

Other Demeter Information

This document contains the following:

- Advice on brought-in materials and livestock
- List of permitted brassica seeds
(Complied by Demeter Netherlands. Updates posted at <http://www.demeter-bd.nl/Downloads/PositieveLijstPPF.pdf>)
- Notes to the Annual Report form
- Notes to the Management Plan template
- Demeter Bulletins 1 & 2
- Demeter forms checklist



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

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Brought-in Materials and Livestock

Guidance for Demeter Licensees and Applicants for Demeter Certification

- A. Written descriptions of all brought in materials and livestock – certificates from the supplier – are to be obtained by all Demeter licensees and applicants.
- B. Check the documentation against the Demeter standards for acceptability and/or your further obligations. E.g. if you get a less than one year history of animal remedies, you must quarantine the animal for a year.
- C. Collect documents **before** the material or animal is brought-in. (“Check before cheque”). Copy the documents to accompany your annual report and retain the originals so the inspector can see them if needed.
- D. If you are relying on the supplier being Demeter or BioGro certified remember that certification is a licence to the **supplier to say** that produce is certified. If the supplier **doesn't say** it's certified, it **may not be**. So
 1. Get something in writing (e.g. label, invoice, supplier letter) showing that what is supplied **is** so certified.
 2. Obtain a copy of the Bio-Gro or Demeter certificate – the supplier's authority to say that it's certified. Better still, download and print out the relevant page from lists on the BioGro website (www.bio-gro.co.nz). These are revised weekly and sometimes tell you that approval has been withdrawn even though a printed certificate hasn't expired.
- E. This memorandum refers only to BioGro certified organic materials and livestock. Materials and livestock with other certifications can be considered on a case by case basis. Consult the Demeter office.

Genetically Engineered Organisms

1. For anything that could be a GMO, or a product of one e.g. vegetable oil, get a statement from the supplier that the product is from GE free origins. All plant material must be so documented.

Animal Feeds

2. All brought-in feeds should be Demeter or In Conversion to Demeter if available or BioGro certified if not. Obtain documentation as in D above. Use of uncertified feeds requires **prior permission** according to s 7.5.2.5 of the standards, p 67. Use of uncertified feed may lead to loss of certification.

Soil Fertility and Conditioning Materials

3. For mineral fertilisers like RPR. Use BioGro approved products and get documentation as in D above.
4. For sawdust, wood chips, bark etc. Get a statement signed by the supplier saying that no timber preservatives or anti-sapstain treatments are used (post harvest) in the mill or the area the material comes from. (If something's used at the mill or felling site, assume it gets into the sawdust or bark.) If the material is pine waste, presume it has chemicals in it, unless it can be proven otherwise.

5. For ready-made manures such as compost, liquid fish, liquid seaweed etc brought-in from other Demeter certified farmers, get a signed statement of how the material was made, including what biodynamic preparations from approved sources were used.

6. For ready-made manures such as compost, liquid fish, liquid seaweed etc brought-in from other BioGro approved sources get documentation as in D above. Check that the product contains no Demeter prohibited ingredients such as humates. (see standards tables 5-1 and 6-1 for permitted ingredients.) Also: Read the standards for details of how such manures must be made or further processed to avoid being prohibited materials.

7. For animal manures and raw plant materials, including old hay and silage from Demeter or BioGro certified farms, get a signed statement that the materials are from Demeter or BioGro certified land and/or livestock. Also get a copy of the certificate or printout as in D above. Manures from another farmer's quarantine paddock are from uncertified land -- see no 8 below.

8. For animal manures and raw plant materials, including old hay and silage from uncertified land, get a signed statement saying what chemicals have been used on the animals or plants in the last 12 months. Unless the source is already approved, the statement should be forwarded to the Demeter office **before** the material is brought-in. **Prior permission is required** to use plant and animal materials from conventional sources (see tables 5-1 and 6-1) and a residue test or other measures will be required if the Demeter Assessment Group decides the facts indicate them. Remember...The standards also require all brought in plant or animal manures to be composted, except for approved mulch materials, or if special permission has been given.

Livestock

9. For livestock from Demeter or BioGro farms, get a signed statement from the supplier stating the current certification status, including that the animal has received no treatments except as permitted by the standards. Also get a copy of the certificate or printout as in D above. The information should show a full treatment history for the previous 12 months. Certified farms sometimes dispose of stock because they no longer meet the standards. e.g. after an emergency drug treatment. Livestock coming from certified farms without proof of their status should be treated as uncertified.

10. For uncertified livestock a full history for the last year is also required. In its absence the quarantine period is one year. This can be reduced if appropriate and reliable documentation is available. See standards page 77.

Seeds and plant materials

11. For seeds and plant from Demeter or BioGro suppliers, where the grower is licensed for certified seeds or plants, get documentation as in D above. If the grower is not licensed for certified seeds or plants, get a signed statement that the seeds or plants have been grown to the standards, plus a copy of the certificate or printout as in D above.

12. Seeds and plants from other sources. Uncertified seeds and plants may only be sourced if no organically certified alternatives are available. See Demeter Bulletin No 2 (February 2009, available from www.biodynamic.org.nz) for prior management plan requirements. If your approved management plan allows uncertified plants or seeds, collect documentation to show they are GE free and that seeds are untreated.

