

Internship Experience at Tukey Orchard

Pullman, WA

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fall semester

Introduction

Tukey orchard is located in Pullman Washington, and it is in place for those who are members of the local campus, or those who are currently doing research or teaching classes. When the orchard has any commodity that are is used for such tasks, they sell the surplus in order to use that money for operations funds. There is 83 different varieties of apples present, and there is usually a fruit sale that helps make money in the summer, fall and partially through the winter.



Responsibilities Performed

- Raked apples under trees in the rows
- Picked apples during harvest
- Sorted fruit that was not suitable for sale
- Re-organized apple bins to make more room
- Helped set up and put away the fruit sale
- Helped run the you pick operation by selling the fruit
- Sanitized equipment that came in contact with fruit
- Had people sign liability forms
- Gave talks to customers on safe latter use

Summary

This experience has helped me a lot grow in many different ways. I believe that after having the chance to work at an orchard, that I can not run my own operation whatever the commodity is. I really appreciated how friendly and willing to help the staff was, and this experience will contribute to my career goals by giving me experience in both the pre and post harvest processes that are involved in the production of apples. I have had the chance to test many different apple kinds, and got the chance to see how different growing practices affected the different cultivars in the plots. I got the chance to run a small sales operation, and I also got to work a lot on my communication skills. I was able to watch how the supervisor motivated the crew to do their job, and I look forward to doing a similar job when I run my own orchard. My career goal is to own my own business, and by seeing it done on a small scale, I believe that I can now do the same. Once everything was in place for they orchard, they were able to just continue moving along. If there is one really important thing that I learned in this experience, it is that no matter the obstacle, if everybody works hard, things can still be done right and in a timely manner.

