Activities so far include:

**David Dickey Farm**
- Building trellis system for apple orchard: The posts used for the trellis system are a variety of cypress harvested on land owned by David in Izard County. The posts were already installed when I began work this season. To further construct the trellis, we strung, tensioned, and secured wire reclaimed from an older orchard.
- Training apple trees to trellis system: Once the trellis was constructed we installed a post at each tree. We then used rubber ties to secure the trees to the trellis system
- Apple thinning
- Grape trellis construction: Very similar to the apple trellis construction, except that we drove the posts.
- Grape training
- Installation of plasticulture beds for multiple varieties of lettuce, cabbage, and broccoli.
- Check pest traps
- Sprayed watermelon with Permethrin
- Sprayed cherry and plum with Agromycin
- Sprayed grapes with fungicide
- Learned lay-out of farm and irrigation system

**University of Arkansas Organic Fruit Planting**
- Mowed orchard
- Installed soil moisture and temperature sensors
- Removed ion and cation exchange soil probes
- Assisted taking soil samples for each treatment in organic orchard
- Took foliar tissue samples from each treatment in organic orchard planted blackberry and grape
- Installed landscape fabric

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**Grower Cooperator:** The grower cooperator for 2011 will be Mr. David Dickey who lives near Tontitown, AR. If you go to the Fayetteville Farmers Market you would know and recognize him as “Tomato Dave”. David has an Masters degree in agriculture, and will be mentoring our apprentice, Mr. Jay Gates. Last summer, Dr. Elena Garcia hired David as a research program technician to help with the pecan nut casebearer trapping program and use of high tunnel to extend harvest season of small fruits. (Dr. Donn Johnson, Fruit Research/Extension Entomologist, leads the grower cooperator/apprentice part of the USDA Organic Orchard Project).

**Apprentice:** Mr. Jay Gates is an undergraduate student majoring in horticulture. Jay envisions that he and his wife would like to start an organic farm. He is excited about this season-long, paid apprenticeship opportunity. He will experience hands-on learning of fruit and vegetable production practices on the Dickey Farm 4 days a week and spend one day a week assisting our crew at the University of Arkansas organic fruit plots and recording research data.
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**Title:** “Best Management Practices for Organic Orchard Nutrition”

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**Institution:** University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service

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