

After a few days of experiencing the Chinese culture in Beijing and Xi'an, today we got back to the educational part of the trip by visiting the Besun Pork Company and the Northwest Ag and Forestry College in Yangling. The Besun pork company was very interesting because it was so similar to something that we would see back in the United States. The entire pork operation from raising the pigs to processing the meat is run through their operation and we got to tour the facilities which included seeing a 60,000 pig finishing barn complex.

What I took from the Besun pork company tour was seeing how advanced and familiar it seemed compared to other forms of agriculture we have experienced so far on our trip. Just driving out to the finishing barn we witnessed a group of farmers out working in the fields by hand, and several houses that had planted wheat in their front yards because that is all the space they have. What it showed me was how agriculture in China may appear completely different to us but it is still very effective.

In the afternoon we visited the NW Ag and Forestry College. The first thing we did was tour several museums including an entomology museum, a soil museum and an agricultural history museum. After that we also got to tour the campus on our bus. What I took from the NW Ag and Forestry College was what I learned in the Agricultural History Museum. They had several tools and equipment displayed from all the way back to thousands of years ago which was neat to see but a lot of it wasn't that different from what a lot of people do today. Planting and harvesting the fields by hand is obviously what was done back then and as we learned that is also how most people farm today.

It was nice to take a day to get back to learning about the different kinds of agriculture in China. It seems crazy the way they do things but at the same time they can be just as efficient.

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