

What is something you wish your freshman self knew?

Looking back, I probably could have taken on more when it came to my course load. As a freshman, I was a little afraid that I wouldn't be able to handle as many classes and if I had piled on a bit more I wouldn't have to worry about as many later on.

Can you talk about the show herd you started?

I was around 16 or 17 years old when I bought my first spring calf at the National Red and White Holstein Sale. I showed her, we bred her and when she calved in she looked so good that we showed her at the New York Spring Show. She's been to Louisville, Madison, Harrisburg and was nominated All American as a Junior 3-year-old. This cow has even had two of her calves featured on the front *The Red Bloodlines* for one of their issues. I'd eventually like to build up the herd; the size has significantly decreased to about five or six after selling a few.

What is one thing you want consumers to know about the dairy industry?

Within the dairy industry everyone is pretty much like family. We are so interconnected and if something were to happen to an individual someone, whether it be a neighbor or someone across the country, will come together to help.

"Virginia Tech always stands out as far as being a prestigious university..."

Dairy Science Student Spotlight

By Annemarie Bresson, Dairy Science Public Relations



Mikayla Bailey

Mikayla Bailey is a senior in Dairy Science from Harrisonburg, Virginia. Bailey currently works at the Virginia Tech dairy farm and is an active member of the Dairy Club at Virginia Tech. Bailey's connection to the industry stems from her grandparents who owned a dairy farm up until 2004.

Bailey has started a small herd of show cattle that she would like to eventually expand and plans to continue with her family enterprises, ranging from turkeys to a trucking business. She also has hopes of starting up her grandparents' dairy again.



Who is your favorite cow?

It would have to be Candy, she's the one that started the business and she loves all her scratches. But she does have a little bit of a sassy attitude when that feed goes into the trough.

Is almond milk really milk?

I don't think so because milk has to come from the secretory gland of a mammal and I don't call almonds mammals.

Plain or chocolate milk?

Definitely chocolate, but I do love white milk.

Can you tell me about your trip to New Zealand?

I've always wanted to go to New Zealand, so I decided to study abroad for 3 weeks. I went with a class on environmental sustainability so we did a lot of hiking and even looked at glaciers. Part of the class included discussions about how the island is populated with very unique species that aren't found anywhere else on earth and how invasive species are a real threat for their ecosystem. We also went to a rotational grazing farm with a rotary milking parlor and a sheep farm; we did a little bit of everything.

What is your #VTmoment?

The biggest thing for me has been traveling and going to different dairy conferences and events. People will always ask "So you're from Virginia Tech? You must be really smart," and they seem to have all of these high expectations. I just think that it's cool that Virginia Tech always stands out as far as being a prestigious university, especially in the dairy industry.