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.

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.

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.