

Farm Profile Template



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

Founded on the work of Rudolf Steiner
PO Box 39045, Wellington Mail Centre
Phone 0-4-589 5366, fax 0-4-589 5365
E-mail: biodynamics@clear.net.nz



Dec 04

The Farm Profile Template for Demeter Certification

Purpose of this form:

- ◆ To provide background to your farm for the Demeter Assessment Group.
- ◆ To make you aware (as you go through it) of things you may have overlooked about your farm management.
- ◆ To complement the *Management Plan* which describes current situation and forward plans
- ◆ To complement the *Annual Report* which records details from the last reporting period.

Most of the information requested here is likely to change little from year to year.

When working through this questionnaire for the first time:

- ◆ You may find that an electronic master copy will be the easiest in the long run. There is no particular form – just use a blank word processing page and follow the template.
- ◆ **If not on computer, your profile must still be typed.** If you use a typewriter, leave room for future additions.
- ◆ Read this guide through to the end, before starting, so as to avoid unnecessary duplication.
- ◆ Keep the whole farm in mind.
- ◆ Aim to give a complete, clear picture.
- ◆ Include photos if you have them – add notes to them in the text at applicable points.
- ◆ Complete **all** the sections. If any item does not apply, say so and why in your profile. (e.g. for the item in 2.2 Soils "Provide copies of soil tests if you have them" some might write that no soil tests have been done)
- ◆ Use new, A4 (magazine size) paper. Other sizes are not acceptable.
- ◆ Don't use colour coding on maps – it can't be copied. Use shading, cross hatching, etc. Maps no bigger than A3 (twice A4). No tracings or aerial photos.

When you have finished this questionnaire:

- ◆ **Keep a master copy, either on paper or electronically.** You will refer to it during the year and also when filing amendments. (If you don't keep a copy you may incur a lot of extra work!)
- ◆ Send a copy in with the other Demeter papers – *Management Plan, Annual Report*
- ◆ Send only a copy on paper – not electronic

In the future:

- ◆ You will need to notify amendments.
- ◆ Amendments should be filed by sending in a complete revised Profile with changes tracked.
- ◆ A master copy – especially an electronic one – that you can make changes to will be invaluable.

Don't forget to keep a high quality master copy for next year!

1 HISTORY AND PAST DEVELOPMENT

<p>1.1 Introduction and historical overview</p>	<p>Provide a brief overview of the business and its recent history. Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession date or the date you became manager. • Brief details of the history of the property over the past 5 years. • Past land uses • Past management systems • Development work undertaken (<i>e.g. established dairy unit in 1997, drainage programme completed 1996, ongoing establishment of shelter, etc.</i>) • Information on all sectors of the business and their relative significance/importance.
<p>1.2 Personal biographical information</p>	<p>Voluntary section, for information about yourself and co-workers You could include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past experience of biodynamic farming/certification • Education • Training in farming/organics/biodynamics • Other information you consider may be relevant to biodynamic farming and growing. (<i>This information may help reduce any conditions imposed on a grant of certification.</i>)
<p>1.3 Past practices</p>	<p>Identify past practices that could affect your ability to produce biodynamic products within the Demeter Standards. Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past heavy DDT or other agrichemical use • Past permanent cropping programmes, grazing practices, off-site sources of contamination of your production areas, impure water sources, etc. • A copy of a soil multi residue test, including DDT, if you have one. • Details and dates of last prohibited, non Demeter practices, including known chemical and fertiliser use. • Name any consultants you have used, including unpaid ones.
<p>1.4 Programme of conversion</p>	<p>Give an overview of the programme of conversion. Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date farm first started to convert to biodynamic or organic management • Details of changes in management to date, during the conversion period. • List of past quality assurance audits, inspections, outside reviews, and accreditations, including health authority certificates. • Date of first application of the biodynamic field spray preparations.

2 FARM PHYSICAL DETAIL

<p>2.1 Farm profile map</p>	<p>Supply a farm map or maps (no bigger than A3, black & white only). Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of fields, tracks, buildings, etc. – link to question 2.2 below • General aspect and topography – link to question 2.3 below, no. 1. • Prevailing winds – link to question 2.4 below • Location of crops and permanent plantings • Location and types of trees, shelter belts etc. • Soil type(s) – link to question 2.3 below • Water sources and irrigation bores and systems if applicable. • Location of effluent ponds and drainage systems. • Location of the neighbouring properties for question 2.7 below • Location of any areas not biodynamically farmed, and natural unfarmed areas. <p>Note: Coloured maps, large maps, tracings or aerial photos are not acceptable</p>
<p>2.2 Specialist buildings</p>	<p>Detail specialist buildings for packing, post-harvest management. Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure type of building (<i>e.g. 20 position herringbone milking shed</i>) stated on map – question 2.1 above. • Supply information where necessary to show how used – where design is unusual or unique to your enterprise, and name is insufficient. • Plans where necessary to supplement information in point 2 above. • Chemical storage buildings – ensure they are on map of question 2.1 above • Biodynamic preparation storage facilities
<p>2.3 Soils</p>	<p>Identify and describe all soil types. Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basement rocks occurring on the property. • Copies of any soil nutrient tests you may have. • Any residue test results you hold, with information on how samples were taken. • Description of topography and aspect.
<p>2.4 Climate</p>	<p>Describe the climate. Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean annual rainfall and rainfall distribution through the year, • Temperatures – normal maximum and minimum, variation during the year (<i>e.g. days and levels; sunshine hours.</i>) • Frosts – what and when • Prevailing winds and wind run
<p>2.5 Water</p>	<p>Give details of all water sources used. Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water used for: ♦ livestock ♦ biodynamic preparations ♦ shed cleaning ♦ produce processing ♦ irrigation ♦ liquid manures ♦ other purposes. • Details of all water catchment areas, including rain water collected. • Details of contamination risks and resulting water quality. • Any water tests results you hold (bacteriological and chemical residue), with information on how samples were taken.
<p>2.6 Cultural values</p>	<p>Identify any features that might be of cultural, environmental or recreational value to you or any other persons. Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How you protect and enhance these values, for areas such as pa sites, wet lands, native bush, coastal, hunting or food gathering areas.
<p>2.7 Neighbouring activities</p>	<p>Describe all neighbouring activities. Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contamination risks from water, fertiliser, spray and livestock, fire; including buffer zones. Show threats on map (q. 2.1 above) where relevant. • Mention high voltage power lines, gas pipelines, major roads, etc.