a lot about Ohio's agriculture while visiting all of the Ag is Cool stations during my family's recent visit to the Ohio State Fair. First of all, I learned that cows regurgitate their cud and have four stomachs in order to fully digest and use the nutrients from the plants that they eat. I also learned that there are more than 3,000 dairy farms in Ohio. As a result, these farms produce more than 600 million gallons of milk each year and Ohio is the number one producer of Swiss cheese in our country. That is amazing!

My grandparents raise free-range chickens and yet I found it fascinating that chickens consume the most soybeans of all the farm animals, and Ohio ranks second in the nation in egg production with nearly 7.6 billion eggs a year. Eggs are very healthy, especially the yolk, as it is the major source of vitamins, minerals, and proteins.

When we visited the pork station, I was impressed by how fast piglets grow. In less than six months they go from two pounds to 250 pounds! I learned that this was because of the science-developed food that they are fed. Ohio is one of the nation's top ten pork producers with about 997 million pounds produced in a year.

Ohio is also known for producing grain. Corn is a renewable resource that is known for being used for food for farm animals and humans, but it is also being used to make many products, such as plastics, rubber, and ethanol. Soybeans are also grown for their oil and to feed animals.

Overall, I learned that Ohio's agriculture plays an important role in producing many different goods while also creating many jobs. I also learned that you are what you eat, so eat healthy and be healthy, like the farm animals in this great state of O-H-I-O!