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### 3-Corner Field Farm

Be ready to depart from the Dana/Harder parking lot at **7:45 AM on Sunday 10 September**. Karen writes: Please remind students to have proper footwear (something that can be washed and is sturdy enough to walk in through uneven pasture) and rainwear (if the weather changes). Consider yourselves reminded!

3-Corner Field Farm <http://www.dairysheepfarm.com/> raises grass fed dairy sheep and lamb. Owners Karen Weinberg and Paul Borghard and their daughters Emily and Zoe will take us on a tour of their farm, where you will be able to see their milking operation in action, visit the pastures where the ewes and lambs feed, and taste some of the products of the farm. During your visit to the farm, take detailed notes and ask questions so that you have the information necessary to answer the following:

What kinds of inputs (livestock, feed, equipment, infrastructure, labor etc.) go into the farm?

What sorts of outputs and ecosystem services (marketable products, waste, landscape conservation, erosion control etc.) does the farm produce or provide? How are products sold, how is waste disposed of, and why?

What is the animal husbandry regimen, and why? How do Karen and Paul provide for the health and welfare of their animals?

How are the pastures maintained? Will this regimen be effective in maintaining the long-term productivity of the pastures? What evidence do you have to support your answer, and what, if any, additional information might help you to answer this question?

Is this farm a sustainable operation? Can it continue to run in the current manner for the foreseeable future, or is the balance of inputs and outputs such that the operation cannot be maintained in its present form for the long term? Use specific observations from your visit to the farm and information that you received from Karen and Paul as evidence in support of your answer.

Wendell Berry's states that "Eating is an agricultural act," and Michael Pollan adds that it is also "an ecological act, and a political act, too." Based on what you observed during your visit to the farm, consider the following statement: **Farming is an agricultural, ecological and political act.** Do you agree with this assertion? Why or why not? Develop your essay with specific examples of WHY Karen and Paul choose to produce food as they do, instead of employing the high-input, high yield model of industrial farming.

Write an essay that explicitly responds to each of these questions. Use SPECIFIC EXAMPLES to answer questions and build your arguments. These examples should include your observations while at the farm (take excellent notes) as well as relevant material from your readings and class discussion. Your papers should be typed in a legible font and printed with a good quality printer; double-sided printing is always preferred.

**See you Sunday!**