



LONG LANE FARMS

My Experience Starting a High  
Density Apple Orchard



900 ft



First Year Orchard

Legend



Google Earth





# Allow 55' from your last tree





First Year Orchard

Legend



Google Earth





# Does it make Business Sense?

How many trees do you want?	15,000
How many Trees fit?	10,000
Expense to Build Orchard (HIGH)	\$250,000
Capital Expenses for Equipment (HIGH)	\$250,000
Trees surviving to Year 7 (90%)	9,000
Low Yield by year 7 (1 bushel per tree)	9,000
LOW price for Harvest - \$9/bushel	\$81,000
Annual Maintenance and Harvest Costs (HIGH)	\$45,000
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>\$36,000</b>
Return on Investment	7.2%
Does that work for you?	YES/NO



# Order Trees

- After plotting your site and building your business case, order trees
  - Plan on 2 years from order before delivery
  - Talk to your nursery about what you are trying to achieve. They know a lot about trees, rootstocks and are willing to share their knowledge
- After trees are ordered...
  - Test soil and plan to adjust PH if needed
  - Remove any voluntary trees that may be in the way
- END OF YEAR 1



# Extra Row Posts Minimize Drop in Wire Height



# Line up your Supplies and Equipment

## **Posts:**

**Cobb Lumber**

PO Box 806

Timpson, TX 75975

936-254-9901

## **Wire and staples:**

**Kencove Fencing**

[www.kencove.com](http://www.kencove.com)

## **Anchors:**

**Orchard Valley Supply  
(Oregon)**

[www.orchardvalleysupply.com](http://www.orchardvalleysupply.com)

## **Leader Poles:**

**Home Depot**

(Electrical Conduit)



















# Year 3 - Recruit and Hire Labor





Year 3































# Actual Expense (Over 3 years)

Item	Expense
Field Prep (Clear Trees, Plant cover crops)	\$24,626
Trees – Including Shipping	\$165,898
Posts - Including Shipping	\$70,225
Leader Poles – Including Shipping	\$34,837
Wire, Staples, Anchors	\$16,907
Clips for Leader Poles	\$5,195
AG Lock Ties	\$5,633
Labor – Including Workers Comp	\$63,643
Chemicals and Diesel	\$6,181
Grass and Clover Seed	\$4,447
Row Numbers and Misc.	\$458
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	\$398,080
<b>1,000 trees per Acre, 14 Acres -- Per Acre Cost</b>	<b>\$28,434.29</b>



# From Planning to an Orchard







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Questions?

Check back in 4 years to see how I'm  
doing!