ENT 479: Organic Pest Management

Laboratory 1: Organic Farm Tours

REPORT DUE: SEPTEMBER 9/23/10 (10% OF COURSE GRADE)

Laboratory Overview:
We will visit two working Organic farms on September 9 and 16, 2010. The objectives of this exercise will be to ground the remainder of the course in an on-farm experience as well as give you the opportunity to document your thoughts on organic agriculture at the outset of the course. The field trips will take about 3 hours and will require several volunteer drivers. A written report including farm maps will be due seven days after the laboratory exercise. Students that receive less than 90% will be given the opportunity to turn in a revised report which may receive up to a 90% grade.

Laboratory Objectives:
• Observe working organic farms
• Develop observation skills
• Document initial thoughts on organic farming

Laboratory Activities:
• Farm tours
• Farmer interviews

Laboratory Equipment:
• Carpool
• Notebook and Pencil/Pen
Laboratory Report:

• In no less than 6 pages and no more than 10:

1. Prepare digital or hand drawn farm maps (will need to be digitized [scanned] for final report)
   • Map should indicate location of crops, farm buildings, and major resources (irrigation, compost facilities) it does not need to be drawn to scale.

2. In 300 words or less write the definition of organic agriculture you developed in class.

3. For each farm/farmer discuss/answer the following questions:
   • How does each farmer define ”Organic”? Compare/Contrast to your definition.
   • What types of crops are produced?
   • Where/how does the farmer sell their crops? Which markets are most important?
   • What are the farmer’s major concerns?
   • How important is pest management to this farmer?
   • What types of pests does the farmer mention? Which are the most important?
   • What pest management methods does the farmer employ?

4. Discuss the following general questions:
   • Compare and contrast the two Farmers’ major concerns.
   • Compare and contrast the importance of pest management to the two farmers.
   • Compare and contrast the the two Farmers’ definition of organic agriculture.
   • If there are appreciable differences, why do you think this is so?

5. Refine your personal definition of organic agriculture (if it hasn’t changed, then simply state so)