Notes By Jay Gates, 2012 Apprentice

Dicky Farm near Tontitown, AR.
The grower cooperator for 2012 continues to be Mr. David Dickey. If you go to the Fayetteville Farmers Market you would know and recognize him as "Tomato Dave". David has a Masters degree in agriculture, and will be mentoring our apprentice, Mr. Jay Gates. Since 2010, David has been the research technician for Dr. Elena Garcia and conducts the pecan nut casebearer trapping program and manages high tunnel studies 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.

Mr. Jay Gates will continue to be the apprentice until mid-May at which time he will be starting his summer fellowship in plant pathology. Jay is an undergraduate student majoring in horticulture. Jay envisions that he would like to start an organic farm. He will continue his hands-on learning of fruit and vegetable production practices on the Dickey Farm. One day per week he will assist our crew in our organic fruit plots at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville Farm, record research data and assess pest and disease damage.

Activities:

11 April:
- Pruning/training grape vines, apple, plum, and cherry trees
- bush-hogging
- insect pest counts
- picking/sorting/cleaning produce
- planting, weeding, composting
- irrigation setup and maintenance
- working with Jason McAfee and Heather Friedrich with research activities at the University farm
- trellis construction
- string trimming

Acknowledgements:

Funding: USDA/CSREES Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative - Other Grants Proposal No.: 2008-01251

Title: "Best Management Practices for Organic Orchard Nutrition"

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