

Ella Rak



Ella Rak is a senior double majoring in Dairy Science and Animal and Poultry Science. Rak came to Dairy Science wanting to diversify her studies beyond an equine emphasis. From the moment she saw her first cow in high school and throughout her college career, she boasts about the amazing potential that cows have for the ag industry.

Long term, Rak would like to work in international development through sustainable agriculture, specifically with dairy cows, to help build communities. For now, Rak is joining the Peace Corps in September and will be working in Cameroon for two years. Upon her return, she will be attending veterinary school here at Virginia Tech.

Is almond milk really milk?

God no *audible laughter*

Chocolate milk or plain milk?

It depends but probably chocolate milk.

Favorite word?

Wanderlust

Favorite cow?

It has to be Mooana.

Salty or sweet?

Sweet

Dairy Science Student Spotlight

By Annemarie Bresson, DASC Public Relations

How did you come to join the Peace Corps?

One night when I was driving home I realized that if you want to make a change in the world you have to just go for it and do it. My world perspectives and priorities changed. So, I submitted my application to the Peace Corps, had an interview in December and got in two weeks later. Nine months ago, I wouldn't have told you this is where I would end up especially because it never occurred to me that I would do anything other than go straight through school.

What is your #VTmoment?

I really loved napping with Mooana, my Little All American heifer. That sounds so silly but after you spend 24 continuous hours at the barn and awake, she's exhausted and I'm exhausted. You just lay down and take a nap with your cow, something that three years ago I would have never imagined myself doing.

What is one thing you wish your freshman self knew?

You are not going to follow through on any of the plans that you made. I was the most intense freshman and learned that you need to just go with the flow and try to enjoy your time here. You don't have to try to get everything done as fast as you can; you don't have to do everything.

What would you like consumers to know about the ag industry?

After teaching animal science in the Fairfax County school system, I was amazed at how these children knew nothing about where their food comes from. So, I want people to know everything from there's no antibiotics in your milk to no antibiotics in your chicken or your beef or in any of the food you eat. And agriculture is more a part of your life than you could ever imagine. Whatever job you have could probably easily be translated to the agriculture industry.

**“You need
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