**Spillman History:**

The Spillman Agronomy Farm's growth has always been guided by proper land utilization. When Spillman orchard was first founded in 1955 by Dr. Orville Vogel, a conservation farm plan has been implemented, including roads, terraces, steep slope plants, and roadside seedings. Additionally, present breeders are using the land to create cropping systems that will provide them the chance to use organic, perennial, and biotechnological elements in programs for breeding cereal and legumes. The farm sits on 382 acres the first 222 acres of land were purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mennet in the fall of 1955 for an arbitrated price of $420 per acre. The initial acquisition was funded through a fund drive that garnered $85,000 from business and wheat growers (Washington State University).

**Responsibilities performed:**

As an intern, my duties included watching training videos to ensure knowledge and safety in the field and helping to establish our new orchard site off Johnson Avenue. This included cutting the grass, weeding rows, replacing irrigation if it was damaged, installing tree guards, determining how far apart to plant new plants like geraniums, trees for windbreaks, cherries, and berries, and making sure to water them in thoroughly so they would take root. Our more established orchard off Antelope trail involved mowing, pruning/thinning blocks, eradicating fire blight, placing irrigation, and fruit harvesting. In addition to my regular intern duties, I have assisted in repairing or replacing damaged parts on various farm machinery.

**Summary:**

My experience at the Spillman orchard has given me a wealth of information and abilities. Since I've never worked around crops before, this was the first agricultural-related job I've ever had. As I've finished these last three years of school, the knowledge I've learned in the classroom has made sense, but I haven't been able to relate to it to understand it more. As we complete new tasks in the field, I notice that everything I've learned is beginning to develop and become more understandable with fewer questions because I can connect my learnings to actions, I already know. As a result, this job not only improved my professional performance but also my academic performance and topic knowledge.

**Work cited:**