Remember:

Documentation is not a substitute for your own judgment. It's an additional precaution. Don't bring in any materials that might compromise your certification. Check them carefully first.

Positieve lijst / Positive list

Groenterassen zonder Protoplasmatische celfusietechnieken (PPF) / Niet CMS-Hybriden Vegetable varieties without protoplasmic cell fusion techniques (PPF) / Non CMS hybrids

Versie / version: November 2011 / November 2011

De Demeter-voorwaarden sluiten rassen waarop cytoplasma of protoplasma celfusie technieken (PPF) zijn toegepast uit. Hybrides met de eigenschap Cytoplasmatische Manlijke Steriliteit (CMS) kunnen tot stand zijn gebracht door één van deze celfusietechnieken. Er wordt een fusie tot stand gebracht van celmateriaal van twee verschillende plantsoorten, die niet normaal gekruist kunnen worden. Zo wordt genetisch materiaal ingebracht in een andere plantensoort. Dit valt volgens de definities van de Europese Commissie onder de genetische manipulatie. Maar aangezien het als "kleine gentech" wordt bestempeld, vallen deze hybriden buiten alle regelgeving rond registratie en aanduiding. PPF-hybrides mogen daarmee ook worden ingezet in de biologische landbouw. Voor Demeter-bedrijven zijn PPF-hybrides verboden. Daarom is deze positieve lijst opgesteld met rassen die wel mogen worden ingezet.

The Demeter Standards exclude seeds and plant material produced using protoplasm and cytoplasm fusion techniques. Cytoplasmic Male Sterility (CMS) may be created by either of these cell fusion techniques. The cell material of two varieties is forced to combine - something that can not occur using traditional breeding techniques. In this way genetic material is inserted in another type of plant. According to the definitions of the European Committee this is genetic manipulation. But because it is considered "small gentech" these hybrids are excluded from all regulations on registration and labelling as they are seen as NOT being genetically modified. Therefore PPF hybrids can be used in organic agriculture. However, they are not permitted on Demeter certified farms. Therefore this positive list is made with varieties that can be grown.

Let op: Veredelaars die niet op deze lijst vermeld worden hebben geen niet PPF-hybrides in het assortiment, of leveren geen informatie.

Take care: Breeders that are not listed underneath do not have non PPF hybrids in their product gamma or do not supply information.

De volgende zaadleveranciers leveren geen PPF-hybriden:
The following seed companies do not supply PPF hybrids:

**Noot: Hild en Rijk Zwaan hebben wel PPF-hybride rassen in het gangbaar, niet-ontsmette segment!
Notification: Hild and Rijk Zwaan do have PPF hybrids in the non-disinfected conventional gamma!**

Bejo
Bingenheimer Saatgut AG
De Bolster
Hild (biologisch assortiment/organic varieties)
Rijk Zwaan (biologisch assortiment/organic varieties)
ReinSaat
Sativa
Vitalis

Positieve lijst van niet PPF-hybrides:

Positive list of non PPF hybrids:

Bejo	Talbot F1	Jerome F1	Reflex F1	Santee F1
Bloemkool / Cauliflower	Tarifa F1	Madiot F1	Ripbor F1	Chinese kool / Chinese cabbage
Amazing F1	Telde F1	Medaillon F1	Starbor F1	Bilko F1
Altamira F1	Pamplona F1	Nomad F1	Winterbor F1	Emiko F1
Balboa F1	Bloemkool- Winter/ Winter Cauliflower	Paciano F1	Broccoli / Broccoli	Kaboko F1
Basan F1	Amor F1	Picasso F1	Batavia F1	Manoko F1
Bejo 2841	Amadeus F1	Sidor F1	Beaumont F1	Mirako F1
Belot F1	Balak F1	Tancredo F1	Fiesta F1	Nikko F1
Fargo F1	Bejo 2716	Vogue F1	Lucky F1	Sumiko F1
Flamenco F1	Bejo 2781	Bloemkool groen / Cauliflower green	Belstar F1	Taranko F1
Marbella F1	Burt F1	Bejo 2837 F1	Broccoli / Sprouting Broccoli	
Megan F1	Cameron F1	Panther F1	Burbank F1	
Meridot F1	Chester F1	Boerenkool / Kale	Mendocino F1	
Oviedo F1	Corella F1	Maribor F1	Pozo F1	
Pierot F1	Fortrose F1	Redbor F1	Rioja F1	
Salou F1	Fredor F1			
Sevilla F1	Invicta F1			
Skywalker F1				
Stargate F1				

Positieve lijst / Positive list

Groenterassen zonder Protoplasmatische celfusietechnieken (PPF) / Niet CMS-Hybriden
Vegetable varieties without protoplasmic cell fusion techniques (PPF) / Non CMS hybrids

Versie / version: November 2011 / November 2011

Koolrabi / Kohlrabi

Kolibri F1
Konmar F1
Kordial F1
Korist F1
Korridor F1
Kossak F1

Koolraap / Swede

Emily F1
Helenor F1
Tyne F1
Tweed F1

Meiraap / Turnip

Globe F1
Purple Top White
F1

Rode kool / Red cabbage

Autoro F1
Buscaro F1
Caballero F1
Cairo F1
Huzaro F1
Integro F1
Klimaro F1
Kosaro F1
Lectro F1
Maestro F1
Pesaro F1
Primero F1
Subaro F1
Travero F1

