**[The Fair Weather Farm Project]**

We spend a lot of time talking and writing about environmental communications, but how often do we get to go out and experience the environment to help us write about?

This semester our class will be pairing up with [Fair Weather Farms](http://www.fairweatherfarmfairhill.com) to help them in their mission to educate “our community in growing, harvesting & preserving sustainable grown foods to those who want to learn a healthier lifestyle.” We’ll be doing this through volunteer work and creating some documents for them.

As a class, we will visit the farm on **October 19** to meet with owner, Nancy Bentley. She will show us around and talk about the many projects she has going on (and there are a lot).

\*Take some mental notes because this may help you figure out what you would like to for your final project

There are four parts to this project:

**The One-Page Project Plan**

Individually or in groups of 2-3, you will create a plan for what you would like to develop for Fair Weather Farms. You do not have to be married to this plan for the rest of the semester, but this will help you think about how you can best create your project. You should address:

* Description of document
* Rhetorical situation
* How this will benefit Fair Weather
* Possible Format

**The Final Document(s)**

Your group will then develop a document(s) of some sort that can be used by or can help Fair Weather Farms. There are a variety of shapes this project could take:

* Analysis and recommendations for their web presence
* Educational materials for their children’s curriculum
* Informational materials for synthetic vs. natural wool
* Informational materials on the importance of self-sufficient farming
* Instructional materials for some of the many tools and procedures the farm has
* Identification guide for their edible plants talks
* Informational materials on biodynamic farming

THESE ARE JUST OPTIONS – PLEASE DON’T FEEL LIMITED BY THESE!

Think about what format would work best. Perhaps it would be a more traditional fact sheet or brochure. Perhaps you could make an infographic for their website or Facebook page. Let the rhetorical situation guide you.

No matter what the format, you will need to include **research and visuals** into your document.

**Farmwork:**

I encourage you to go to Fair Weather a few times this semester to give a helping hand. There are a lot of different jobs you could do, so don’t worry if you don’t have a green thumb. Additionally, we do want you to have a good time out there (There are chickens, goats and horses!)!

Another reason to spend some time at the farm is to get to know your client a little better. These would be good times to talk through your ideas with Nancy and learn more about all the work that goes into a farm and the food that you eat. This way you are more engaged with the work you will produce.

Fair Weather has open hours for volunteering **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 am to 12 pm and 1 to 4 pm (weather permitting).** Additionally, on a few Fridays throughout the semester, in lieu of class, there will be workdays that give you move time to make it to the Fair Weather. I will be out there on those days as well, so if you would like a ride or caravan out there, let me know!

* Friday, October 30
* Friday, November 13
* Friday, December 4

**The Reflection**

At the end of the semester, I would like you to write a two-page memo to me discussing the experience of working with Fair Weather Farms. Some things you might want to address are:

* Working in a group
* Working at Fair Weather and how it influenced your final project
* Deciding on the project you wanted to do
* Challenges and Successes

**Due Dates:**

Project Plan (100 points): **Monday, November 2**
Workshop of project (50 points): **Monday, December 7**
Final project (125 points): **Friday,** **December 11**
Reflection (75 points): **Friday,** **December 11**