
General Introduction to Applied Biodynamics[©]

Demeter Biodynamic Trade Association's
Taste of Place
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Birth of Biodynamics

- Who is Rudolf Steiner?

Who is Rudolf Steiner?

- Theosophist- later Anthroposophist
- Clairvoyant?
- Prophet?
- Spiritual Scientist
 - Authored 5 books
 - 6000+ lectures during lifetime

Lectures

- Education - Waldorf
- Agriculture - Biodynamic
- Religion - Christian Community
- Economics - 3-Fold Social Order
- Medicine/Pharmacy/Therapies
- Curative Education - Camphill Communities
- Arts- Curative/Performing – Eurythmy
- And more . . .

Agriculture Course

‘Spiritual Foundations
for the Renewal of
Agriculture’

History

■ Biodynamics

- Agriculture Course given in June 1924
- First published English edition - 1938 (private)
- First published English edition - 1962 (public)
- First American edition 1992

■ America

- E. Pfeiffer and Rodale worked together in late 30s early 40s - then split
 - Rodale went on to publish 'organic gardening'
 - Pfeiffer went on to establish BD farms in Kimberton, PA and Spring Valley, NY

American Biodynamics

- Pfeiffer created the Pfeiffer field starter and compost starter sprays as a simplified remedy that contains the BD preps and is easier to apply.
- Pfeiffer's goal was the use of his starters in large settings; ex.: municipal dumps, large farming, large composting operations, etc.
- Rachel Carson and Silent Spring

Birth of Biodynamics

- What can be done to check the decline and to improve the quality of seed and nutrition?
 - Ernst Stegeman, 1922/23
 - Question posed to Rudolf Steiner

Problems of the Day

- Reduction in crop qualities
- Reduced crop yields
- Decrease in seed germination
- Increase in animal disease
- Decrease in shelf-life/storage capabilities

Answer: Rudolf Steiner

- ‘Plants can never be diseased in a primary sense “since they are the products of a healthy etheric world.” They suffer rather from diseased conditions in the environment, especially in the soil.’
 - E. Pfeiffer

What is Biodynamic Agriculture?

What is Biodynamic Agriculture?

- Farmer- Paradigm Shift in Thinking
- Use of ALL 9 Biodynamic Preparations
- Working with Cosmic Rhythms
- Development of Whole Farm Organism/
Individuality

THE (Cornerstone) QUESTION

- ‘How does one build a bridge to active participation in carrying out (spiritual intentions) personal path/destiny and not get sidetracked by ego, illusions, petty jealousy, etc.?’
 - E. Pfeiffer asked of Rudolf Steiner

Proper Nutrition

‘This is a problem of nutrition. Nutrition as it is today does not supply the strength necessary for manifesting the spirit in physical life. A bridge can no longer be built from thinking to will and action. Food plants no longer contain the forces people need for this.’

- R. Steiner

Sidebar

- E. Pfeiffer conversation with R. Steiner:
 - ‘Spiritual scientific knowledge must have found its way into practical life by the middle of the century if untold damage to the health of man and nature is to be avoided.’ (1924)
 - Side note: Steiner predicted that cancer and mental illness would be the major medical problems at the turn of the century; and that food would only be a filler.

Sidebar Con't

- 'In 1924 Rudolf Steiner pointed out the necessity of consciously restoring cosmic forces to growth processes by both direct and indirect means, thereby freeing the present conception of plant nature from a material, purely terrestrial isolation; only through such restoration would it be possible to re-energize those healthful and constructive forces capable of halting degeneration'.
- E. Pfeiffer-1958, Introduction - Agriculture, translated by George Adams

What About Organic Agriculture?

- Organic Agriculture
 - ❑ Elimination of toxic substances
 - ❑ Works to develop proper (physical) soil fertility
 - ❑ Works as Nature's partner
 - ❑ Produces cleaner more nutritious foods
 - ❑ Protects the environment

Is this enough?

Why Biodynamics?

- All the above reasons and more:
 - Injecting vital life forces into the soil, plants and animals in order to enliven the physical world so that the etheric world can complete its task of providing proper nutrition, balance and health to mankind.
 - Physical Body
 - Etheric Body (life)
 - Astral Body (soul)
 - Ego-I Body (spiritual)
 - How?

How?

- Paradigm Shift – Farmer's Thinking
- Use of Biodynamic Preparations
- Work with and use the Cosmos
- Create a Farm Individuality

A New Agriculture and A new Thinking

■ Newton

- Physical
- Material
- Measure (ct./wt./etc.)
- Mechanical
- Ponderable
- Quantity

■ Goethe

- Etheric world (approach astral and ego)
- Spiritual
- Polarity and Metamorphosis (Rhythms)
- Supersensible
- Imponderable
- Quality

Biodynamics

- ❑ 1. Dynamic relationship between cosmic and terrestrial forces; and
- ❑ 2. Creation and maintaining of organic substances
 - ❑ HUMUS

Overview

- Bio-Biological

- Soil Structure
- Soil Life
- Humus Bank
- Bio-pest control

- Dynamic (Cosmic)

- Formative Forces
- Cosmic Rhythms
- Developing terrestrial and celestial synergy

Overview

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Note

- Health and resistance are functions of biological balance and cosmic factors.
 - E. Pfeiffer

G. Adams translation

- NOTE:

- ‘I should like to remind you that to take the right steps, one must look into the nature of the whole process and finding the right thing to do in any particular case will, or course, depend to a great extent upon having the **right FEELING**’. (p. 41)

- Understanding

- P. 115

Substance and Forces in Nature

- ‘If we want to manage various domains of agriculture properly, it is necessary to gain insight into the way substances and forces work and also into the way the spirit works.’
 - Rudolf Steiner, Lecture 4, Agriculture Course P. 110 (‘What is Biodynamics?’)

BD Preps

- Purpose of 500 and 501
 - To enhance the improve the manuring process
 - P. 135

Summary of BD Preps and Their Relationships

- Field sprays:

- 500 - Horn manure Ca Form
- 501 - Horn Silica Si Structure
- 508 - Equisetum arvense Si Structure/Balance/H₂O

- Compost Preparations:

- 502 - Yarrow/stag's bladder K Plant structure
- 503 - Chamomile/intestine Ca N-Stability
- 504 - Stinging nettle/earth Fe Inward sensitivity
- 505 - Oak Bark/skull Ca Balance - etheric/astral
- 506 - Dandelion/mesentery Si Mediator-sensitivity
- 507 - Valerian P Warmth

Rhythms

- Lunar
 - Full/New Moon
 - Ascending/Descending Moon
 - Apogee and Perigee

- Planetary
 - 12 Constellation
 - 4 Seasons
 - 7 planets

- Solar
 - 4 Seasons- Earth tilt
 - Daily
 - Sunrise/noon/sunset/midnight

Macrocosm

- ‘It is not enough to look only at the plant, animal or human kingdom. Life comes from what the earth itself provides. Nature is a unity, with forces working in from all sides. Those whose eyes are open to these manifest forces will be able to understand nature.’
 - R. Steiner p. 176

Whole Farm Organism

- What is a whole farm organism?

Whole Farm Organism

- Complete Closed System
- Biological Soil – (physical attribute)
- Plant Diversity – (etheric attribute)
- Livestock Development – (astral attribute)
- Role of Farmer – (spiritual attribute)

Role of Livestock (Astral)

- Physical - Root
 - Earthworm
- Etheric - Leaf
 - Cattle
- Astral - Flower
 - Bee
- Spirit - Fruit

Role of Farmer (Spiritual)

- It is up to you. You decide!

Questions