Romanesco / Romanesco

Piramide F1
Tipoff F1
Veronica F1
White Gold F1

Savooiekool / Savoy cabbage

Alcosa F1
Barbosa F1
Cantasa F1
Clarissa F1
Darsa F1
Famosa F1
Firensa F1
Melissa F1
Ovasa F1
Paresa F1
Produsa F1

Sabrosa F1
Temprosa F1
Wintessa F1
Wirosa F1

Spitskool / Chinese cabbage

Caraflex F1
Caramba F1
Duncan F1
Excel F1
Fernando F1
Hispi F1
Jason F1
Murdoc F1
Samantha F1

Spruitkool / Brussels sprouts

BE 2844 F1
BE 2853 F1
BE 2854 F1
BE 2776 F1
Davlin F1
Diablo F1
Dimitri F1
Divino F1
Dominator F1
Doric F1
Franklin F1
Irene F1
Nautic F1
Neptuno F1
Revenge F1
Valencia F1

Winterkool / Winter cabbage

Deadon F1
Petrosa F1
Renton F1
Stanton F1

Witte kool / white cabbage

Alfredo F1
Almanac F1
Amazon F1
Bajonet F1
Bartolo F1
Bently F1
Beira F1
Bejo 2801 F1
Bejo 2818 F1
Bingo F1
Bronco F1
Budena F1

Cabton F1
Cambria F1
Candela F1
Cassandra F1
Colmar F1
Counter F1
Cyclone F1
Destiny F1
Discover F1
Drago F1
Eton F1
Expect F1
Farao F1
Fieldglory F1
Fieldwinner F1
Gazelle F1
Gunma F1
Hinova F1
Hurricane F1
Impala F1
Jaguar F1
Jubilee F1
Krautkaiser F1
Krautman F1
Lennox F1
Mandy F1
Megaton F1
Mentor F1
Padoc F1
Paradox F1
Parel F1
Perfecta F1
Reaction F1
Rivera F1
Score F1
Sircon F1
Slawdena F1
Surprise F1
Tiara F1
Transam F1
Typhoon F1
Zerlina F1

Clause

Bloemkool / Cauliflower

Aviso F1
Nautilus F1

Enza Zaden / Enza Seeds

Witlof / Chicory

Endora F1
Redoria F1

Nunhems

Witlof / Chicory

Focus F1
Novus F1
Vintor F1

Rijk Zwaan (niet bio/non organic)

Bloemkool / Cauliflower

Casper F1
Gregor F1
Eva F1
Opaal F1

Koolrabi / Kohlrabi

Cindy F1
Eder F1
Lahn F1
Lech F1

Rode kool / Red cabbage

Resima F1
Redma F1
Reguma F1
Rexoma F1
Rodima F1
Futurima F1

Savooie kool / Savoy cabbage

Estrema F1
Margot F1
Morama F1

Spitskool / Chinese cabbage

Sonsma F1
Tourima F1

Witte kool / White cabbage

Adema F1
Ancoma F1
Chesma F1
Cilema F1
Jetma F1
Kalorama F1
Manama F1
Marcello F1
Mucsuma F1
Naoma F1
Oklahoma F1
Oriema F1

Rayma F1
Selma F1
Storema F1
Sufama F1
Tocamo F1
Tolsma F1
Zuleima F1

Sakata

Bloemkool / Cauliflower

Candid Charme F1
Cashmere F1
White Exel F1

Broccoli / Broccoli

Marathon F1
Naxos F1

Chinese kool / Chinese cabbage

Richi F1
Suteki F1
Tabaluga F1
Yuki F1

Koolrabi / Kohlrabi

Quickstar F1

Paksoi / Paksoi

Canton Dwarf F1
Joy Choi F1
Mei Qing Choi F1
SC8-104 F1
Yang Qing Choi F1

Rode kool / Red cabbage

Red Jewel F1
Varna F1

Roma kool / Flat cabbage

Atlas F1

Savooiekool / Savoy cabbage

Estoril F1
Caserta F1

Salade kool / Salad cabbage

Sennen F1

Positieve lijst / Positive list

Groenterassen zonder Protoplasmatische celfusietechnieken (PPF) / Niet CMS-Hybriden
Vegetable varieties without protoplasmic cell fusion techniques (PPF) / Non CMS hybrids

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Spitskool / Chinese cabbage

Cape Horn F1

Witte kool / white cabbage

Candisa F1
Charmant F1
Coronet F1
Elisa F1
Tenacity F1

Seminis

Bloemkool / Cauliflower

Sublime F1
Baldo F1
Fremont F1
Appia F1
Amiata F1
Tonale F1
Terminillo F1
Trewint F1

Broccoli / Broccoli

Fellow F1
Iron F1
Steel F1
Legacy

Witte kool / white cabbage

Pandion F1
Hermes F1
Saint F1
Rinda F1
Tobia F1
Menzania F1
Vestri F1
Ambrosia F1
Kolia F1
Atria F1
Beltis F1
Arrivist F1
Ammon F1
Furios F1
Fundaxy F1
Galaxy F1
Kronos F1

Rode kool / Red cabbage

Anoxa F1
Zelox F1
Rona F1
Roxy F1

Syngenta

Spruitkool / Brussels sprouts

Romulus F1

Witte kool / white cabbage

Ramco F1

Vitalis

Bloemkool / Cauliflower

Edith F1

Koolrabi / Kohlrabi

Vikora F1
Olivia F1

Witlof / Chicory

Metafora F1
Yellora F1

New features of the form

- Several tables have been combined and some eliminated.
- Most tables now have a column headed “Refer to document number”. It replaces the list of supplementary documents previously at the end of the report.

