

March 8th, 2022 - College and Cattle

I'm officially back into the college swing of things. I have spent the past month and a half traveling all across the state of Iowa going into ag classrooms and teaching students about FFA through fun games. Even though I was in classrooms, it just happened to be the wrong kind of one. I was not in my lecture halls at Iowa State very much. However, now I am back and man I did not miss walking to class in the freezing cold and snow. As I was walking to class, I started thinking and I came to the conclusion that college students are kind of like cattle and campus is our pasture.

In nice weather, cows are out roaming, enjoying the beautiful day just like students during nice days are taking their time walking to class and enjoying the fresh air as Iowa State students can be found on campus playing games outside with friends. In cold weather, however, students are not outside all over campus. They are found in one spot and one spot only. The bus stop. They are huddled next to other students awaiting the arrival of the Cyride, the bus that takes students to classes. In cold weather, cows are also waiting in large groups for the farmer's tractor and feeder wagon to be fed. Cyride is our farmer. He ships us from yard to yard, class to class. Everyone huddles around waiting for it with teeth chattering, eyelids frosting over in the cold, and asking ourselves why we didn't choose a college in the warm south. Cows don't venture far from their farmer in the winter just like how students don't venture far from their Cyride.

Farmers also bring in bales for the cattle and the calves, patiently waiting for the farmer to carry in and unwrap or unroll the bale. Well, there are 'bales' all around campus as well. These are the dining centers all across campus. During lunch hour all students huddle together to jump on the Cyride patiently waiting for it to bring them to their favorite dining center. As they wait in line for their food it is as if they are cattle waiting for the farmer to unwrap the bale.

It might be a little far-fetched, but college students are like cattle. Or maybe I am just a little homesick because calving season is in full swing. It is not as fun only being able to check cows on cameras with my phone. I cannot wait to be home for spring break and enjoy checking on calves for real, not just through a camera. Bring on Spring Break! ~ Kesley Holdgrafer