For my job shadow I got to see what a typical day of work was for a labor contractor. His name is Val Guzman and he is a contractor from Porterville. The reason I chose to job shadow him was because I have always been interested in working in agriculture. He showed me around different ranches that he owned, the ones where he had people working, and also talked to me about how he got into what he does, and what it takes to do this job.

So the day started off with me meeting him at his yard where he had all of his company's equipment. The lot was full of tractors, trucks and other types of heavy machinery. We drove off and he explained to me what a basic day of work consist of. One of the things that he has to do is make sure that his workers are not only taking care of his orchards but of other ranchers as well. I got to see how the workers would spray the pesticides on the trees, go through and prune them, and also how they dealt with problems that occurred in the workplace. As they were checking the sprinklers they noticed that one of the pumps was letting water go and flooding the surrounding trees. He explained to me that it had to do with one of the filters and that this is a problem they see often when they have to pump the water uphill. Val was able to assess the problem and find a quick solution. By calling the water company and shutting off the water, they were able to stop the water flow and change out the filter. As we moved on I also learned that this wasn't just an outdoor job but it also required you to spend some time in the office. We went on to meet up with a man that Val had hired to help him with a nitrogen plan. The state of California has placed new regulations on all ranchers to keep track on how much nitrogen they are putting into the ground through water and different types of fertilizers. He hired this man to manage when and how much to water and spray his orchards. Finally we ended the day with a talk about how getting a higher education would benefit in this area of work. He made me rethink my plans and think about going to community college.

Something I learned on my job shadow was that this job is not just something that you do outdoors, but you also need to work in an office and keep yourself up to date with ever changing regulations and make sure you have the proper paperwork for your employees. That is something I didn't like so much about the job. I am not someone who would like to be stuck in meetings and going through paperwork, but it is something that has to be done in order to keep his company running and his employees safe. Another thing that I really liked about this job is that you get to make connections with tons of different people. You get the opportunity to speak to different ranchers, packing house owners, and to people that work for the state in the area of agriculture. Also something that I thought was really cool is that Val has the opportunity to expand his company, but he doesn't worry about doing that. He puts his focus more on making sure that his employees are happy, safe, and get the best out of their work. Although he could be making a lot more money he puts them first, and for him it is easier to do that if you keep your business small so that you can keep track of anything that would need improving.

As of now I am not sure if this is the job for me. I am still interested in working in agriculture, but I am keeping my eyes open for any other jobs in this area that might interest me. With what I have seen this seems like a really nice job that I would like to do. It would be great to be able to run a company the same way he does and become successful in this area. Agriculture has always interested me, and we live in the perfect place to take part in this work, and he told me that this job is a great place to make money. In my future I do not want to worry about money so working here would be a good choice for me.