



My experience while interning on Tukey Orchard



Tukey Orchard is a small piece of land on Airport road in Pullman Washington. The orchard grows a variety of apples, pears, cherries, and berry bushes.

Pruning an apple tree



At the base of every apple tree were four scaffolding branches that were thicker than all other branches. Before pruning was started it was important to determine a leader on each of these four scaffolding branches. Other branches that were close to the same length as the leader had to be pruned so it was clear to the tree which branch was the leader. Other branches were pruned to reduce rubbing and promote/stimulate growth in the right areas. A trick I was taught to determine if a branch was strong enough to support the soon growing fruit is by placing the loppers on them. If the branch could hold up the loppers then it could hold up fruit!

Hoeing weeds in young apple tree rows



In the rows containing young apple trees we used hoes to weed. Normally a weed-eater would be used but since these young trees still have green wood it is too dangerous

This experience has greatly improved my knowledge of overall farming. In my future career I will now feel more confident in my actions and will know how to correctly communicate with my co-workers and boss. If pruning fruit trees or working on tractors I will already have a foundation for which my knowledge can grow.

Working to repair a tractor



At the end of my internship at Tukey Orchard some of the older guys taught me how to work on a small tractor. I learned about changing fluids such as motor oil and hydraulic oil. I also helped to change and lubricate the fan belt. Machines can be very expensive so if you can fix them yourself it will save the farm a lot of money.

Sharpening loppers



How I was taught to sharpen the loppers is by holding a metal sharpening stick at a 45* angle and press against the edge of the blade while sliding from the base to the tip. This shaved off some metal while correcting the point of the blade. After this I used oil to lubricate the moving parts of the loppers and adjust the bolt. The reasoning behind this was to make the loppers as easy to maneuver as possible while still providing a clean cut.