

## Ag is Cool by Phillip Stevens age 10

My sister and I wanted to do Ag is Cool because they said we would get ice cream for learning facts about agriculture. On the way, I learned about farming. At the fair I learned that farming can help make non-food products other than just food products. Things such as tires, glue, footballs, and baseballs can be made out of cattle. This is important because we also use things that are not food from farms.

I also learned that cows drink a bath tub full of water every day. We went on a trip to California this August and saw that there was not that much water there. It would be hard for cows in California to drink as much water as they usually have because there is a drought there. If they don't drink as much water, farmers don't get as much milk. One more fact about cows is that they have an average body temperature of 101.5. That is a lot warmer than a human's body temperature unless you have a fever.

We learned that corn, soy, and wheat are the top 3 crops in Ohio. Those crops are very important for animals and humans. When it is time to harvest, combines do the job. They had a combine simulator at the fair. My sister and I went in it and drove it. It was awesome inside there. It seemed a lot like a real one. I know this because I was in a real one where my uncle farms and the main difference was that it was hotter in the real one. At the fair, we learned that there are 800 kernels in one ear of corn, so I wonder how long it takes to harvest all the little kernels.

It is a bummer that there were no chickens this year at the fair. They are really fun to look at because there are lots of breeds of chickens. The reason there was no chickens at the fair this year is because they could spread sickness. We learned that an average hen can lay up to 300 eggs in a single year. I could make a lot of fried egg sandwiches out of that many eggs!

We learned that farmers keep swine in a barn to protect them from predators and weather. As a kid in a suburb, I can think of a predator in our area, and it is coyotes. Maybe sheep need to be protected from predators and weather too. Have a sweater? We learned that sheep's wool goes through up to 70 processing steps to make sure that it has good quality.

The last thing we learned is the fact about your county. The fact about my county is that a cow named Modine Ormsby was elected queen at OSU. It would be strange having a cow at a football game.

After my scavenger hunt and a hot day at the fair, the nice cold ice cream hit the spot! Thank you for the delicious ice cream and the fun way to learn about agriculture.