Introduction:

The Washington State University Research and Extension Center is located in Wenatchee, Washington, is 30 acres in size, and is made up of several buildings such as an entomology and insect biology laboratories, greenhouses, student housing and even a packing line facility. The research center is a host to eleven different visiting scientists and post-docs, twenty technical support staff, twenty-three graduate students, as well as several interns that are associated with the research and extension programs. The scientists at the research center are involved with research and outreach programs on annual and perennial specialty crops. Their primary focus is cherry, pear, and apples. The scientists at the research center display several disciplines such as plant physiology, soil biology, plant pathology, horticulture and entomology.

Responsibilities:

- Assessing Codling Moth Larvae Damage
- Time Aphid Counts
- Stink Bug Colony Maintenance
- Sexing Codling Moths
- Stink Bug Identification & counts
- Trap Deployment & Collecting

Summary:

This internship allowed me to witness firsthand how the research experiments were conducted and executed for several studies by the graduate students and post-doctorate researchers which would have otherwise been a lot more challenging to comprehend had I only read a scholarly journal of the study.

For the duration of this internship, I gained valuable knowledge and experience regarding several different insect pests in Central Washington, the damage they cause, the time and locations in which they can be found, and the various methods of trapping and collecting them to monitor their populations and infestations.

Finally, I was introduced to several different positions in entomology that I hadn’t considered before that have a direct impact on agriculture in our area. This internship helped give me a better understanding of entomology and its applications in agriculture that I may have overlooked at one point in my life but am now very interested in and excited about.

Entomology and agriculture go hand in hand all the tasks and responsibilities that were bestowed upon me offered me some form of information or experience I am very likely to use in a future job in fruit and vegetable management or entomology such as monitoring insect populations, designing and building traps for research studies, and understanding various insect pest and predator species and how they affect a given population.

- During my time at the research center, I worked with various people throughout the week, which served as the perfect opportunity to experience different tasks and responsibilities everyone at the research center is involved with.

- I was tasked with sexing codling moth and their larvae for several different projects and the damages they caused on fruit. We conducted timed aphid counts to track aphid populations of different species such as rosy apple aphid and woolly apple aphid.

- I was assigned the responsibilities of maintaining different Halyomorpha halys, stink bug colony pens, their eggs and nymphs of various developmental stages.

- Timed stink bug counts were conducted weekly in the field, species and developmental phase were noted.

- Miscellaneous tasks were assigned to me throughout the lab such as building different insect traps, preparing lures, maintaining lima beans for food for insects, running errands and data input.