

Michigan State Scholarship Winner – Kate Hallawell



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Well I have finally arrived in Michigan, United State to begin my semester at Michigan State University. The weather has been beautiful, and I'm trying to soak it up while I can as I keep getting told that I won't be so happy once the snow arrives. I began my travels in Alberta at Hill 70 Quantock Ranch. It was great to spend some time with the Creech family and I got the chance to travel with them to the Prince Albert Summer show, which is one of the biggest summer cattle shows in Canada. It was a great opportunity to see some really quality cattle and catch up with old friends. After leaving Hill 70 I ventured onto Diamond B Ranches to visit Sharon and Robert Ballantyne at Livelong Saskatchewan. Diamond B is made up of both purebred Angus and Galloway's, and the place sure looked different to last time I was there without snow everywhere.

From here I flew over east to Ontario where I did a weeks work at Bar 5 Stock Farms at Markdale Ontario, here I was clipping sale heifers to be pictured for their upcoming production sale in October. I also spent time halter breaking all the calves that will be sold on the cows for the sale.

Next was off to Eastern Breeder in Kemptville just outside of Ottawa. Eastern Breeders is a semen collection centre that predominately focuses on the collection dairy bulls, and can have anywhere up to 300 bulls at the facility at one time. I was lucky enough to see some beef bull on collection including HF Challenger 162U (Angus) Red Champlain Serenade 2513P (Red Angus) Footprints Ranchhand 835U (Charolais) and Forc 29F Boomer (Hereford). This was a great experience and a real eye opener as I was able to help with collections and given a tour through the lab. Following this I started working at the Semex office in Guelph, Ontario. During my week here I gained an understanding of semen sales, collection, distribution and marketing.

A highlight of my trip would be visit Niagara Falls, this was amazing to see and a great photo opportunity. And of course going to the Kenny Chesney concert in Ottawa!!

I began my semester in at Michigan State in early September. The university currently has a total of 46,648 students enrolled. The university campus itself is made up of

more than 550 buildings scattered over 5200 acres. The University has a very strong focus on Agriculture, as part of this the campus is made up of not only school buildings but also a, fully functional beef cattle stud and show barn, which has both a purebred Hereford and Black Angus herd, it is here that I am also working in between classes, my job includes halter breaking, feeding and preparing cattle for upcoming shows and sales. There is also a 300 head beef feedlot, a sheep farm running up to 50 Suffolk ewes, an Arabian horse stud and a 180 head dairy. Which are all used in day to day lessons.

Whilst at MSC I have to enroll in the following classes:

Advanced Beef Cattle Feedlot Management: In this class we learn different feedlot management systems and issues. We also have a strong focus on different feed issues, manure management, health maintenance and also cattle marketing. This is a very hands on class and we used the actual data from the University feedlot for all class work. We also travel to different feedlots within Michigan to get an idea of different management systems.

Animal and Product Evaluation: This class looks at the evaluation of breeding stock, market animals and carcasses for cattle, sheep and swine. By far my favorite part of this class is getting the opportunity to judge the cattle, swine and sheep live on Monday mornings and then judge the same animal's carcasses on a Wednesday at the University meet lab. It very interesting to see how differently an animal can look on the hook, and your placing in the live classes can be completely different to how you placed them once seeing the carcass. We also focus on quality grading, yield grading and pricing of market animals and carcasses.

The other class I am taking is- **Principles of Animal Feeding and Nutrition:** In this class we look at the principles and practices of nutrition for cattle, horses, poultry, sheep and swine. We look closely at protein, minerals, and vitamins for specific diet formulation, that we then produces and actually use on the different livestock on campus, this also help us better understand performance predictions for different livestock.

Well that about all to report on at this stage, I will be sure to drop you another another line shortly. Until then Go Spartans! (the MSU football team)

Kate Hallawell

