

Lue Coplin-

I personally believe that I more understand conventional farmer's point of view now that I have seen the struggles of farming. I feel that if I were not given the education to know the things that will happen if you bring chemicals and genetically modified organisms into farming I would choose to use chemicals because they would solve my problems of my plants getting eaten and beaten up in the trucks. I really feel that farming will become a race between science and planet earth and Mother Nature. Scientists are always trying to make a chemical or change a seed so it will withstand the bugs and not get eaten but in a couple months the bug has built immunity to it and the scientists have to make a new chemical. This never ending race leaves a trail of destruction because it gets into the soil and makes the crops less sweet and contaminates the water that the good bugs drink so they can't eat the bad bugs. It goes to show if to break earth's cycle you break people who are part of that cycle. This idea will stay in my head forever and I will never buy conventional because it is killing Mother Nature's way.

I think my favorite farm station is fertility because when me Roy and Isaac collected white gold (AKA chicken poop) I felt like I really made a difference in the farm because the room we were cleaning was cleaner and the compost piles grew which means I started the working system of making soil. The main jobs I did in compost and fertility was turning compost which gives air to all the living ecosystems in the pile so they don't suffocate and transporting this compost around the compost corridor. The compost corridor is a long path that has three sided cubes on either side so it is easier to move and organize the compost. I think this station really shows how the farm cycles work because you collect care use as in you collect the poop then take care of it till it turns into soil that is super nutritious and good for plants so you can grow more then feed your animals and the cycle starts all over again.

I think GGF (Green Gate Farm) is a really great place that shows you the process that makes our earth work. In a perfect world nothing would be wasted or polluted. Before there were factories and cars and things like that things worked like a farm. Animals produce waste which makes compost or super soil which you can grow food then feed the animals again. This ecosystem never runs out and never wastes anything so even though we cannot fully go back to that way of life we can strive for a perfect world and do the best we can. When you use this way of life you build a community that works together in harmony picking each other up not putting them down like GMO's and chemicals do to bugs that are innocent living creatures. When you put down one friend you start a chain reaction and put down those good friends too. Once you kill one guy you are not sustaining but breaking. Sustaining a life is not just living but living in harmony with everybody so they will give you back that peace and harmony. All these things we learned really helps me understand earth ships and the precious life and recourses

we have access to. When I started learning about sustainability something clicked and without that click I would not have understood earth ships and eco kibbutzim and green week.

After I learned the importance of buying local and organic and knowing your growers I have looked for local stickers at my local grocery stores and made sure I was buying things close to home and organic. I have also been seeking out fair trade items and looking to see the cool things available with this special seal. I think my family too has become more watchful about what we are buying and are now thinking about buying from the farm more often than once. I think this experience will last with me forever as well as who I tell and I will be better to the earth and more educated because of it. I hope I will be a part of generation that people will remember for the things that it did that helped our world not hurt our world. I think with this knowledge that is possible.

I think this outdoors experience was really beneficial because it made those entire lessons in class come alive. We could see exactly what farming is like and how everything works together like clockwork. I think this opportunity really made the learning more fun as well because we were given the freedom to ask questions and we were treated not like the 5th grade class we are but like workers and I felt we had a purpose. There is a real difference talking to your teacher and talking to a farmer. A teacher can teach it all and explain it till its crystal clear but when you talk to a farmer you hear all the times they failed and failed again and never gave up. You can hear the passion and that I think is what makes a class listen. I think freedom to mess up and do trial and error is the best way to learn and that's exactly what Green Gate Farm provided.