

The Ohio State Fair was very exciting for me this year. I learned all about agriculture and how it can apply to my life. There were nine stations at the fair, including ODA, Dairy, Beef, Poultry, Sheep, Pork, Birthing Center, Corn, and Soy.

At the ODA station I learned all about how Ohio's producers, like plants provide food and products for consumers, or people. For example corn is a commonly eaten food and can be made into ethanol which when mixed with gasoline cuts down on pollution. This can really make a difference in the world to cut down on the pollution that gas-powered vehicles make. In this station I got to compare my weight to animals, learning that I weigh about half as much as a pig. I also learned about insects such as the Emerald Ash Borer which can destroy a young ash tree in only a few years.

At the sheep station I learned about sheep wool. Wool has many uses; it can be used for clothing, rugs, carpet, felt, or even covers for cloth diapers. Wool yarn is also used in baseballs. There is 657 feet of wool yarn in a baseball. As a baseball player I was surprised to learn that wool yarn is in a baseball. I was also surprised to find that wool feels soft and greasy.

During my time at the poultry station I learned about the proper incubation of eggs and how if the conditions aren't right then the egg won't hatch correctly. I was very surprised to see how much larger a goose egg is compared to the bantam chicken egg. I was also amazed to find that Ohio poultry was ranked second nationally in egg production. Some of my favorite foods from poultry include fried chicken and scrambled eggs. I sure wish you could make scrambled eggs from goose eggs because then you'd only need to use one instead of three chicken eggs.

While at the pork station I learned about how barns protect swine from wild animals and harsh weather. For a pig harsh weather can be very cold or very hot weather, as pigs don't sweat. Barns also protect pigs from wild animals like bobcats or coyotes. Some meat products that come from pigs include pork chop, bacon, ham, sausage, and pork roast.

The corn station taught me how corn is a renewable resource, and how it can be used to make plastics, chemicals, and rubber that is usually made from petroleum oil. Corn is important in our lives because without it we wouldn't have plastics, some types of adhesives, or corn meal for animals. Corn is also important to me as a cub scout because I sell popcorn and enjoy eating corn often.

I had a lot of fun at The Ohio State Fair this year. I learned a lot about agriculture and how some of the things I mentioned affect our lives. Another area of agriculture I would like to know more about is how engineering affects agriculture. After I got home I researched more about the things I learned at The Ohio State Fair. Through my visit I was able to increase my knowledge and interest in agriculture.