

SAUGEEN SCHOOL for SACRED AGRICULTURE

We are a learning community exploring the sacred in agriculture. There are three legs we feel hold up a Sacred Agriculture:

- First, is re-establishing a sacred relationship with nature and the Earth. This involves exploring a science and way of thinking that acknowledges the spiritual side of what we can experience with our senses. This is the kind of science we would like to inform our practical work on the land.
- Second, is to explore healthy social relationships. Healing our relationship with the Earth calls out for a change in our economic relationships, and our broader social structures. There is a powerful force in food and the land that can bring communities together.
- The third leg of a Sacred Agriculture lies deep within each of us. If we want to heal our relationship to the Earth and our social relationships, we really need to find a deep inner fulfillment in our own lives. To free our individual potentials, which requires healing on many levels, allows each of us to fully participate in what we find to be sacred.

Each of these legs helps support the other, and the concept of a Sacred Agriculture encourages this wholeness. We will be exploring these and other themes through workshops, presentations and in practice.

SAUGEEN RIVER CSA

Established in 1997 as a Biodynamic Community Supported Agriculture farm near Durham, Ontario. For more information see: www.saugeenrivercsa.com

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SAUGEEN SCHOOL for SACRED AGRICULTURE

Course schedule 2013-14



Exploring Biodynamic Farming and Gardening
with Cory Eichman at the Saugeen River CSA farm

www.saugeenrivercsa.com



Basics of Biodynamic Gardening 2013:

This series of workshops will give a basic practical foundation in Biodynamic gardening, and enough of a background to participate in the Individuality of the Farm course.

April 7 1-4pm- Starting Seeds in the Greenhouse: Learn about the four elements (earth, water, air and warmth) and how to balance them in the greenhouse with soil mixing and container selection, watering tools and techniques, ventilation considerations, and temperature control. We will also discuss the basics of working with

planetary rhythms in the Biodynamic planting calendar.

May 5 1-4pm- Soil Care and Horn Manure: Get your hands dirty when we look at how to prepare soil for planting. We will discuss what impact various hand and field tools have on the life in different types of soil, as well as different techniques for improving fertility. We will discuss and demonstrate using the Biodynamic Horn Manure preparation, and those who wish, can stay after for the one hour stir and spray of the preparation.

June 9 1-4pm – Garden Crops and Horn Silica: We will look at crop selection and rotation, cover cropping, garden layout, planting tools and techniques, weed management, insect and disease issues. Bring your garden map to talk about options. We will also discuss and demonstrate the use of the Biodynamic Horn Silica preparation.

July 7 1-4pm – Seed Saving: Learn the basic skills for saving your own vegetable, herb, and flower seeds. We will discuss considerations around isolation distancing/timing, rouging, and preventing inbreeding depression. We will look at and get to try simple ways of harvesting and cleaning different seed crops. We will see how our local Seeds of Transition seed growers network explores the social aspect of seeds.

August 11 1-4pm – Creating Compost: We will discuss the life of a compost pile, and learn about ingredients and applications of different types of compost. We will also introduce the Biodynamic compost preparations and how to use them.

These are rain or shine events, so please come dressed for the weather, and have footwear that can get wet or muddy.

Fee: \$40/workshop, or \$150 for all 5.

Advanced Course, Part I - The Individuality of the Farm:

This is an 8 month course, meeting one full Sunday each month starting in September 2013 and ending in April 2014.

The central image in Biodynamics is that a farm is healthiest if it can be organized as an independent Individuality. This means having the right kinds and number of animals to provide fertility to the land; having different environments (wetlands, meadows, forests, cultivated soil, flowering trees) to allow the farm to express different forms of life; balancing the crops you grow, with the soil, the climate, and the wildlife. We will explore how this can be a meaningful conversation with the land.

This is not a “how to farm Biodynamically” course, but rather a course designed to deepen and enhance the regular work you are already doing on your farm and in your garden. It is recommended that you have some practical experience in farming or gardening before taking this course.

Required texts: Rudolf Steiner’s *Agriculture* lectures, and his book *Theosophy*.

Dates and times: Sunday’s from 9am-4pm
September 29, October 27, November 24,
December 15, January 19, February 23, March 23, April 20



Fee: \$400 Registration deadline: September 1, 2013

Advanced course, Part II - Occult Science for Farmers:

This is a 5 month course, meeting one full Sunday a month from November 2013 to March 2014. Part I is a prerequisite.

When Rudolf Steiner gave his lectures on Agriculture in 1924, he suggested it would be helpful to know his two works: *Theosophy* and *Occult Science – an Outline*. Getting to know these works gives a firm foundation in Steiner’s scientific research, and helps clarify what initially seem like strange concepts in Biodynamics.

We will focus on the chapter covering the evolution of the solar system, the kingdoms of nature and humanity and explore how this relates to the elemental nature spirits that work behind the scenes of our every day work on the land.

Required Text: Rudolf Steiner’s *Occult Science: an Outline*, (also translated as *Outline of Esoteric Science*)

Dates and times: Sunday’s from 9am – 4pm. November 10, December 1, January 12, February 9, March 9 **Fee: \$250 Registration deadline: October 15, 2013**