

Biography:

I am 36 years old, I have 3 young children, I attended Pomona College in California where I received a degree in history. I am representing Gilbert Orchards and Sundquist Fruit, which grow apples, cherries, pears, apricots and wine grapes on about 5000 acres in and around the community of Yakima in Washington state. Our most important varieties of apples are gala and honeycrisp, but we grow and sell 14 varieties total. Organics have been an important part of our farm for about 30 years. We have just over 800 full time equivalent employees.

We ship about 30% of our produce to foreign countries each year. I serve as operations manager of our company, with responsibilities for our growing, packing, and marketing. I also serve on the Washington State Tree Fruit Association board that represents grower interests through government and member education in our state.