

## Claire Marriott

January 14<sup>th</sup> 2020

Day 12 of the US tour- 4 states in one day 🐷US🐷AU🐷

Today's tour report was written by Claire Marriott. Claire graduated from UNE in 2019 from a Bachelor of Rural Science and is part of the 2020 AACO graduate program.

“ Today we departed Texas and headed north for Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado. We were immediately blown away by the visit to [Seaboard Foods](#) in Guymon, Oklahoma, who process 21,000 pigs a day! The family owned company is vertically integrated, breeding and finishing 90% of all pigs harvested at the plant. The plant has introduced many new technologies and automated processes to improve efficiency throughout the production line including robot belly openers and automatic belly trimmers. In addition to this, they are hoping to replace even more high labour jobs to ensure that high work safety standards are maintained and the staff are relocated to other skilled jobs within the facility. Thank you to Roman Quintana for taking the time to show us around your impressive facility today.

We ventured into Kansas to visit Garden City Community College, Garden City Kansas. The college is one of just two colleges in the United States who sell [Certified Angus Beef](#) under their [Buster Red Meats](#) brand. They purchase beef, pork and lamb carcasses or primal cuts and fabricate them into a retail-ready product at their meat science facility. Products are then sold at Klaus Woodpellets and Outdoor Living store in Garden City. Thank you Clint Alexander for taking us around your college and town.

This afternoon we met with Paula Alexander, Manager of Animal Welfare at Tyson. Tyson has implemented a Farm Check assurance program across their beef, pork and poultry production systems. Conducted by external, independent auditors, the goal is to increase trust and transparency with consumers. Thank you Paula for this very insightful meeting. We have plenty to reflect on as we head to Colorado tonight!

You can follow Claire's trip here: [Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Association Inc](#)