FIELD TRIP REPORT GUIDE

Take notes of anything you find interesting or useful. Minimum requirement: What was most interesting? What did you like best? What could be improved?
Report: bullet form ok, just has to be readable. Due one week from field trip date. No required length, but submit no more than 3 pages. Email ok, but make sure you get a reply.

Sample Questions for farmers

- Why did you choose organic farming?
- How long have you been farming organically?
- What was it like getting certified?
- What do you need to do to stay certified?
- What is your OSP update like?

What do you grow?

- How many acres?
- How do you decide what to grow?
- What are your crop rotations?
- How much does it cost to grow an acre?
- What are land rents in this area?

How do you grow?

- What are your soils' advantages and disadvantages?
- Land prep and tillage equipment?
- Amendments? (compost, fertilizers, ph control)
- Cover crops? How do you choose?
- What % of your N comes from cover crops?
• Do you direct seed?
• Transplants? Buy or grow yourself? What do they cost?
• If trees, what rootstocks? Why?
• Pruning?
• Water: source, how much, cost, quality?
• Irrigation: drip, pipe, furrow? Why? How often?

• Weeds: How do you control? What are your most troublesome?
• Pests, diseases:
• Labor: How many employees? What do they do? How much do you pay? What is your management structure?
• Harvesting: Who? What does it cost?
• Yields: How much do you get per acre for your major crops?

Marketing
• Where do you sell and why?
• How do you decide?
• In-house sales or someone else?
• What are some of your marketing challenges?

The Future
• What opportunities are there for new organic farmers?
• What opportunities are there for people who want to work in organic foods?