



Callista Dyt

Growing up on a third-generation family-owned dairy, my crazy childhood experience included sweeping the shop and spending ten hours straight out on the tractor. It was not the average childhood for a girl, but with a father like mine and three other capable sisters, we were put to work. I am so grateful to have grown up working on my family's dairy and I know this experience has given me a huge passion and love for not only agriculture, but for the dairy industry especially. Seeing both of my parents' hard and honest work on our family dairy, I have been inspired to follow in their footsteps and pursue a career in the California dairy industry. Working in the industry, I will know that just like my parents, I will be providing the world with nature's perfect food source: milk.

My parents' lives are not the average nine to five weekly job and I saw this growing up. Agriculture never stops. If the power goes down and the milk barn is not able to run at two in the morning, someone must be there to fix it; that someone being my parents. I have seen firsthand the risks and rewards of the California dairy industry, but found that my passion derived from both. Those involved with the dairy and agriculture industries have a high priority list and passion for their animals and crops, as well as a want to engage in sustainable practices.

To me, sustainable agriculture is vital for the future of the dairy industry. As dairymen and agriculturalists, sustainable practices mean becoming more efficient and ecofriendly when looking to the future of our industry. On my dairy especially, we have implemented an array of sustainable practices that will help the dairy continue to thrive. Recently, the dairy installed an acre of solar panels that sits at the back of the dairy and helps to provide a significant amount of energy to our facilities. We continue to reuse the water on our facilities, using recycled water in our flush lanes, as many other sustainable dairies do. In addition, our dairy has begun a composting operation in which we are able to reuse animal waste efficiently to aid in crop growth. Sustainability must be incorporated into our everyday practices to continue moving with innovation. Sustainability will be fully accomplished when farmers are able to take full advantage of their resources by using them efficiently and effectively.

The future of the California dairy industry, in my eyes, is complex. I believe moving forward more and more, dairymen will implement the technological advancements seen today including robotic milking and methane digesters. These advancements will allow for a more relaxed environment for the animals, but also increase efficiency and sustainability on all operations. Robotic milking will allow for dairymen to lose the constant stress of labor issues in California and focus more on sustainability and promoting the nutritious drink they love producing. Methane digesters will help the industry stray away from heavily impacting the environment and become more cost and resource efficient in the long run. Furthermore, I think the dairy industry will need to start focusing more on advertising and public relations to strengthen the relationship between the producer and the consumer while destroying negative stigmas that plague the industry. Constantly promoting milk and dairy on a national level will be very important to defeat trends of veganism and vegetarianism. Of course, for me, the future of the dairy industry will always be bright and promising.

The dairy industry and milk, as a product, are completely vital when looking to the future of the world and the global food system. Milk needs to be a part of everyone's diet because nothing packs as much calcium, Vitamin D, and Vitamin B12 as milk does. These vitamins and nutrients are lacking in a variety of diets throughout the world and milk can satisfy all of these needs in a simple gulp. Milk will promote bone health and keep our world healthier and stronger. Dairy should be a part of the global food system as well because it adds diversity to the food on consumers' plates. Whether it be a cube of butter or a bowl of ice cream, the nutrition that can be obtained from dairy is insurmountable and incomparable to other items in our diets.

When I picture my future in the California dairy industry, I am hoping for a career on the financial side of things. Agricultural lending and dealing with risk management are definitely where my strong suits lie and where I plan to focus my career towards. With this, I am proud to say I was recently offered an agribusiness internship with the Wells Fargo Financial Analyst Program. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity and look forward to learning more about agricultural and dairy finance. I know being in the dairy industry is not one of the easiest careers, but it is the only industry that I have ever felt such a strong passion for. As I think about my future, I am most excited for all of the different people I will meet and relationships I will build with people who share this strong passion with myself.