Introduction:

Stemilt Ag Services (SAS) was founded in 2010. SAS is a subsidiary company from its larger counterpart Stemilt. SAS is a service that is provided by Stemilt as a farm management service. The company manages approximately 10,000 acres of high-density apples, cherries, and pears.

Responsibilities:

One of the responsibilities I was given was to help with the installation of a fairly new method of high-density planting which is that of a hoop trellis. Fairly similar to the structure of a V-Trellis, but easier to install. This is because it is bolted instead of having to weld it. In this orchard they will plant Sweet Tango’s at a spacing of 2x12.

Another planting we were installing is a tall spindle trellis system. This is also a high-density planting. The spacing will be a 2 x 10 in a 60-acre orchard plot. They will be planting Cosmic Crisp.

Also another responsibility I had was to help design a pruning technique for this year’s crop of pinatas. After we decide on what method we’d like to adapt. We then show the method to crew bosses so that they can teach the H2A workers.

Summary:

This internship has been an eye-opening experience because I never really have experienced the work done in orchards during the winter and spring. Most of my experience comes from most summers when I’ve worked during school summer vacations. It was interesting since some of these concepts have been explained in school, but sometimes we don’t capture it all since it’s just off lecture presentations with no real-world experience. So it was valuable to have both the concept from school and work experience and combine them together.