

Northview Orchard is a one-man operation

By **HEATHER SMITH THOMAS**
For the Capital Press

This one-man orchard is a full-time job for Kent Reinke.

"My grandparents put in the orchard in the 1950s," said Reinke, who bought it from his uncle 3 years ago. "Some of my trees are from that original stock."

He has 4 walnut trees, 20 types of apples, 10 types of peaches and several types of apricots.

"I've been planting more cherries, and now have 6 different types of cherries," he says.

Almost everything is marketed by U-pick, except the nuts.

"I have a little fruit stand by the house, and people come to buy or pick," he says. "I don't have many nuts so I just put those in bags. The customers pick everything else, except the apricots. Those trees are too tall. Someone might get up there with a ladder and knock the apricots off."

"I pick those myself and sell them at our fruit shed, and take some to the Buhl farmers' market, and sometimes the Gooding farmers' market," he says.

The orchard is 7 miles northeast of Buhl at the edge of a canyon. People come from Utah and Nevada as well



Heather Smith Thomas/For the Capital Press
Kent Reinke stands next to the sign for his Northview Orchard near Buhl, Idaho.

as eastern and southern Idaho to pick fruit. Many are repeat customers.

"I put a (page) on Facebook last year and more people started coming. I post photos of the fruit as it gets ripe. I used to just have an ad in the newspaper but many of the newer people in our area don't get the paper. So I go on Facebook and Craig's list and advertise that way," he says.

"About 200 people follow my postings on Facebook. When the trees start blooming I take pictures. I recently posted photos of pruning the trees," he says.

His family helps during the peak season.

"My mom and dad come from Gooding and help

during the busy season; my mom likes running the fruit stand. My brother sometimes comes on weekends."

He doesn't hire any help, and does all the tree care himself.

His grandparents had the orchard while Kent was growing up, and he enjoyed spending time there.

He joined the military and then worked on the Alaska pipeline for 23 years.

"I got tired of the cold and the snow, and came back to the orchard," he says.

Idaho weather can be a challenge, too.

"Some years the blooms freeze and you have nothing, and other years there is more fruit than you can sell."

It was a good year last year; people came to pick clear into November. There were still apples on the trees when it froze," he says.

He doesn't worry about fruit that doesn't sell. It drops from the trees and he disks it into the ground as fertilizer, or the deer eat it.

"Some years I sell most of it, but last year was such a heavy crop I couldn't sell it all; the deer ate what was left."

AerWay®

AerWay® AWW3 for Viticulture and Orchards. Compact and Versatile!

- Single or Close Coupled Tandem (CCT) wheel designs
- Overall width from 41" to 66.5"
- Adjustable rollers
- Economical aeration and tillage with reduced dust
- Increased water infiltration
- Run-off and erosion control
- Compaction relief
- Nutrient incorporation

The AWW3 Series for Viticulture and Orchards is Your Best Solution for Between Row, High Speed Aeration.



Call 1-800-457-8310
for a dealer near you!
www.aerway.com

Advanced Aeration Systems

 <p>\$15,000</p> <p>1988 Weiss JD239 Sweeper</p>	 <p>\$17,500</p> <p>1996 Weiss JD40 Sweeper</p>	 <p>\$38,950</p> <p>2006 Weiss JD80LP Sweeper</p>
 <p>\$27,500</p> <p>1996 Weiss 8900SP Harvester</p>	 <p>\$17,500</p> <p>1998 Weiss 8900 Harvester</p>	 <p>\$35,000</p> <p>1996 Thomas Shuttle Truck</p>

HENRY COLOMBO EQUIPMENT
209-531-8398 • henry@colomboequipment.com
www.colomboequipment.com • Free Delivery California-Oregon

ONV15-1/#18