

As a mentor farmer in the North American Biodynamic Apprenticeship Program, your primary responsibility is to educate and train the aspiring farmers who come to work and learn on your farm. This checklist is offered to help you make the most of your participation in NABDAP and support your apprentices through the program.

Spring

- Encourage your apprentices to enroll in NABDAP and take advantage of the educational support that the program offers
- Set up a regular meeting schedule with apprentices (weekly or bi-weekly is suggested) to check in on their learning experience and review their farm journals
- Discuss opportunities for visits to other farms in your area for apprentices who have not yet completed at least 6 farm visits
- Review and provide feedback on apprentice independent project proposals

Summer

- At least once mid-season, review the NABDAP Skills Checklists with each apprentice to check in on what skills they have learned and which still need to be covered during the remainder of the season
- Continue regular meetings with apprentices
- Advise apprentices on independent projects as needed

Fall

- At the end of the season, complete an apprentice evaluation for each apprentice, and send directly to NABDAP program staff
- Review and sign completed Skills Checklists for each apprentice who will be leaving at the end of the season
- Review and provide feedback on apprentice independent project reports

Winter

- Look at your mentor farm listing on the NABDAP website (www.biodynamics.com/nabdap-mentor-farms) to ensure it accurately describes your farm and apprenticeship opportunities. Email program staff at nabdap@biodynamics.com with any changes
- If you would like assistance with finding apprentices for the coming season, tell the NABDAP coordinator. Upon request, we will post your apprenticeship openings to our web forum and highlight your farm via email to potential apprentices who have inquired about NABDAP
- As you interview and select new apprentices, let them know that you are a NABDAP mentor farm and they are eligible to enroll in the program (www.biodynamics.com/nabdap-becoming-an-apprentice)
- Review the NABDAP skills checklists with each apprentice who will be with you during the coming season, circling the skills that you will focus on for the coming season
- For second- or third-year apprentices, begin discussing independent project possibilities for the coming season