

Tree House Orchard and Farm Fermentory, Summer 2020

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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

My fellow apprentice bidding a final farewell to our pigs before slaughter



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

An apple picked from one of the orchard's 100 year old trees



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

One of our pigs being butchered



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.

The internship experience was so positive that I quickly decided that I wanted to stay on after my apprenticeship ended. My ultimate career goals are focused on running a small farm like Tree House's, and here I am able to gain the experience necessary to do so.

View from the apple orchard



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)



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