



By Annemarie Bresson, DASC Public Relations

Brittany Bowman

Brittany Bowman is a senior in Dairy Science from Mt. Jackson, Virginia. Over the years, Bowman's family has raised a few hundred bottle calves and she competed in several FFA contests.

She has continued her passion for agriculture while at Virginia Tech by joining organizations such as Dairy Club, Dairy Science Student Ambassadors, and Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers.

Bowman is also pursuing a minor in communications because she hopes to get into AG communications. She may want to work with product promotion, attending graduate school, and is considering companies such as Farm Bureau.



Can you talk a little bit about your internship?

This fall I worked with NASDA, the state department of agriculture, and we did policy work. NASDA is the go between for the states and federal government. They help write a lot of the regulations, they get contracts from the FDA to write food safety laws and they do a lot of work on trade. I did a lot of background research on trade issues, for example, looking up WTO disputes between Mexico and Dolphin-Safe tuna labeling. My perception going in was that it was just going to be writing papers but most of it is actually meeting people. So, you would prepare to meet the person and prepare for the next meeting.

What is one thing you wish consumers knew about the dairy industry?

Farmers care about their cows more than they do money. I think that there is this perception that they are only in it to milk the cow for what they can get. They take care of their animals. When I was in DC I got a lot of questions about whether milk is healthy, if milk is just promoted for the check off, why cows are so skinny and so on.

What was the most surprising thing about your time with NASDA?

Definitely how interrelated agriculture is. As a dairy science major I was familiar with some of the programs and how the dairy industry works. But dairy pricing affects other industries and as we're trying to find dairy pricing solutions, beef is in the conversation so their prices don't tank.

What has been your #VTmoment?

I always change it. My best VT moment right now is going on the Ireland trip with Dairy Club.

Dairy Science Student Spotlight

“Farmers care about their cows more than they do money.”

Is almond milk really milk?

audible laughter No, it is juice and the FDA with soon decide that.

Chocolate milk or plain milk?

Definitely chocolate

If you could be any aisle in the grocery store what would you be?

Potato chips

Favorite word?

Scrumptious

Puppies or kittens?

Kittens

Favorite cow's name?

Bud, my first bottle calf

