Introduction

G.S. Long Co. is a family owned and operated agricultural chemical and fertilizer retailer based out of Yakima, WA. Along with the main office G.S. Long Co. also has offices in Wenatchee, WA and Hood River, OR. G.S. Long Co. offers consulting services, crop protection, nutritional inputs, and product delivery. Customer service is the foundation of this company and prides itself in being a service-oriented company. Their main service areas stretch from the Yakima Valley, the Columbia Basin, Ellensburg as well as the Hood River Valley and Wenatchee.

Job Description

For this internship I was assigned a route, “Pasco 1” which I would run each ranch on the route on a weekly basis. The majority of the week I was tasked with checking a variety of pest traps in apples, stone fruits, cherries, pears, and blueberries. We had to make sure that we were doing the lure changes, keeping the liners clean, changing out the liners based on the provided schedule, as well as replacing any traps as the season progressed. We would record the bug counts on an app called TrapCount where we then sent the reports to the consultant and grower for them to develop a spray recommendation. On Fridays, I would help scout for fire blight, codling moth stings, and sweep for stinkbugs.

I was provided with a company truck and ATV along with a gas card in which I was responsible to maintain and keep clean throughout the season. Oil levels were to be checked daily and take both the truck and ATV in when they were due to be serviced.

Summary

I found this internship to be very beneficial as I was able to learn a good amount of information that relates to the industry I’m going into as well as growing my networks. I spoke to crop consultants whenever I had the chance and asked questions about what they do and other questions pertaining to the career. Before this internship, my only experience had been working with apples, but I can now say that I have worked with some of the most important horticultural crops in the state. With the knowledge and connections I have made through this internship, I hope this can help me build a healthy and successful career in the field.