*NCLC 102* *Global Networks & Communities: Food and Sovereignty*

*Fall Semester 2010*

**Perspectives on Farming - Production and Consumption in the 21st Century**

*DUE DATE: in class on Thursday 11/18*

For this experiential learning activity, you will gain new perspectives on farming in the 21st century. As a point of comparison, half of your study group will visit the farm Cows-n-Corn and half Mount Vernon Farm. You will then come together as a study group to compare and contrast your learning experiences to allow for a more enriching educational experience. This activity will then culminate with each study group filling out and turning in the table below for up to 50 points. While filling out the table below please make sure to carefully and fully address all questions/topics. This experiential learning trip will supplement the film *Food, Inc* and course readings by authors such as Pollan and Bonanno, among others.

|  | Cows-n-Corn Farm | Mount Vernon Farm | Compare & Contrast |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| What is the history of each farm? How have these places created their own territory - from another time but in the current place?  Have they appropriated other practices?  What are they resisting?   |  |  |  |
| Farm labor. Who works on the farm? Family? Hired workers? Volunteers? Full-time or part-time workers? Seasonal or year-round workers?  |  |  |  |
| What sort of inputs are there at each farm? That is, do they use fertilizers, hormones, pesticides, etc.? Which ones and why? Where do they get their seed, animal stock, etc.? Are animals bought or birthed?  |  |  |  |
| Describe the situation concerning animal welfare. That is, how are the animals cared for, how are they treated, fed, etc? What is their pasturage/range? |  |  |  |
| Where does the farm produce go? Where is it sold? What is its destination? |  |  |  |
| How did your experience at the farm address any of the issues we have raised so far in our discussion of globalization and global networks, explain in detail. |  |  |  |
| Other. What was most surprising or unexpected? Explore an issue of your choice that will further elucidate the similarities and differences between the farms visited. |  |  |  |