



On the 23 of June 17 students along with two staff set off for the Highland show. We arrived at the show at around 11.30 am. Handed our tickets, we set out for a day in the show. The weather was warm and sunny and we did not need to be back for the bus until 6.30pm. Let the show begin.

On entering the show ground we were amazed at the size and scope of the show. What to look at first was the question. We decided that it was livestock.



Dairy cows caught our attention. Beautifully turned out and presented for the judges. The traditional Friesians being smaller and having more body condition showed the advances the dairy industry has taken.

The beef section was massive. The Angus was silky black and the Charolais were massive. All turned out to impress. One thing that made us laugh was the Highland cattle with the fans on to keep them cool.



Tent after tent of sheep showed all the breeds from this country and breeds from abroad. They all looked happy and content in their pens with lots of haylage to eat. The local Cheviots with their long tails caught our attention.

If you wanted to be a sheep farmer of the future then you were spoilt with the choice of sheep to farm.

The Food Hall



The food hall was excellent. What a range of products from around the world. Cheese from Wales, sausages from Germany. The choice was vast. We tried ice cream, fudge, strawberries and yoghurt.



We even sampled the local beverages. Well we had to!

The horses



Wow! The size of these just blew us away. They are magnificent and beautiful. They must have been hard working in their day. They have huge feet and look really powerful. Fantastic to see.

Machinery



It just appears to get bigger and bigger. You can now get a machine that will just about do all the jobs on the farm. They come in all shapes and sizes and we dare say different price brackets. The wood splitters and log handlers gave us an idea for a business.

We looked at tractors and combines and even sat in some. The combines are huge with massive headers on them. One thing that made us feel a bit funny was the fork lift with the boom extended right out. It must have been about 30 meters off the ground.

Everything Else



There are so many things that we looked at. The chainsaw sculptures are amazing and appeared to be selling fast. Getting the flying osprey home might have been a challenge. You also would need a good head for heights to be a tree climber.



We all fancied a go on this. Maybe one day? We looked at log cabins and even chatted to the Co-op funeral directors. Hot tubes that self-clean and outdoor patio furniture - the range of stalls is massive.

We walked around all day, ate ice cream and tried lots of food from the likes of the Co-op, Tesco and Aldi. All of whom were trying to promote British Agriculture. Towards the end of the day, and with sore feet, we sat down and people watched. It was then time to return to the buses and head home.

We had a great day with good weather and would like to thank the Friends of Kirkley Hall for their generosity in providing the tickets for the show. A day to live long in the memory.

Agriculture Students June 2016