TERM PAPER: Organic Farm Plan Update. Due May 24

- A partial Organic System Plan (OSP)
- Overview: Use the principles of Good Farm Management (GFM) and become familiar with OSP’s and organic regulations.
- Five parts to the plan
  - Farm map
  - Current crop plan
  - Fertility management plan
  - Natural resources management plan
  - Pest management plan

Resources
- Current crop plan hand-out.
- Current soil test.
- Cabrillo’s OSP and organic records. All available from Kathy or Ernie at Ghouse.
- CCOF Manual Two. USDA NOP Standards. See their website.
- ATTRA publications.
- Internet (for things like strawberry yields, cover crop N production).
- Labs, lectures, field trips.

1. Farm map

- Provide a simple map of the farm that meets organic certification standards.
- Show the location of each current and planned crop for 2010.
- Be sure to identify boundary/buffer areas.
- See ATTRA: ‘Forms, Documents and Sample Letters for Producers’ for an example

2. Current crop plan

- Make a table with the following information:
  - Crop (include alfalfa and cover crops)
  - Field number
  - Area of each crop in acres (show your calculations)
  - Projected yields (show your calculations)
- Additional instructions:
  - Alfalfa yield= N/A (because it is a trap crop).
  - Cover crop: estimate the amount of N (total and per acre).
3. Fertility management

- P, K, Mg, Ca, Na, pH, N, S, Zn, Mn, Fe, Cu, B
- Using the values from the current soil test, indicate whether you consider each one acceptable, or potentially deficient/toxic.
- For each of the items identified as ‘not acceptable’, describe and critique our management and suggest improvements (use the principles of GFM as your guide).

4. Natural Resource Management

- The goal of our soil conservation program is to reduce soil compaction and erosion, and maintain organic matter.
- The main techniques we use to till and improve our soil are: tractor and rototiller rotovation for ground prep; Walk behind rototiller for bed recycling; Tractor mounted rippers for compaction; Forks for breaking up clods and breaking bottoms; Shovels for listing beds. Rakes for spreading amendments and seed bed formation; Hoes and black plastic for weed control; Cover cropping with N-fixing and non-N-fixing plants; Compost; Crop rotation; and Chips on the paths.
- Discuss each of the listed tools and techniques in relation to the principles of GFM, and provide suggestions for improvement and/or for new techniques/equipment.
5. Pest Management

• Identify the main techniques we use in our pest management program to control (a) insects and mites; (b) diseases; (c) weeds; and (d) vertebrates.
• Discuss and explain each of the techniques in relation to the principles of GFM and suggest improvements.
• Add items that you think we should do and explain why.