

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

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## *Clover Connection*

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Some days it doesn't take much to remind us to count our blessings. As I am writing this the AC unit that services us here on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the courthouse is out of commission. According to my handy thermometer that I typically use to monitor the temperature inside the incubators I use to hatch chickens, it was a balmy 88 degrees in our office this morning. I learned many moons ago in science class that heat rises and can say without a doubt that it is true.

This week, I wanted to share an article that I saw on the website [raisedinabarn.org](http://raisedinabarn.org). There are some good reads on this site and the one that I particularly liked was on "The Truth about Advocating Agriculture". I think it has a lot of points that those of us engaged in agriculture can agree with:

Advocating agriculture is the most rewarding and frustrating thing I've ever done in my entire life. Here are some reasons why becoming an AGvocate (advocate for agriculture) is tough:

- There is a lot of misinformation and propaganda floating around the internet. It just takes one person who knows little to nothing about the agriculture industry to start a riot.
- It's hard to educate and not argue sometimes. You can tell people first hand why farmers and ranchers do the things they do, and that person will tell you why those people are wrong.
- Some people just assume farming and ranching is easy. "Oh you sit on a tractor all day, that must be easy." What many don't understand are the countless hours of planting, harvesting, doctoring sick animals and fixing broken fences and equipment.

All of those things listed above are enough to make any agriculturist upset. So, here are the reasons you should become an AGvocate:

- The time when you explain agriculture to someone and their face lights up with excitement from this new found knowledge.
- That moment you get your community more in touch with agriculture, and especially the organizations that use agriculture to better kids' lives.
- The most important reason to become an AGvocate, is that you should support an industry that feeds and clothes you. An industry that feeds an ever growing population with constant negativity pushed towards them.

Advocating agriculture isn't easy. There will be days where you feel like you accomplished nothing, but if you are speaking up for farmers, ranchers, FFA and 4-H you are doing so much more than you will ever know. We can't change everyone's views on agriculture, but we can educate them. (<http://raisedinabarn.org>)

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