



## North American Biodynamic Apprenticeship Program

### Independent Project Guidelines

Each apprentice must complete an independent project to achieve certification through NABDAP, usually during their second year in the program. The project allows apprentices to develop more advanced skills in a particular area of interest, and to gain more experience in management and record-keeping. Apprentices should discuss the options for their independent project with both their mentor farmer and the regional coordinator at the beginning of the season. Projects should align with an apprentice's interests while also fitting reasonably into the scope of the farm.

The project will be completed in three stages:

#### 1. Design and Proposal

Apprentices are encouraged to spend some time observing their mentor farm to generate ideas for a project that can be beneficial to the farm and complement the farm's existing elements and systems. After discussing their ideas for the project with their mentor farmer and their regional coordinator, apprentices will conduct research and write a proposal for their project. The proposal should include:

- An overview of the proposed project
- Logistical details, including methodology, materials and sources, schedules, methods of documentation, and a proposed budget when appropriate
- A research bibliography

The completed proposal should be submitted to the mentor farmer, regional coordinator, and NABDAP central coordinator.

#### 2. Documentation

According to their proposed methods of documentation, apprentices will keep careful records of their project's progress. Documentation can take many forms, depending on the project itself. These might include daily or weekly observational journal entries, specific scientific data, photographs, or drawings.

#### 3. Final Report

When the project is concluded, apprentices will write a report of the project's outcomes. A draft should be submitted to the mentor farmer for review, and then the final report submitted to the mentor farmer, regional coordinator, and NABDAP central coordinator.

The final report should be at least three typed pages in length and include:

- An overview of the original proposed project
- A detailed description of the project's execution and results, citing from the relevant documentation collected during the project.
- A reflection on lessons learned
- Photos and/or drawings (if available)

Apprentices are also encouraged to make a presentation about their work to other apprentices or members of their community.