

Dominic's Conservation Field Days Essay

Thomas Jefferson once said, "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals and happiness". The term agriculture includes farming, and I believe Jefferson meant farming can lead to happiness in many ways of life. And that leads into my favorite station that I attended at the Conservation Field Days in Emerson Park at Owasco Lake. The station I learned the most from was Station 7: Patterson Farms.

First, I gained so much knowledge about maintaining dairy cattle. At Patterson Farms, they have every single cow they own wear a Fitbit, so they can track the cow's health. This means they know how many steps each cow has taken, how much they've slept, and their heart rate. I found this fascinating because Fitbits usually cost around \$75 to \$100 and they said they own and maintain 11,000 cows. Now, if you do the math, it should add up to around \$825,000 - \$1,100,000, and that is a lot of money just to spend on cows' health! Secondly, every cow drinks about a bathtub full of water a day. That is around 15 gallons of water per day. This is so they can process milk correctly and make strong calves. Another fact I learned to keep cows well is they need to lay down about 11 to 12 hours a day so they can get their energy levels up to produce milk right. Lastly, farmers work really hard to generate milk, so we should be thankful. This is how farmers keep cows healthy. Overall, Patterson Farms is a successful farm and I believe it will continue to grow and prosper in the future.

In conclusion, farmers keep cows healthy, along with their struggles around their maintenance and upkeep. Attending the Conservation Field Days, and the station, Patterson Farms taught me how hard it is to manage a farm because you have to work 365 days 24/7 hours a year. So when Thomas Jefferson said, "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit..." I believe he meant that the people that work the hardest in life will end up the happiest and be a positive part for the environment's well-being.

368 words counted

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