

## Farm Living is The Life for Me!

My family operates an 80 cow dairy farm in Wisconsin, It's just my dad, mom, my brother, myself, and my grandparents help out to when they can. We don't have hired help. My Grandpa bought the farm back in 1957 and together with my Grandma, and my Dad they've built it up to a beautiful 500 acre masterpiece. My dad and mom purchased the farm 11 years ago from my grandparents. Having a profitable dairy farm requires a lot of time, hard work, and the ability to want to work. If you don't want to work you will not get very far. Every spring I look forward to checking the fences in our pastures for our cows and heifers to roam all summer. Another thing I look forward to in the spring is picking rocks. We have a rock bucket attachment on our skid steer, and every day this past April & May when I got home from school, I would go to the fields and pick countless buckets of rocks, to get the fields ready for planting. At 5:00, both morning and evenings, my Mom & Dad milk all our cows. My brother helps Grandpa mix the feed in the TMR mixer, and I help my Grandma feed all the calves their milk and grain. If Mom or Dad is busy doing something else during chore time, I have started to milk, and I really like it! On school mornings my brother and I don't go to the farm, but on weekends and in the summer months we go every morning and night. Every morning my Mom and Dad take turns getting us up, getting us breakfast and off to school. I am so thankful that my parents are always home for us. I have class mates whose parents work difficult shifts, and sometimes are not at home with their kids, or at their sporting, music or school events, my parents don't miss an event for my brother and I. Growing up on a Dairy farm has taught me so many valuable lessons in life, the first one is commitment. If I say I'm going to do something, people know that I will show up and do what I said. Work ethic, another important farm kid asset, if there is work to be done lets pitch in and get it done! My Dad always says, "Work before play!" I like to help others, it makes me feel good! Another important lesson is finances and how to spend money wisely. When money is tight and milk price is low, like right now, you can't spend money foolishly. Purchasing the necessities for running the farm without borrowing money is the best way to operate. I feel like our cows, heifers, steers, cats, chickens and dog are all a part of my family, I care very much for all our animals, and how they provide a great living for us.

By: Brock Strassburg