

HANDS ON TRAINING with experienced mentor farmers

Classroom courses in BIODYNAMICS

NETWORK OF PEERS across North America



photo credit: Jessica Sabo

“As a mentor, it is important to me that apprentices make a deep commitment to their education. NABDAP provides a framework for training on both sides (mentor and apprentice) that helps this commitment become real.”

- Nathaniel Thompson, NABDAP Mentor Farmer

CERTIFICATION

Upon successful completion of the North American Biodynamic Apprenticeship Program, apprentices are awarded a certificate of achievement, presented at the Biodynamic Association's North American Conference.

NABDAP graduates are considered journeyman biodynamic and organic farmers, ready to take on a position of responsibility on a farm.

“I want to gain the power to nourish in a healthy and sustainable way. I want to work within and heighten my understanding of a biodynamic farm system through a program that enables not only hands-on training, but also educational opportunities.”

- Abby Zoltick, NABDAP apprentice



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**BIODYNAMIC
ASSOCIATION**

**BECOME A
BIODYNAMIC FARMER**



**North American Biodynamic
Apprenticeship Program**



photo credit: Cory Eichman

CLASSROOM STUDY

On-farm training is complemented by a classroom course in the philosophy and principles of biodynamics, including:

- Biodynamics in Context
- The Nature of the Human Being and the Earth
- The Earth's Celestial Environment
- The Dynamics of Soil, Plant and Animal Life
- Biodynamic Practices on the Farm
- The Social Context of the Farm



ON-FARM TRAINING & MENTORSHIP

NABDAP apprentices complete 24 months of ON-FARM TRAINING learning core FARMING SKILLS including:

- soil and plant management
- animal husbandry
- biodynamic preparations
- equipment and machinery
- business management

On-farm training is guided by skills checklists which help apprentices identify learning goals and document their progress.

Apprentices also keep a farm journal, and visit at least six other farms to gain a broader picture of farming possibilities and connect with other farmers and apprentices.

In their second year, apprentices design and carry out an independent project, such as keeping bees, installing a hedgerow, or managing a particular area of the farm.



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FINANCES

- \$100 enrollment fee (includes a one-year introductory membership in the Biodynamic Association)
- Apprentices pay tuition directly to the participating classroom course of their choice (financial assistance is available through the BDA's Biodynamic Scholarship Fund)
- Apprentices make their own arrangements with mentor farms regarding compensation and accommodations during on-farm training

“ I entered into biodynamics because I wanted to participate in an agricultural activity that was conscious, where farmers are awake to the true impact they have on the land and the earth as a whole. ”

- Megan Durney, NABDAP graduate