

## On-farm training and mentorship

Apprentices complete **24 months of on-farm training** on NABDAP mentor farms, located across the United States and Canada.



On-farm training is guided by NABDAP's comprehensive **skills checklists**, which cover:

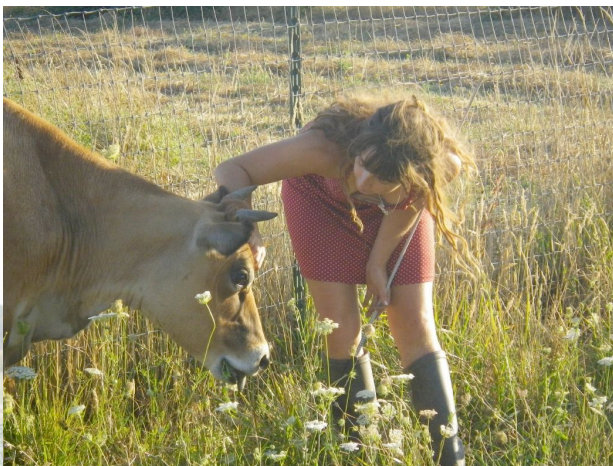
- \* plant cultivation and management
- \* animal husbandry
- \* biodynamic preparations
- \* equipment and machinery
- \* business management
- \* processing, crafts and construction

With their **mentor farmers**, apprentices use the checklists to identify and focus on the skills they wish to master, and to document their progress through the training.



While working and learning on NABDAP mentor farms, apprentices also:

- \* **keep a farm journal**
- \* **visit at least 6 other farms**
- \* **design and carry out an independent project**, such as keeping bees, building a chicken coop, or managing a small area of the farm.



## Classroom study

The on-farm training is complemented by a **course in biodynamic farming** through one of NABDAP's classroom programs.



Each program addresses essential topics in biodynamics, including:

- \* **the human world:** the threefold social organism, associative economics, evolution of humanity and the earth, paths of inner development
- \* **the biological world:** plants, animals, ecology, the biodynamic preparations, the farm individuality
- \* **the physical world:** geology, soils, climate, weather, astronomy, greenhouses, farm machinery

*"I got so much out of the winter intensive that I'm still absorbing it. It was a life-changing experience for many of us who took the course."*

- Monique, NABDAP apprentice



## Certification

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

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



*"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, Remembrance Farm

**To find out more about NABDAP and biodynamics, contact us at:**

- \* [www.biodynamics.com](http://www.biodynamics.com)
- \* [nabdap@biodynamics.com](mailto:nabdap@biodynamics.com)
- \* (262) 649-9212 ext. 5

*"I am motivated to enroll in the North American Biodynamic Apprenticeship Program because I want to be a farmer. I wanted to be more intentional about my farm education."*

- Ruth, NABDAP apprentice

**Biodynamics** is a worldwide movement for the renewal of agriculture based on an understanding of the spiritual forces at work in nature and in human social life. From this understanding, a particular form of organic farming has been developed that continues to grow and evolve around the world.

The **Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association** (BDA) is an association of individuals and organizations in North America who are committed to the transformation of the whole food system, from farm to table, and who draw inspiration from the spiritual-scientific insights of Rudolf Steiner.



Photo credits: Kimberley Barnes, The Pfeiffer Center and Jessica Sabo

# North American Biodynamic Apprenticeship Program



The **Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association's** two-year training and education program for **beginning organic and biodynamic farmers**

*"Through studying biodynamics I find myself in a constant state of learning what it is to farm... seeing all of nature working together, and how I can work with it to achieve real sustainable food production that is healthy on all accounts."*

- Jessica, NABDAP apprentice

**[www.biodynamics.com/nabdap](http://www.biodynamics.com/nabdap)**