How to use this column:

- When you write something you used in one of the tables, you usually have a supplementary document e.g. receipt, map, organic certificate – to go with it.
 - Give this document a number
 - Put the number in the column
 - Put the document at the end of the report (Do not insert between pages; do not use colour highlighting)
- All brought-in materials and livestock should have supplementary documentation

If any form you need is missing, it may be available on our website. Otherwise contact us for a copy.

About maps. They must be black and white drawings only

We don't need a separate map for every item, but it's important not to have too much detail on any one map. Most applicants will need to supply only one or two maps.

Do not send coloured maps, aerial photos, or maps bigger than A3 (2xA4, or 420x297mm). We need to copy them but we can't copy those.

Suggestion:

Make a master copy map of your farm. Keep from year to year.

For each map you need to supply, start with a photocopy of the master then add other detail.

About particular questions

Q1. Declaration. Don't forget to sign and date this – a number of people do. Check that the bit about your information appearing on our website reads as you want it to, or change it.

Q2. Exemptions. Dehorning and running dehorned cattle require exemptions. So do use of non-organic seeds and plants. A reason is needed. Exemptions **must** be renewed each year or they lapse.

Q3. Breakdown of land managed. Include all land, not just what you want certified.

Q4. Preparations, etc. In this table you tell us what field preparations, composts and liquid manures you **used**; in Q8 or Q9 you tell us what you **made**.

Q7. Brought-in manures, etc.

As well as filling out this table you supply supplementary documents such as BioGro certificate and invoice for the batch (referring to BioGro certified product) to show it was within the standards.

Q9. List what preparations you made here and the number you give the preparation record form

Q. 10 Spray diary. The example on the form is for a block of stone fruit sprayed with Kocide DF (dry flowable) to prevent brown rot.

More about copper sprays:

The standards allow a maximum of 3kg of copper per hectare per year on (only) those crops that are permitted to be sprayed with copper.

How much can spray can I use?

What's the active ingredient is in the spray you want to use? Check label of product. If it's Copper hydroxide, that's 65% copper (or 0.65 as a decimal). Divide by 0.65, and by percentage of active ingredient expressed as a decimal.

E.g. The label for SuperGlugg copper says it's 50% (0.5) w/w copper hydroxide as a wettable powder.

Amount of SuperGlugg permitted (per ha per yr) = $3\text{kg} \div 0.65 \div 0.50$
= 9.23 kg

If the active ingredient is stated as "copper", divide by the percentage expressed as a decimal.

E.g. The label for ExtraGlugg says it's 28 percent w/w copper in a wettable powder

Amount of ExtraGlugg permitted (per ha per yr) = $3\text{kg} \div 0.28$
= 10.7 kg

Bordeaux or Burgundy mixtures, use blue copper sulphate crystals. These are mostly water and only about 25% copper. So the limit is 12kg of blue copper sulphate per hectare per year.

The above figures convert approximately to

Per acre per year:

1.21 kg of copper

1.86 kg of copper hydroxide

4.85 kg of copper sulphate.

Per m² per year:

0.3 grams of copper

0.46 grams of copper hydroxide

1.2 grams of copper sulphate.

Copper limits are being progressively reduced to zero by some overseas organic laws, and all NZ standards may have to follow suit.

Q16. Manure Pressure

How much nitrogen do my livestock add to the soil each year? This is particularly important if feed is brought-in and the nitrogen in it adds to what is fixed by your own clover.

Demeter International requires manure calculations to be done wherever there are livestock. Default figures for the amount of nitrogen produced are printed on the form. If you have better information, for example from feed budget calculations, please supply it.

Q17. Livestock reconciliation. Please check that the figures add up at the bottom – otherwise there is a mistake somewhere. Example

Breed & type	Opening stock numbers	Closing stock numbers
Perendale ewes mixed ages	45	40
Perendale rams	4	4
Perendale lambs	0	80
Galloway cows mixed ages	3	0
Galloway steers	25	22
Changes	Gains (Born or brought-in)	Losses (Killed, died, sold, culled, etc)
Perendale lambs born	80	
Galloway cows sold		2
Galloway cows killed		1
Galloway steers killed		3
Totals (should be equal)	45+4+0+3+25+80=157	40+4+80+0+22+2+1+3=152

In this example the totals do not match -- the information is incomplete. 5 Perendale ewes are not accounted for. A line is missing saying

Perendale ewes died		5
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Once this is added the totals will now both be 157.

