



University of
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Notes By Jay Gates, 2011 Apprentice

ORCHARD & MENTOR

Dickey Farm near Tontitown, AR.

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.

ACTIVITIES:

13 June:

- Working on apple trellis system
- training grapes
- removed weeds from the vineyard
- at the UA research farm we continued installing temperature and soil moisture sensors
- Recorded trap counts

20 June

- Spent all week working on the apple trellis (2/3's completed)
- Noticed japanese beetles in the apple trees with numbers increasing daily
- Recorded trap counts

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Title: "Best Management Practices for Organic Orchard Nutrition"

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