



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

The Demeter application package consists of

- A document for **application for the type of service you want** – *The Registration Application Form*
- Other documents used by Demeter inspectors or Biodynamic Consultants – *The Farm Profile* template, *The Management Plan* template, *The Annual Report* form and several information sheets.
- Supplementary **information sheets** – *Advice on Brought-in Materials and Livestock* and *Sequence of Demeter activity*which are general information to go with all the other documents.
- Demeter information bulletins – found separately at www.biodynamic.org.nz/demeter.html

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

General information pamphlets on biodynamics, Demeter and the Bio Dynamic Farming and Gardening Association are available by post.

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.

The Demeter system has **two pathways to start toward certification**. In either case the “clock” for the count-down to certification does not normally start until you have had an on-site visit, but there are two types of visit:

- Advisory (provided by the Biodynamic Consultancy Society)
- Inspection (provided by Demeter New Zealand)

Neither type of visit leads to an offer of certification on the first occasion. That can normally only happen a year later – after a second visit, which must be inspection.

Most people choose the advisory path. The consultant will advise on general biodynamic management and his visit will put your farm “on the record”, so that time from then-on may be counted as part of the required conversion period.

If you choose the advisory path:

- Join the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association.

- Use *the Farm Profile* template to prepare a map and information document about you and your farm.

The purpose is threefold:

- To give the adviser background on your farm
 - To help you get the best out of the visit, by asking you to think about your farm in particular ways
 - For the Consultancy Society to choose an adviser with the right skills.
- Read the supplementary information papers – they contain information you need.
 - You don't need to complete Management Plan and Annual Report documents at this stage but use them as guides to the information you will need to collect over the coming year.
 - Forward the Application form, Farm Profile and map to the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association
 - Your application will be forwarded to the Association's partner organization, the Biodynamic Consultancy Society Inc.

If you choose the inspection path

- Join the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association.
- Read the supplementary 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*
- Complete 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 advisory or 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.

After an advisory visit, we suggest you complete your Management Plan as soon as you can.

Document review

You may have your Management Plan reviewed by Demeter inspectors, **before** the first anniversary. It won't lead to earlier certification but it can reduce time lost by you continuing to do things you don't realise the standards don't allow. To have a Management Plan review you will also need to supply an Annual Report and supplementary documents. A document review can bring to light non-compliances, but only those that are evident in what you have written.

Dummy inspection

A dummy inspection – that is one during the registration year, to have your operation fully checked for non-compliances – is possible also. This will give a definitive answer as to whether your farming practices will be compliant.

Why should I choose advisory or inspection for my first visit?

If you choose advisory

- The registration period (first year of change over) is recorded as starting the day of the consultant's visit
- You get general advice and information on biodynamic farming specific to your property
- You get limited advice on Demeter requirements, but you will not get a full scrutiny of your operations for Demeter acceptability. It is therefore possible that the consultant will not be able to advise you of non-compliances with the standards – it is not his task to gather all the necessary information.
- It is possible that a non-compliance may not be identified until the inspection a year later. Non-compliances can delay certification.

If you choose inspection

- The start of the registration period (first year of change over) will be recorded as the date of the inspection
- 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.

See also flow chart overleaf



Flow chart for registration for Demeter New Zealand Certification