Q19. May include **brought-in feed**. There are several examples given here.

Feed calculations.

Inspectors calculate brought-in feed and grazing as follows:

1 s.u. eats approx 520 kg DM/yr

Calculate total DM in any uncertified brought-in feed. (See farming publications or websites for tables of amount of dry matter in various types of feed.)

Calculate grazing-off - what percentage of the relevant period (see standards) did any animal spend away? Convert this to kg of DM eaten while away.

Add brought-in uncertified feed to find total uncertified feed.

What percentage of the total feed is this?

Consult standards to check allowable limits. Daily limits may also apply.

Calculation example:

E.g. 2 standard small bales of uncertified hay per day are fed to 20 Friesian milking cows.

One bale is about 18kg dry matter.

So total uncertified feed fed per day = 2×18
= 36 kg DM/day

A Friesian is approx 8 s.u., so her total feed (approx) = $20 \times 8 \times 520$
= 83,200 kg DM per year,

Or = $83,200 \text{ kg} \div 365 \text{ kg DM/day}$

Or = 228 kg DM/day

Percent of uncertified feed fed = $(36 \div 228) \times 100$
= 15.8 %, well over the limit.

Q22. Brought-in livestock. In the example, the quarantine period would be $2 \times 21 = 42$ days, but is reduced by the 30 days between drenching and the livestock being brought-in.

Q23.1 NZ customers. If you are supplying large customers, such as distributors on a regular and substantial basis, please list them. Other customers can be grouped and reported by type, such as "Mail order", "Gate sales", "Smithton farmer's market".

Q.23.2 Export customers. Note that the standards require you to notify Demeter New Zealand before exporting.

Additional notes to the Management Plan template.

A well drafted Management Plan will need little revision from year to year. However, you should retain an electronic copy in case changes are needed

Changes to your plan

When you make changes to your plan we need a revised version with **all the changes showing**. We must be able to see

- What has been added
- What has been deleted

We will need to photocopy your Management Plan, so all changes must be visible when copied in black and white. Colour shading or lettering is not acceptable on its own.

The easiest ways of showing changes are

In Microsoft Word – use the track changes function, accessible via the Review menu in Word 2007 (.docx files) or via the Tools menu in earlier versions (.doc files)

In Open Office – use the Changes option in the Edit menu, and select record.

If set properly these will

- Underline new text
- Cross out deleted text but leave it visible

They may also show the changed text in colour but this does not matter as long as the colour will copy well to black and white. Don't use yellow, for example.

Your plan for brought-in seeds and plants

You may want permission to bring-in uncertified (but GE free) seeds or plants because you are unable to buy certified ones. (Seeds must be untreated). This permission must be obtained **before** the plants or seeds are brought-in. We prefer to give you permission to follow a procedure in your Management Plan to find out what is available and then make

your own decision, but if you don't have an approved procedure you must contact Demeter NZ each time you want to bring in uncertified seeds or plants.

The procedure should be clear and practical and state exactly what information you will gather and how you will use it. Some people write things like "We check to see whether Demeter seeds are available, and if not then we..." This **can't be accepted** as it doesn't say where you check or what "available" means to you.

Here is an example of the sort of procedure we are seeking:

First we seek Demeter seeds through these sources: *{fill in this bit to suit your own farming – you could list Demeter growers to contact, then contacting BD Association for a list of national growers}*

If none of these sources leads to supply of Demeter seeds, we seek certified organic seeds through these sources *{fill in this bit to suit your own farming: e.g. could include searching BioGro certified seed growers list from www.biogro.co.nz, asking www.kingsseeds.co.nz, www.ecoseeds.co.nz, www.italianseedspronto.co.nz, searching AsureQuality organic registrants www.asurequality.com, perhaps Koanga seeds, maybe others e.g. SPS, plus Google check for organic seeds in NZ}*

If we cannot get Demeter or certified organic seeds as above, we will source uncertified seeds from *{fill in this bit to suit your own farming - normal seed merchants.}* We will make sure that the seed merchant knows we would have preferred certified organic. We will purchase these seeds only where a signed declaration is supplied with them that they are untreated and GE free. If NZ grown seeds are stocked these are preferred as this greatly reduces the risk of chemical or GE contamination.

The requirement to use certified Demeter seeds, or certified organic if Demeter ones are not available does not require you to choose a cultivar that doesn't suit your needs.

Permission based on a Management Plan statement as above must be renewed each year.

Demeter
Information
Bulletins

Demeter New Zealand Bulletin No 1 January 2008

This is our first bulletin on technical matters. If you have comments that would help us improve it, please let us know.

Coming work

The Demeter inspectors meet to review their year and plan for the future on 10 & 11 January – probably just as you get this document. **If you have any matters you would like them to consider, please contact your inspector immediately.**

Following that, David Wright will be participating in a Demeter International certification workshop in Switzerland at the beginning of February.

Varroa Mite

If Biosecurity New Zealand requires Apistan strips in a hive for testing purposes:

- a. The licensee is to obtain from Biosecurity New Zealand a statement of what has been done
- b. The strips should stay in the hive for no longer than 24 hours
- c. If the strips stay in the hive for more than 24 hours the hive shall be moved to uncertified land, such as the quarantine paddock.
- d. The hive products from treated hives will not be certified at this stage.
- e. Provided that the above requirements are met, certification of other products will not be affected.

