

## National Youth Safety Essay Scholarship Contest Winner

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As an active member of the FFA, I was encouraged to participate in SAE recordbooks. My SAE is an Apple Orchard business that I created under the guidance of my grandfather. Over the course of three years, I have expanded and improved the overall business, but I have wanted to focus on the safety practices that OSHA implements. It wasn't until my FFA Advisor encouraged me to complete the online OSHA Training that I put that goal into action. OSHA modules such as "Personal Protective Equipment" or PPE, "Safety and Health Assessment," and "Tractor Safety" have given me the necessary skills and general knowledge about safety to properly handle dangerous or potentially dangerous situations while working on my orchard.

While the size of the orchard is small, the safety aspect is still a main concern, and I know through one of my business meetings with my grandfather how much better he felt knowing I had gone through the training. The OSHA 10-hour card is just a reminder to me that when I am pruning or cutting tree limbs, I should always be wearing protective eye and hand apparel. My application to the safety practices in the orchard made my training "real" to me. Holding the card reminds me that when I am using a tractor to dispose of apple rinds after making cider, it is a piece of equipment that doesn't care if I have had a long day, safety must be respected. I know I should always use and follow proper tractor safety rules for the safety of myself and more importantly my siblings working with me in the orchard. The OSHA 10-hour card is not just a reminder of the things I learned, but an example of the activities that should be implemented in any dangerous work situation.

Whether on my orchard or at my position at the local movie theater, I can now see the application of my OSHA training and how is important both to the employee and manager. My SAE has developed into a successful business through the quality and quantity of the products that I sell, but without utilizing my OSHA knowledge, it is highly likely that injuries produced in the orchard could have prevented this success. My future plans include continuing this orchard and sharing the quality products produced with my community. The knowledge I have gained from the OSHA 10-hour General Industry (Agriculture) session will remain with me as I continue to grow my business.