

**ABOUT THE USE OF THE TERM “BIODYNAMIC”
AND BIODYNAMIC® A REGISTERED TRADEMARK**

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In the cultural realm an individual is free to work with the Agriculture Course and find their own relationship to Dr Rudolf Steiner’s agricultural impulse. No one is in a position to judge whether or not that person’s efforts are qualified to be termed “Biodynamic” or not.

Membership in the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association, or regional groups supported by the Association, does not imply that the Association objectively ‘certifies’ a member’s growing practices as “Biodynamic”. Ours is an open and public association consisting of many members at different levels of skill and insight into the practices of Biodynamic farming and gardening. Membership in the Association does not imply or otherwise give automatic authorization for a member to use the name Biodynamic to describe their practices or products.

When products are sold into the wholesale market, the legislative realm has passed laws which serve to protect the consumer from confusion and the producer from unfair competition by the use of trademarks. Certification (and also licensing the use of names) can be a form of quality assurance to consumers.

Those who have worked historically with this international movement have arrived at an agreed standard of what can properly be certified as ‘biodynamic practices’ for products entering the wholesale marketplace. Demeter-USA is responsible for ensuring these standards in North America at the present time. The Demeter Association is an independent organization which certifies Biodynamic® farms, gardens, or production operations in the United States and Mexico according to international Demeter standards. The Demeter certification process allows the grower or producer who successfully completes the process to label their products as “Certified Biodynamic®” in the marketplace.

The word “Biodynamic” is a legally registered trademark that is held by the Demeter Association and must be followed by the registration mark “®” when the word Biodynamic is used to distinguish or identify a product, process or thing, for example: Biodynamic® Carrots. The use of the name “Biodynamic” with the registration mark carries certain meanings regarding standards of practice. For this reason, the use of the name Biodynamic® is not allowed unless the individual or organization has obtained written permission to do so from the Demeter Association.

Greatest care has to govern the communication in the marketplace between anonymous consumers and producers so that there is no confusion or untruth or cause for mistrust. If “Biodynamic” is put on a product, or if it is advertised as such in materials related to the product, it needs to meet international quality standards as represented by Demeter-USA for the production and processing of Biodynamic products. This needs to be enforced to keep Biodynamic agriculture connected to its original historical meaning. The Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association supports the defense of this mark against dilution of its original meaning and infringement within the wholesale marketplace.