BioGro certificates

BioGro has developed an alternative procedure to requesting the supplier for a copy of the BioGro certificate for the product.

The procedure is to go on-line to the BioGro website www.biogro.co.nz and follow the links via “Farm Inputs” to the product you are proposing to buy. E.g. www.biogro.co.nz / Farm Inputs / Soil and Plant Nutrition Management (for fertilisers)

Once you have located the product print the page and keep it on file. You will see that the date posted is printed at the bottom of the page – BioGro updates these pages weekly, and the date should correspond to the week you purchase the material. Old pages are not relevant, as approval may have been withdrawn in the meantime.

The printed page is an alternative to a copy of a current BioGro certificate.

Demeter International evaluation

Rienk ter Braake conducted the partner evaluation of Demeter New Zealand in July, visiting the office and a half dozen licensees. As a result Demeter New Zealand has some corrective actions to attend to, just as farmers often do after an inspection. Some relate to

internal procedures and a few are requests for standards changes that will affect licensees directly. They are:

1. Poultry manure. Demeter standards already prohibit the use of manure from unethical systems such as battery hen houses. Demeter International asks for it to be restricted to coming from certified organic sources only.
2. Blood products (blood and bone, dried blood, etc.) Demeter International has adopted the European rules against the use of any blood products in soil fertility management and asks Demeter New Zealand to do the same.
3. Conversion period. Demeter International allows the conversion of the farm over five years while the New Zealand standards allow seven.

The Demeter Standards Committee is still considering numbers 1 & 2, but has agreed to recommend change no. 3 to the Council of the Bio Dynamic Farming and Gardening Association. If you have comments, please let us know.

Exemptions

There are some cases where New Zealand can allow exemptions from the Demeter International standards. De-horning of cattle is an example – Demeter International standards do not allow for de-horning but New Zealand can allow exemptions, but they must be renewed each year. The inspector will discuss exemptions with you during the visit, and record any requests for standards exemptions for consideration during assessment.

Another situation where exemptions may be considered is that something that is technically a non-compliance but could reasonably be allowed. Examples are

1. Non-organic seeds are used in the home garden for personal use only, but are not fully documented. According to the standards all land under the management of the licensee must meet the standards, whether the licensee wants the products certified or not. The standards require all brought-in seeds to be documented.
2. The licensee has several hens for home egg supply – the eggs are not sold off the farm. The hens are fed household scraps including non-organic food, but the standards require organic feed.

Both the above are technically non-compliances but have been allowed in the past. In future, if they were to be continued to be allowed they would be recorded as both non-compliances and as exemptions.

It will help the inspectorate if licensees themselves note where they may wish to be allowed small non-compliances like these, and formally request them. This should also help licensees become clearer about what the standards actually require.

Website

Other certifiers list licensees on websites. Demeter NZ will do the same, but listing will be optional.

Humates

Humates are used in some commercial fertilisers, some of which are allowed by organic certifiers. *They are not permitted by Demeter standards.* Gary Zimmer wrote in *Acre USA* (January 2004)

“Humate is a common term used to describe dry-mined carbonaceous materials found in areas where coal is mined. They are correctly called leonardites or oxidized lignites.”

Humates are fossil carbon, on the way to becoming coal or oil. In biodynamic farming soil carbon comes from the atmosphere, from carbon dioxide absorbed for photosynthesis. Plant growth has a positive effect on greenhouse gases, but use of fossil carbon does not.

The meaning of available

The Demeter standards don't define “available” but they do define “unavailable”: Glossary, p 103: Unavailable: Not able to be obtained in the quality (such as full Demeter, In Conversion to Demeter) required, after diligent and wide ranging effort has been made. Assumption that an ingredient is unavailable requires prior approval of Demeter New Zealand.

How “widely” you need to check depends on what you are sourcing. A single animal for a breeding needn't travel more than the permitted trucking distance for the type (see: transporting animals, p 79). Raisins for muesli can come from much further afield – you might import them if you use a lot.

The most likely farm inputs not available are certified organic plants and seeds. See next section.

Brought-in plant material

Brought-in plant material (including seeds) must be certified Demeter if available or certified organic if it's not. When neither is available, the standards allow conventional plant material with prior permission from Demeter NZ.

So:

- If Demeter plants or seeds are available you must use them.
- If they are not available but certified organic is available, that must be used.
- If neither is available you may get permission to use conventional untreated non-GE material.

None of this requires you to use an unsuitable cultivar – see below.

You don't need to phone the Demeter office each time **if your Management Plan is properly constructed**. It should state that Demeter or certified material is used if available, and then say what you do to find that out. e.g. you might contact two or three suppliers and/or look on the BioGro orASUREQuality websites. The actual procedure will depend on what it is you are seeking. A hybrid cultivar may be licensed to only one or two suppliers; open pollinated traditional varieties may have many suppliers, so wider checking will be appropriate.

The Assessment Group wants to give permission in advance based on clear procedures in your Management Plan. If you expect to need uncertified seeds and/or plants please ensure that your Management Plan has a suitable section and submit it for approval.

