Our farm grows 20 wine grape varietals and concords. I’ve learned the difference between Organic and Conventional grapes, how to apply for Organic transitioning, and how to work with conventional fruit that is next to Organic blocks. Through this viticulture job, I communicate my observations and data found in the vineyard to the viticulturist, and farm manager.

History:
Part of the Airport Ranch was used as an Army Air Corps pilots base during World War II. When the army no longer needed the Airfield, H. Lloyd Miller bought back the farm for $1. Lloyd Miller was also on the Board of Directors for what is now the Roza Irrigation District. I have learned about conventional and organic farming, and worked with Vitis vinifera and Vitis labrusca grapes. Airport Ranch has 2,000 acres of grapes as a whole, but has 830 acres of Vitis vinifera over 20 varieties. The wines that Airfield Estates make are labeled with a tribute to the history of the land.

Tasks and Projects:
During the dormant season, we collected: pruning weights, counted buds, GPS and flagged sample locations and irrigation shutoff. Now, I’ve scouted for Grape Mealy Bug and Cutworm to determine priority spraying. As shoots have been growing, I’ve counted shoots, and I will continue to work through harvest, but there is excitement in witnessing the start of the new vintage, which I am excited to share through my experience in this internship.