

KW Farms
Wapato, Washington
Brian Tee

Summer 2013

KW farms is a successful, thousand acre family farm located in Wapato, Washington. The crops grown on this farm include ‘Gala’ and ‘Fuji’ apples, ‘Chelan’ and ‘Lapin’ cherries, and wheat and alfalfa. Apples and cherries are harvested annually while wheat and alfalfa are grown in a rotation. All of the arable land is irrigated and farmed using conventional and some integrated farming methods.



Checking the wind machines in the apple block adjacent to the cherries. The forecast called for rain and low temperatures in the coming week so I had to test each wind machine to ensure they were functioning properly.



Servicing one of the irrigation quads. These bikes see a lot of hard use and must be serviced multiple times throughout the growing season.



This is the landing for cherry harvest. Full bins were dropped off at the landing where I covered them with wet foam and tagged each bin. The bins then had to be stacked and loaded into refrigerated vans for transport.



During the first cutting of the season, our rotary hay rake broke down. This yellow rake was purchased to replace the broken rake. In this picture I am replacing failed bearings with updated units.



Removing the hood from this John Deere 8640. During the first cutting the PTO clutch failed and stuck on. While replacing the PTO clutch, we also repainted the hood, grilles, and side panels. We also replaced the leaky hydraulic pump, blew out the clogged radiator, and addressed a few other problems.



Adjusting the rate of water flow into the water box. This water box filters large debris from incoming water and decreases wear and tear on the pump. The water level must be monitored and adjusted to prevent the pump from drawing air.



During hay harvest, I ran the Cat 924F front loader with a hay head to stack and load the hay onto trucks.



This is my view from the cab of the loader while stacking hay. These large rectangle bales are stacked three high and then loaded on trucks.



Servicing a wheel line in a hay field. As soon as we have moved the hay off the field, these wheel lines are put back into action irrigating the field.

Through this experience at KW Farms, I was able to:

- Identify and monitor pests and diseases in apples and cherries
- Service, repair, and operate many different types of equipment including loaders, orchard tractors, swathers, forklifts, and semi trucks.
- Work with every aspect of the farm and had the chance to interact with a number of growers, field men, and crop consultants.
- Develop numerous skills that are essential in agricultural production systems.
- See what it takes to run a successful farm in our modern economy.

I learned a lot during this internship that will be invaluable to my success in Washington’s agriculture industry and developed my skills as a competent farmhand throughout the entire experience.