



Media Contact: info@demeterbta.com

Demeter Biodynamic Trade Association

-Press Kit -



The Demeter Biodynamic Trade Association (DBTA) was launched in August 2007 as a membership organization to further Demeter Certified Biodynamic® products in the U.S. marketplace. A membership drive is underway in Summer 2008. The word Biodynamic®, the Demeter® name, and the Demeter® certification marks are legally registered trademarks that assure consumers that foods and beverages have been grown and produced according to the strict Demeter standards for Biodynamic agriculture. Biodynamic agriculture refers to a specific method of farming and gardening that is generally aligned with organic and sustainable agriculture methods, though is characterized by its own unique ideologies and practices. The Biodynamic method is certified in the United States by Demeter-USA, which is part of Demeter-International, a network of Demeter certification organizations in 45 countries around the world.



- Demeter Biodynamic Trade Association -

The DBTA is a membership organization for those with Demeter Certified Biodynamic® farms, producers and products, and those with an interest in furthering the availability of these products. Demeter certifies farms throughout the U.S., and a full spectrum of agricultural products, from seeds and nursery stock to fresh produce and flowers. Other products include dairy products, dried fruits and nuts, jams and preserves, coffee and tea, meat, grains, and wine and other beverages, along with many other products.

Membership in DBTA is available in two categories: ***Regular Members*** are business members that are Demeter-USA Certified Biodynamic, or in transition to Demeter-USA Biodynamic certification. Examples include farms, vineyards, wineries, dairies, and producers and processors of Biodynamic retail products. ***Associate Members*** are individuals and businesses with a supporting interest in the mission of the DBTA that are not Demeter Certified Biodynamic producers or processors. Examples include retailers, members of the media, distributors and consumers.

The role of DBTA is to educate about Biodynamic farming; promote Demeter Certified Biodynamic products to consumers, through the media, and at trade shows and tasting events; and protect the legally registered Demeter certification marks, and the names Demeter and Biodynamic. DBTA is run by a Board of Directors. DBTA members are listed on the DBTA web site, www.demeterbta.com.

- Biodynamic Agriculture -

The concept of the "agricultural individuality," or farm organism was introduced in 1924 in the teachings of an Austrian by the name of Rudolf Steiner. Steiner's lectures to a group of farmers are known as the "Agriculture Course" and form the foundation of Biodynamic teachings. The Biodynamic method relies on some practices that are familiar to practitioners of organic agriculture, such as composting and the use of cover crops for soil fertility.

However, the method is distinguished from other wholistic approaches to farming by:

- **A Paradigm Shift in Thinking:** The Biodynamic farmer thinks in terms of forces and processes whereas organic and sustainable agriculture farmers think in terms of substances.
- **The Biodynamic Farmer Uses All Nine of the Biodynamic Preparations:** The preparations are

made following very specific methods. They are numbered, and are used in very small quantities to homeopathically treat compost, soil and plants.

- **Understanding and Use of Earthly and Cosmic Rhythms/Cycles:** The Biodynamic farmer is attuned to the daily, monthly and seasonal rhythms of nature, for example, the affects of the new and full moons on planting seeds and plant growth.
- **Creation of a Whole Farm Organism:** The Biodynamic farmer strives for this ideal. The farm depends on a minimum of input nutrients from outside the farm and, ideally, generates its own fertility through cover-cropping and the use of manure from animals that live on the farm. With very limited inputs from outside the farm, the farm has a very low carbon footprint.

- Demeter Certification -

Worldwide, Demeter is known for having the most rigorous standards for certification of any of the organic certification organizations. Demeter standards exceed those of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program (NOP). The non-profit organization, Demeter-USA, is the only certification agent for Biodynamic farms, processors and products in the United States. Demeter inspectors personally visit farms and processors each year. As of 2008, there are 123 Demeter Certified Biodynamic farms and processors in the U.S., representing over 10,000 acres under Biodynamic cultivation. There are, additionally, quite a few in transition to Demeter certification.

- Contact Information for DBTA -

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DBTA Board of Directors:

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- Will Carleton, Las Palmalitas Ranch, Carpinteria, CA
- Mark Ellenbogen, Artisan Farm Foraging, Vice President
- Julie Golden, Golden Vineyards, Secretary
- Gena Nonini, Marian Farms, President
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