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“Agriculture as a Career”

As a child growing up on a farm in the summers I never realized the importance of what I was doing for society. I always thought of it as just fun! I didn't know that the wheat we harvested or the cows we took to market was going to feed somebody one day. As I got older the summers became more about my city friends and less about the farm. I then joined the military which took me to a whole new dimension of life. I was a medic so my role was helping people. What I was doing was important, and I was good at it, but I felt something was missing in my life. I went to my aunt and uncles' dairy farm on leave and it was then I realized what was missing. I wanted to have a farm and give back to society what I had been missing all these years, agriculture.

Now I am finally starting to live my dream of owning a farm one day. You ask why a career in agriculture and I say “why not”? I did not understand the importance of agriculture until I started working at the Middle Tennessee State University Dairy. I hear stories continuously about how most people have no idea what agriculture truly means. I heard somebody say one day “with all the technology in this world they should be able to produce milk at a lower price.” In the United States, we spend less than ten percent of our income on food. We have grocery store shelves packed with healthy, nutritious food. Research continually expands our agricultural knowledge. Then I realize I never knew what was truly going on in agriculture until I started following my dream.

I want to be able to educate people on the importance of agriculture and the best way to do that is to become better educated myself. There is a saying that goes like this “when the student is ready the teacher will appear.” I have found many teachers throughout my studies in animal science and one that has helped me realize that agriculture is where I want to be. One day I want to be able to tell somebody how we use technology and explain it to them. I want to take that student under my wing who strayed from their dreams as a farmer because somebody told them that there is no money it and tell them yes there is. It is important that we make money, but it is passion for agriculture that makes each day a wonderful and exciting challenge. You are becoming a part of helping feed the world because you came up with a way to produce more with less.

I not only work hard to be the best agriculture student that I can be, but also go to Extension seminars and events so I can learn about every part of agriculture. The Agricultural Outlook Forum will become an important stepping stone in my career path that will help me better understand our future in agriculture.