



The Bio Dynamic Farming and
Gardening Assoc. in N.Z. Inc.

Founded on the work of Rudolf Steiner
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Read Me First

General information on biodynamics, Demeter and the Bio Dynamic Farming and Gardening Association, is available elsewhere on this website. A membership form can be found on the membership form page (use the back arrow in your browser to access a link to that page)

To apply for Demeter certification you will need the following documents, available from the same web page as this document (use the back arrow in your browser to access it)

- *The Farm Profile* template
- *The Management Plan* template
- *The Annual Report* form and several information sheets.
- The *Other Information* pages which include
 - *Advice on brought-in materials and livestock*
 - *List of unacceptable hybrid seeds*
 - *Demeter information bulletins*

You also need *Organic Production standards for Biodynamic Agriculture* (Demeter standards) – buy separately or download from www.biodynamic.org.nz/Demeter.

To become a biodynamic grower and get a Demeter certification you must use biodynamic methods on your property, and bring farm management within the Demeter standards.

You are recommended to read chapter 3 of the *Demeter Standards* – “How Demeter Certification Works” as soon as possible.

There is a minimum period of one year’s compliance with the Demeter standards required before your produce can be rated In conversion to Demeter, and a minimum of three years compliance before it can be rated full Demeter

The “clock” for the count-down to certification does not normally start until you file your application with Demeter New Zealand.

This will lead to an inspection which will confirm that your property is “on the record” with Demeter New Zealand but normally will not lead to an offer of certification on the first occasion. That can normally only happen a year later – after a second inspection. Shorter times may apply if your produce is already certified by BioGro New Zealand.

The normal sequence is

- Join the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association.
- Read the other information papers – they contain information you need.
- Prepare a farm profile according to the *Farm Profile Template*

- Prepare a farm management plan according to the *Management Plan Template*
- Complete (fill in) the *Annual Report Form* (this is also the application form)
- Make copies of documents for all brought-in materials and livestock (see last pages of Annual Report form)
- Forward: application form, profile; management plan; annual report; documentation for brought-in materials and livestock to the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association.

After that....

Registration

Following the initial inspection visit, your farm will be recorded as in the registration or C0 year (previously called the stand-down year). You will get a letter about this. You should next file an application for inspection around the anniversary of the visit. Therefore you should ask for the latest version of the application documents about two months before the first anniversary. Only after **this** inspection is it possible to offer certification. (Different procedures are available if you already have a certification from BioGro New Zealand.)

Inspection

- The start of the registration period (first year of change over) will be recorded as the date you filed your application, unless the inspection reveals reasons to postpone it (e.g. use of a prohibited material)
- Your documentation and your farming operation will be inspected.
- The inspection reports will be reviewed by the Demeter Assessment Group who will advise if there are any non-compliances with the standards.
- You will not be offered general advice on biodynamic management.

If you are already BioGro certified the times may be different – please enquire.

Cost

- Annual inspection and licensing fee is \$500 in the first year and \$450 after that, including GST, travel costs and prompt filing discount. Applies to both farmers and processors.
- Levies are paid on all produce sold as Demeter or In Conversion to Demeter.
- Levies are ½% on sales in first year of certification, 1% after that.
- Farmer's levy is based on farm-gate value at time of sale. Processor's levy is based on value added.
- Wine grapes are levied in a different manner: There is a levy of \$80 per hectare for the first 30 hectares of grapes, and \$10 per hectare on areas beyond that. Finished wine labelled Demeter is levied at 1c per litre.

See also flow chart overleaf



Flow chart for registration for Demeter New Zealand Certification