If you don't have such a section in an approved Management Plan, and during the season need uncertified seeds/plants, write an amendment to your Management Plan and submit it for approval. Incorporate it into the overall plan later.

All seeds and plant material must be documented GE free and all seeds must be documented untreated. Treated seeds are never allowed.

Sample management plan section

We grow a wide variety of vegetables from seed.

Our seed sourcing procedure is

1. We check with 3 suppliers for certified organic or Demeter seed of the required cultivar
 - a. Super Duper Seeds for Beautiful Growers Ltd
 - b. Heavenly Seed and Plant Paradigm Shift Ltd
 - c. We Are the Greatest Seeds Ltd
2. If no Demeter or certified organic seeds are available untreated seeds will be purchased.
3. A declaration that they are GE free and untreated will be obtained at the time.
4. In case the supplier does not have such a declaration readily available, we take our own form with us for them to fill out and sign. We keep copies in the farm truck.

If you have an additional certification include the procedures your other certifier requires as well.

E.g. if you must fax them for permission, you could include something like this:

5. We also have BioGro certification so we get written BioGro permission before going ahead.

The Annual Report form now has a space where you ask for permission renewal.

Unreliable Documentation

Don't accept any farm input if the documentation doesn't fit the product. E.g. seed that's obviously treated but is stated to be untreated. Don't accept the product or the declaration.

Brought-in livestock and the Animal Status Declaration

For brought-in uncertified livestock you may be offered an Animal Status Declaration (ASD) when you ask for documentation. The ASD is a standard questionnaire from NZ Food Safety Authority. It must, by law, be supplied in some cases. It doesn't cover all the Demeter requirements.

The ASD has whole of life information about a few things – feeding with ruminant protein, Johne's disease vaccination, hormone treatment – but doesn't say enough about drug treatments generally. It just asks if the animal is within the withholding period. Demeter requires you to know if the animal is within **twice** the withholding period. Some treatments have a six-month withholding period, so Demeter standards ask for a one-year history. (Animals less than a year old: a whole of life history.)

You will be given an ASD with incoming stock but you'll need additional information

- *What treatments have the animals received in the last year, and when?*
- *What is the longest label withholding period for that drug on that type of livestock?*

You work out the date that the animals reach **twice** the withholding period, and quarantine them until then, or for 48 hours, whichever gives the longer quarantine. There are different rules for animals documented as certified organic. (see s7.17.2)

What is a suitable quarantine area?

It should be a part of the farm that doesn't normally get used for anything else except perhaps cutting hay for animal feed or for composting.

It should be securely fenced so that animals will be retained even when they have to be separated from their fellows – the instinct to rejoin the herd can be strong.

The size of the quarantine area depends on the way you use it.

E.g. 1: A grower often brings in sheep to graze an orchard. They normally need many days quarantine. From the number of animals and days, she works out how much land she needs.

E.g. 2: Sometimes a cow gets sick. And very rarely the farmer emergency drenched a large mob of sheep in the past. So he fences off enough land for the cow, but has plans for enlarging the quarantine area in an emergency. He states in his Management Plan which land is **fenced**, and which additional land is **designated** for use if needed.

Quarantine area is an exception to the rule that all land must be converted to Demeter standard – because animals may be treated on it with prohibited substances.

Everything else about it must meet the standards (e.g. prep use). On some properties years go by without any treatment being necessary. In which case it can be worked as part of the certified area (e.g. grazed to reduce fire risk) after a year since the last time an animal was treated on it. Nevertheless it is there, waiting should it be needed at short notice.

Because a quarantine area may be used for sick animals it's usually where it's readily observable. E.g. near a homestead or regular work area.

Area of outdoor space for poultry

What is the Demeter minimum area per bird for out doors space? BioGro and RSPCANZ state so many birds per hectare, but Demeter standards state only minimum perching and floor areas for the henhouse. For the outdoors they say

7.16.5 For poultry ranging, birds shall have free access to a diverse and well vegetated free range, and management shall ensure that they actually do range. This is applicable at 4 weeks of age for meat birds and from 6 weeks for laying birds. Moveable housing rotational ranging or similar special provisions shall be made for meat birds to overcome their natural tendency to limit their ranging.

What is enough space varies with the terrain and climate – with the farm individuality. *If your free range ceases to be well vegetated, or your birds do not use it, you are non-compliant.* You may need to enlarge or to change it. You will need to take action to ensure continued compliance.

Reporting to you

Some licensees have home-garden practices that are non-compliant. These include use of uncertified feed such as kitchen scraps for hens or brought-in donated uncertified plants. For the sake of consistency in standards interpretation we'll tell you that the home garden is non-compliant, but won't ask for any corrective action.

Demeter Exporting

In other countries the Demeter logos are owned and registered by other Demeter organisations. They have the absolute right to decide what is sold as Demeter and what is not.

Through Demeter International (an association of national Demeter organisations) these organisations have agreed (in most cases) to accept each other's produce provided the exporting country meets Demeter International requirements.

