**Exit Interview for the Sustainable Livestock Tour**

**Please share your take away points from the following tour stops:**

* **Organic Prairie Meats –**

I learned that Organic Prairie Meats is a green and ecofriendly company.

We learned about their facilities.

I liked how they use the CROPP system and how everything is connected.

History of CROPPS.

Organic farming businesses.

This stop was more of a lecture and the guide talked down to us.

The organic market has developed and grown consistently in the area due to the premium which organic producers can receive.

Takes lots of people to run the business.

* **UW Research Station at Lancaster-**

We looked at different varieties and rest plots of grass and crops. I learned about a trial that they are going to do where they run beef cows out to graze in the woods.

How they grow their crops and information about the glaciers in this area.

It was neat to see how they have a small scale farm business and a research station all in one.

Different crop test areas.

2nd best for me, cool to see what they look for as far as research.

Crop rotation test area,

Sustainable farming.

I liked how they set up the test plots. It was interesting to learn how white clover is a perennial.

That they conduct many studies specifically with the beef cattle in order to find ways to benefit production statewide.

Dirt mounds in cattle lots for winter.

* **UW-Platteville’s Swine Unit-**

They have a manure system for composting. It is suppose to be better for the pigs. They sell the compost.

Semen collection and AI breeding.

It was neat to see the manure system setup. The system had a lower level where the manure stays above ground and the hogs are on the upper level.

Composting manure system was cool.

Farrowing room and the importance of internships for knowledge.

Learned better methods of waste management through their explanation of the compost system they use.

This was my favorite stop. They divided a batch of piglets between two sows because one sow got sick.

The building set up was interesting, but I question the biosecurity issue with the possibility of rats in the compost pits.

* **Gaffney Family Cattle-**

I got to see that they were constructing a fencing system that included a cattle guard.

How they raise and breed their cattle.

It’s amazing how a business can start small and grow to a massive facility over the years. How they raise and take care of their cattle.

The best stop, I would go to one of their sales.

Genetics are important when marketing cattle.

Torch grooming.

This was the most valuable stop for me. I learned how to make the most out of high school through a conversation with Val, as well as how important it is to make connections.

Networking is important.

This was definitely my favorite stop of the trip. Val talked to us and didn’t seem to sell her farm.

* **Gene Schriefer’s Sheep and Beef Farm-**

We learned how they move their sheep

Different species rotated on the same pasture can be good for the land and the species in it. -2

Pasture rotation is helpful for maintaining pest control.

Rotational grazing.

He pastures all of his sheep and beef.

I learned a lot about rotational grazing.

**Would you participate in a tour similar to this again? \_13\_\_\_Yes \_1\_\_\_No**

**If your answer is Yes, what farms/businesses would you like to visit?**

Aquaponics and fish farming, Wesby Farms, another UW farm operation, UW-Madison Ag Center, Sullivan Farms, UW-Madison Sheep Unit, Northern Iowa Boar Stud,