**Purpose of pest sampling in 2002**

- Determine the key pests on a large range of organic farms and crops so those pests can be targeted for future work
- Examine data on pests and begin to assess whether differences in pest abundance can be associated with different cultural or landscape practices.

**Questions** we will address about insect and disease management on individual farms

1. What role do pests and pest management play in the overall viability of the farm?
2. What is the approximate crop loss to pests?
3. What does the farmer do to assess and manage pests directly, and how much time and money do pest assessments and control actions cost?
4. What does the farmer do to prevent pest problems (e.g. beneficial insect plantings, crop rotations, other indirect actions below), and what are the costs in time, money, land taken out of production, etc.?
5. What are the constraints on the farmer that may exacerbate certain pest problems? (e.g. continuous cropping to keep markets, wet fields, outside sources of pests or wildlife from neighboring areas, etc.)

**Constraints** to the sampling in 2002

Because we will be focusing on extensive (i.e. multiple regions and crops) rather than intensive (i.e. in-depth on one crop complex) sampling, it would be inappropriate to draw broad conclusions about what regulates pest populations in these crops (e.g. biological control) or how certain organic practices may or may not contribute to biodiversity. What we really want to do are defined in the goals and question sections above.

The scouts are asked to make some very preliminary surveys on some biological control agents (predator numbers and species), but it should be realized that this effort is really only part of the extensive survey. Depending on the extensive survey conducted in 2002, future work may be directed to more detailed assessments of the present and potential effects of biological control agents to control pest populations. That effort would require resources far beyond what can be accomplished with resources in 2002, but the 2002 work will help lay the groundwork for future years.