

Today we travelled to Yangling. Today's temperature was around 95 degrees Fahrenheit, sunny, and high humidity. We started our day out by visiting Besun Pork Company. This company was very fascinating because it does every single step from farm to plate in one business in one location. This company takes care of 60,000 finishing pigs per cycle in 10 barns. They do all of their harvesting before 8:00 A.M. because of the heat and the humidity. Pipestone Systems in Minnesota has a partnership with Besun to help improve the pork industry in China. We saw many similarities and differences in China's and the U.S.'s pork industry such as biosecurity. Another stimulating aspect of this complex was that the barns are surrounded by trees to act as a bio-filter for diseases such as blue mouth.

When driving around the town and rural Yangling, you will see something very different. Many, many homes have front yards and ditches consisting of crops. It is really different compared to an American's home where they will have a front yard full of green grass, flowers, bushes, trees, etc. Here, it is farmland. It seems that their way of farming is lower tech than the U.S. but it is still affective to a certain point. They utilize every single area of land to grow crops but China is still struggling to feed their population. There are still people in the country that don't know where their next meal is coming from. It is crazy to think about! Getting out in rural China has opened my eyes to see that our generation of farmers needs to fix this problem with a growing population. It will be a struggle, but it is possible. This trip has made me realize that food security is a huge issue that we need to start planning for immediately.

In the afternoon we made our way to the Northwest A & F University's entomology, wildlife, domestic/farm animal, crops, weeds, soils, wood, and agricultural history museums on campus. I really enjoyed looking at the agricultural history observatory. There were so many tools displayed from thousands of years ago but a lot of them were tools that are still being used today. We also visited a tractor/equipment implement. A lot of the equipment was small compared to what we use in the United States. For example, one of the biggest tractors that they had displayed for sale was a John Deere 400. Equipment that the U.S. would think was small is what they consider to be big. Not a lot of farmers in China use equipment though. When you drive around rural China, you see so many people in the fields doing manual labor, tending to each crop by hand.

We ended the day with a tour of Northwest A & F University. This college consists of 35,000-40,000 undergraduate students. It was very large and very beautiful.

This experience has been extremely eye opening thus far. Everyday we get to experience something new and exciting.