

A Dairy Good Life

By: Lily Charapata

Dairy has always played a very large part in my life and continues to be an even bigger part of my life as I get older. I personally do not live on a dairy farm, but I am involved with multiple dairy farms near me, I'm in 4-H, I am a National and Wisconsin Junior Ayrshire and Brown Swiss member, own and show registered Ayrshire and Brown Swiss dairy cattle, and participate in dairy quiz bowl and dairy jeopardy at the National Ayrshire Convention. Having dairy in my background is a true blessing for me. It teaches me so many things that are very valuable for my life. Some of the things farming in the dairy industry teaches are responsibility, good work ethic, family values, determination, cherish every moment-good or bad, confidence and pride in your work, patience, respect, and so much more. Everyone should be instilled with these life lessons, but not many kids are brought up in this way anymore. Luckily for farm kids, they learn these values day in and day out. I try to live my life practicing what the dairy industry has taught me so those who aren't involved in the dairy industry realize that dairy farming isn't just a career but a way of life.

Another way I like to be involved in the dairy industry is by telling and teaching people about dairy farming. Some ways I do this include: making a June Dairy Month window display with my 4-H club, helping at our local Breakfast on the Farm, and talking with non-dairy orientated people at our county fair. I especially love answering questions from young children and hearing them say that they want to be farmers when they grow up. The more people we can tell about the dairy industry, the better, because with every generation that passes, more people are getting further removed from the dairy farm.

When I grow up, I want to have a career in the dairy industry. A job I would really like to have is a dairy nutritionist. I can't wait to have a bigger part in the dairy industry!

I can honestly say that I have no idea what I would do without the dairy industry in my life! Without the dairy industry, I would not be the person I am today. Because of the dairy industry I have a "dairy good" life and wouldn't want it any other way!