

Northeast SARE Summer Tour Etiquette

Guidance for Hosting State Coordinator

Photography

1. Ask the tour host in advance about their preferences regarding tour participants taking photographs.
2. Is it okay for participants to take photos or would they prefer no photos?
3. Are there people on the host site who prefer not to have their photo taken?
4. Are there minors (people under age 18) who will be on site that day?
5. Are there any places or features on the farm they do not want photographed?

Site Access

Etiquette guidance for tour participants requests that they remain with the group, but in a large group it is not uncommon that some may still drift away from the group.

1. Ask the tour host in advance about their preferences regarding a designated rest area for participants (for cell phone use, rest break, small group talking, etc.).
2. Ask if there any places they do not want people to go unaccompanied where they have safety, privacy, biosecurity or other concerns?

Questions

1. Convey information about the SARE audience and their learning interests to the hosts beforehand to guide them in the information they share.
2. Provide a statement of the overall learning objective(s) for tour stops on the tour handout to guide participants in framing their questions. Typically, there is not enough time on the tour for participants to explore a farmer's practices in great detail.
3. Provide a gentle reminder or ask a question to redirect a tour host if they digress too long into areas or details that are far off target.

Communicate Preferences

1. Include guidance about photography, designated rest area and site access dos and don'ts on the tour handout and remind participants about a host's preferences or restrictions before getting off the bus at each stop.
2. If you didn't ask the tour host ahead of time about photography or site access, ask the host when the group arrives and inform the group of any concerns or restrictions during introductions.
3. Offer a gentle reminder to the group at the beginning of the tour to follow the etiquette guidance for participants, which will be included as part of the tour agenda.

Northeast SARE Summer Tour Etiquette

Guidance for Tour Participants

Northeast SARE tour participants are guests at the host farms and businesses we visit. Our hosts graciously open their farms and businesses for us to learn, and it is our responsibility to be courteous guests.

Photography

The state coordinator organizer will obtain information in advance whenever possible about photography preferences or restrictions at tour stops.

1. Check the tour handout for notes regarding the photography preferences of each host.
2. If you intend to take photos on the site and don't see any notes on the handout, then ask the state coordinator or the farm host before you start taking photos.
3. If the state coordinator does not know, they will ask the farm host and then announce to the whole group.
4. Please avoid taking photos of minors (people under age 18) on the tour. If you do take photos of minors, you are responsible for obtaining media release/consent forms from the minors' parents/guardians.

Site Access

Tour hosts prepared for our visit and may consider participants wandering off and chatting in groups discourteous and a sign of disinterest.

1. Participants are requested to stay with the group and follow the tour and listen to any presentations.
2. If you need to leave the group for some reason (cell phone use, rest break, small group talking, etc.), return to the bus or check the tour handout for notes regarding a designated rest area and/or site access restrictions.
3. If you don't see any notes on the handout, then ask the state coordinator or the farm host about where participants may or may not go unaccompanied for reasons of safety, privacy, biosecurity, etc.

Questions and Advice

1. The group on the Northeast SARE tour is large and many people may have questions. While you may be curious and have numerous questions in mind, be courteous and allow room for others to ask questions.
2. It is acceptable to politely ask a host to explain their reasons or motivations for decisions or practices you may observe.
3. It is not acceptable to offer unsolicited advice about management, operations and production practices.
4. The tour handout will contain general information about our learning objectives for tour stops, and hosts have been informed that these are interests of our group. Typically, there is not enough time on the tour for participants to explore a farmer's practices in great detail.