Mill Creek Vineyards & Winery
Healdsburg, California
Molly Warren
Summer 2015

Mill Creek Vineyards is a family run operation located in Healdsburg, California. The property is part of the Sonoma county Dry Creek Valley. My internship began May 12th and ended on July 27th. Vineyards were first planted in 1965 and the winery was established in 1974. The estate vineyard is approximately 60 acres and there is another location in the Alexander Valley with around 8 acres of grapes. I was involved in many aspects of winemaking and viticulture. Some of the projects I worked on during this summer were pressure bombs, irrigation repair tasks in the vineyard and more because Jeremy needed a little extra help.

The majority of my internship consisted of irrigation. When I first arrived on the property I was taught how to operate the irrigation system. I was comfortable with the equipment and doing it on my own. I would go around to each block and check the valves. I would also check that the emitters weren’t clogged up and that the correct emitter was in the correct block. Many of the holes produce water and I would walk up from the crest at the edge of the property looking for water. As you can see in these two pictures below, a connector piece was inserted where the hole was and a new emitter needed to be put in.

I learned how to distinguish the difference between a new and.ix older hose. I would hang a large piece of black tape on the old hose and use red tape and counters how many there were to measure. Some of the pictures below show the hose that was used for the irrigation system.

Overall this internship experience has given me a taste of what my future holds. I know that I want to be involved with both the viticulture and winemaking side of things because this internship I got to play around in both aspects. You must be familiar with the grapes and their growth in order to harvest and produce successful wines. After talking with my mentor about all the different opportunities abroad, I would love to do an internship in New Zealand or Argentina. After I graduate from WSU, this is something that I would love to pursue.