BACKGROUND
• I worked as an apprentice for the 2020 season at Tree House Orchard and Farm Fermentory, located in Woodstock, CT
• The farm was started by Tree House Brewing, a popular local brewery, with the intention of providing fresh produce to the local community
• I found the apprenticeship through Good Food Jobs, a job board for sustainable agriculture careers

ON THE JOB
• Workday begins at 7 each morning
• Early season tasks focused on seeding and prepping beds for plantings
• Late season tasks focused on harvesting, cleaning beds, and apple pressing
• Typical workday involves taking care of the chickens and pigs, harvesting, weeding, and prepping for the weekly CSA

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
• Learned basic operation and maintenance of the farm’s tractors
• Helped organize cover crop ordering and plantings
• Participated in the slaughtering and butchering of our pigs

REFLECTION
I cannot imagine an internship that I could have enjoyed more. Before I began, I worried that my previous farm experience wouldn’t be enough and I would feel lost and out of my depth.

From day one, however, my coworkers made me feel seen and respected. I quickly fell into the rhythm of the farm. My previous experiences, though limited, proved themselves to be immensely relevant. I was able to integrate the skills I’ve learned on the job and through my courses here at Ohio State.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE APPRENTICES
For anyone interested in an apprenticeship with a small farm there are key traits to ensure success:
• Ability to handle hurdles and frustrations (there are many on a farm)
• Being comfortable working in inclement weather
• Happy to work long hours and occasionally weekends
• Readiness to learn (especially to learn from mistakes)
• A good sense of humor (this is perhaps the most important trait)