Introduction to Biodynamic Agriculture
Recall a moment in your life when you felt deeply connected to land...
Community Garden in Chicago, Illinois

Photo by Anne Hammersky
Biodynamic Principles and Practices
Ehrenfried Pfeiffer

Biodynamic researchers in Colima, Mexico

Biodynamic Association of Northern California meeting at Fulcrum Farm
A Biodynamic Farm is a Living Organism
Biodynamics Brings Plants and Animals Together
Biodynamics Cultivates Biodiversity
Biodynamics Generates On-Farm Fertility
The Succulent Garden, New Mexico

Photo by Broken Banjo
Turtle Creek Gardens, Wisconsin
Compost is Enlivened with Biodynamic Preparations
biodynamic compost preparations
Biodynamic Compost Preparations: Yarrow (502)
Biodynamic Compost Preparations: Chamomile (503)
Biodynamic Compost Preparations: Nettle (504)
Biodynamic Compost Preparations: Oak Bark (505)
Biodynamic Compost Preparations: Dandelion (506)
Biodynamic Compost Preparations: Valerian (507)
Biodynamic preparations strengthen the quality of the compost by stabilizing nitrogen and other nutrients, multiplying microbial diversity, and bringing more sensitivity to the composting process.


Biodynamic compost helps attune the soil to the whole farm organism and wider influences while increasing soil life\(^1\) and stable organic matter.\(^2\)

Biodynamic compost brings more carbon into the living realm, helping to restore balance to the climate.
Biodynamic Sprays Enhance Soil and Plant Health
Biodynamic Horn Manure Preparation (500)
Horn manure enhances the life of the soil and the relationship between soil and plants.


Biodynamic Horn Silica Preparation (501)
Horn silica increases plant immunity, strengthens photosynthesis, and enhances ripening.

compost preparations

horn manure (500)
horn silica (501)
equisetum (508)
barrel compost
Together, the biodynamic spray and compost preparations bring plants into a dynamic relationship with soil, water, air, warmth, and cosmos to help them develop in a healthy and balanced way, access the full spectrum of nutrients they need, and become more resilient to pests, diseases, and extreme climate conditions.

Biodynamic Farmers Cultivate Awareness
Mt. Hood Organic Farm, Oregon
Biodynamics Works in Rhythm with Earth and Cosmos
EARTH
ROOT

WATER
LEAF

AIR
FLOWER

FIRE
FRUIT/SEED

art by Joffi (http://joffi.deviantart.com/art/Earth-fire-water-air-141180910)
Biodynamics Approaches Pests and Diseases Holistically
Goodfoot Farm, Oregon
Cucumber beetles and western corn rootworm adults

Photo by UW Madison Agricultural Research Station
Biodynamics Supports Integrity and Diversity in Seeds and Breeds
Biodynamics Treats Animals with Respect
Biodynamic Certification Upholds Agricultural Integrity
• International standard for Biodynamic farms and products, created in 1928
• Over 5,000 farms certified with 420,000 acres worldwide
• 1,500+ Biodynamic farms in Germany
• 100+ certified farms in Austria, Australia, France, Great Britain, India, Italy, Nepal, The Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey and United States

source: www.demeter.net/statistics
DEMETER BIODYNAMIC FARM STANDARD

1. Biological Diversity
2. Generating Fertility on the Farm
3. The Biodynamic preparations and wider connections
4. Generating disease, insect and weed control on the farm
5. Integration of livestock
6. On-farm water and waterway conservation
7. Gentle post harvesting and handling
USDA National Organic Program

- permits imported organic fertilizers and pesticides
- allows for organic feed imported to the farm from anywhere in the world
- is crop focused and allows for a designated parcel to be certified

Demeter Biodynamic Certification

- reduces imported materials by addressing its needs from within the farming system
- requires 50% of livestock feed be grown on farm
- is farm focused and requires that the whole farm be certified
- requires a biodiversity set-aside of ten percent of the total farm acreage

Biodynamics Contributes to Social and Economic Health
Camphill Village Minnesota
Questions?
Delve Deeper Into Biodynamics
TODAY at EcoFarm

Biodynamic Animal Husbandry, Cows to Compost
1:30-3pm in Toyon

Biodynamic Mixer
8-9:30pm in Heather
Biodynamics is a holistic, ecological, and ethical approach to farming, gardening, food, and nutrition. Biodynamics is based on the work of philosopher and scientist Dr. Rudolf Steiner, and has been developed through the collaboration of many farmers and researchers since 1924. Around the world, biodynamics is alive in thousands of thriving gardens, farms, vineyards, ranches, and orchards. The principles and practices of biodynamics can be applied anywhere food is grown, with thoughtful adaptation to scale, landscape, climate, and culture.

A Biodynamic Farm Is a Living Organism

Each farm or garden is an integrated, whole, living organism. This organism is made up of many interdependent elements: fields, forests, plants, animals, soils, compost, and people. Biodynamic farmers and gardeners work to nurture and harmonize these elements, managing them in a holistic and dynamic way to support the health and vitality of the whole.

Biodynamics Cultivates Biodiversity

Biodynamic farms and gardens mimic the biodiversity of natural ecosystems, amplifying the health and resilience of the farm organism. Annual and perennial vegetables, herbs, flowers, berries, fruits, nuts, grains, pasture, forage, native plants, and pollinator hedges can all contribute to plant diversity. Diversity in livestock is also beneficial, as each animal species brings a different relationship to the land and unique quality of manure. The diversity of plant and animal life can be developed over time, starting with a few primary crops and use or two species of livestock (even as small as earthworms or honeybees), and adding more species as the farm organism matures.
https://www.biodynamics.com/what-is-biodynamics
Growing and Using Medicinal Herbs for People and Pollinators
January 29
with Deb Soule

The Life of the Honeybees: Between Light and Darkness
February 7
with Alex Tuchman

A Biodynamic Understanding of Trees
March 7
with Joseph Murray

www.biodynamics.com/webinars
BIODYNAMIC FARMER FOUNDATION YEAR

On-farm training and mentoring combined with a cohesive, integrated, and interactive learning curriculum bring biodynamics to life.

Applications due February 13 for 2019-20 cohort

www.biodynamics.com/farmer-training
SEASONAL MEETINGS

WINTER  
January 11-13, 2019

SPRING  
April 7-8, 2018

SUMMER  
June 23-24, 2018

FALL   
September 29-30, 2018

www.bdannc.org
Biodynamics Offers Regenerative Solutions for the Future
What are you taking with you from this session?