

CHOBANI ESSAY- Abbie Ainslie

I've finally discovered why farming means so much to me. It's the feeling of accomplishment, being able to go to work everyday and love what you do. Farming is not an easy career. The hours are endless with hard physical labor starting at sunrise and ending at sunset. I grew up on a dairy farm and we milked 65 cows and raised calves and heifers. My jobs were feeding calves, pushing up feed, washing the bulk tank and whatever else my dad needed help with. My three siblings and I show Holsteins at the Jr. Livestock Show and our county fair. I also compete in dairy bowl, dairy jeopardy and speech competitions through the NY Holstein Association, 4-H and FFA.

I have such a unique and special lifestyle compared to all my friends, and I am thankful for that everyday. So many people don't realize the importance of farming. Farmers make up only 1.3% of the population but feed and clothe the rest of the population. Talk about essential workers!

The thing I love most about farming is the people I meet and the places I get to go. My closest friends and my best memories are from my county fair. Winning a competition at a 4-H or Holstein event leads to more competitions, other states and more fun! Farming will always hold a very large space in my heart, and I hope to continue to learn more and grow a career in agriculture and dairy farming.