The requirements are

1. The Demeter organisation in the exporting country is accredited by the Demeter International Accreditation Council. Demeter New Zealand is currently accredited.
2. The exporter has a Demeter licence. Whoever is the exporter – you or an exporting company – must have an exporter's contract from us and a current certificate. Otherwise the sale may be blocked, as happened recently to dates going to Europe from Tunisia.
3. The exporter sells only to a licensed Demeter importer/distributor.
4. Packaging and labelling meet both Demeter International labelling standards (see www.demeter.net for details) and destination Demeter requirements. Demeter New Zealand does not take responsibility for particular requirements in the destination country – the exporter liaises with the importer to ensure that all such requirements are met.

Demeter New Zealand is **not** accredited for government requirements. So for example, export to EU countries requires a BioGro or AsureQuality certification in addition.

There are exceptions to the rule that Demeter New Zealand produce is automatically acceptable as Demeter in other countries. Examples:

- Demeter Australia is not part of the Demeter International system, but has accepted Demeter New Zealand produce so long as it doesn't come from properties using flowforms to stir preparations 500 & 501. Demeter Australia doesn't allow flowform stirring.
- Demeter USA has not (so far) adopted Demeter International wine standards. It still has additional requirements.
- In the USA "Biodynamic®" must be used on the label according to particular rules.

Blood and Bone

Demeter International doesn't allow blood products to be used in manures. But there is a system of country exemptions to permit an exception in named countries only. Demeter NZ will apply for such an exemption. Until and unless such an exemption is obtained, you are advised not to use blood and bone in your compost if you intend to export.

Compostable Packaging

A common compostable plastic is polylactic acid or PLA. Products made from renewable sources such as maize or sugar cane are available. There are things to consider before using them.

So long it's not from GE crops, PLA use doesn't encourage GE plantings. But maybe it's grown with synthetic nitrogen? If so oil is still being used – for fertiliser instead of for the plastic itself.

Fully compostable plastics, like PLA, break down to carbon dioxide and water but they use less energy and produce fewer greenhouse gases than conventional plastics, according to some reports.

Compostable doesn't mean that the product breaks down in home compost systems or in landfills. It usually needs hot composting that maintains a high temperature for over a week. "Compostable" and "Made from cornstarch" can mislead if it's a plastic like PLA that won't break down at home.

Compostable plastics often can't be recycled and must be kept out of the recycling stream. And if they get into landfill they may last just as long as other plastics.

"Degradable" or "oxy-degradable" plastics are usually very different – some contain heavy metals which are undesirable both in contact with food and in the waste stream.

The Demeter Assessment Group has decided that

- Compostable packaging is acceptable for Demeter products
- The product should meet international standards, such as the Euro Norm EN13432
- The source of the raw material should be non GE plants
- The production process should not use GE organisms or GE enzymes
- The non GE status should be confirmed by reliable documentation
- The packaging should if possible advise consumers
 - To keep it out of recycling streams e.g. "Do not recycle"
 - That it is compostable and what is required for that e.g. "Compostable in commercial hot composting systems"
- Degradable plastics that are not compostable should not be used.

When more information becomes available on compostable plastics and the position other certifiers adopt towards them, this may be reviewed.

Further information:

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/plastic.html>

http://www.biobags.co.uk/resouces_certific/description.pdf

Demeter Forms Check List

Version Jan 2012

Annual Report Form:

1. Check and if need be correct any printed details about you and your particular farm (normally only on renewal forms).
2. Attach any maps required in black and white only, no bigger than A3. *We can't copy larger maps and colour copying adds to costs. We may need to charge you extra. Aerial photos are little use as maps.*
3. Leave no blank spaces on the form (we don't know whether blanks mean "not applicable", "don't know" or "forgot to fill in"). *If the space is blank we'll probably have to ask you for more information.*
4. Give details of **all** sprays, **all** animal remedies – not just those that you think might cause certification difficulties. *The Assessment Group can't judge whether what you use meets the standards if it doesn't know about it.*
5. Attach supplier certificates for brought-in materials, grazing-off, etc. *Please write a number on each and put that number in the "refer to document" column.*
6. Explain why, if a certificate is not included. *Compliance with the standards requires certificates or supplier statements for all brought-in materials and livestock.*
7. Keep a copy of the completed form. *Keeping a photocopy of your form is a good way to record what you've told us. It's also good insurance against difficulties with the mail – occasionally Demeter forms have been lost in the post.*
8. Check that what you send us is well organised, e.g. not on jumbled scraps of paper. *If we have to organise it in order to file it, we will charge for the time taken.*

Management Plan and Farm Profile:

If supplying for the **first time**:

1. Check that these are typed or printed on A4 paper. *This is to assist the inspectors and thus keep the costs down.*
2. Check that all sections have been completed, and that any maps are as in 2 above.
3. Check that in each section of the *Management Plan* you have given a picture of your current practices, and any plans for changes and improvements.
4. Keep a master copy that you can use if you need to send us a revised plan or profile. *Electronic master copies will be the most convenient in the long run – but please don't send us electronic copies. Print them out first.*

If **not** supplying for the **first time**:

1. Check that you have supplied amendments for any item where you marked in section 25 "Have attached changes". *Amendments should be incorporated into a revised plan as tracked changes and the whole revised plan forwarded to us.*
2. Keep a master copy of the revised plan.