



**Rudolf Steiner
College Canada**

for Anthroposophy • Waldorf Education • Arts

CURRICULUM BIODYNAMIC FARMING DIPLOMA

1st Year: The Farm as an Organism and Individuality

Introduction to the Diploma Program

The polarity between industrial production and agriculture

The farm organism and the development of human consciousness BCE

The development and collapse of "centre and surrounding" CE

The introduction of artificial nitrogen in agriculture

The new impulse in agriculture, 1924 in Koberwitz (introductory reading)

The end of traditional agriculture

The three-folding of the human being and the farm individuality

The four-folding of the human being

The physical organisation of a farm individuality, talent of the soil and the four elements

The generation of soil through weathering

Cosmic influences on the soil during the summer and during the winter

Humus as memory of the soil (universal seed)

The taking of soil samples and the interpretation of a soil sample analysis report

The etheric organisation of a farm individuality (natural habitat and cultural biotope)

The importance of hedges, swamps, brooks, meadows and forest for the farm organism

The market garden and its crop rotation as part of the farm organism

Cereal grains and their crop rotation as part of the farm organism

The development of the plant during the year

The vineyard as part of the farm organism

The orchard as part of the farm organism

The Astral organisation of a farm individuality

The four groups of wild fauna

The elemental beings

Domesticated farm animals as organs in a farm organism

The honey bee as part of the farm organism

The purpose of chickens on a farm

The necessity of pigs in the farm organism

The advantages of horses on a farm

Sheep as part of the farm organism

The goat's part in a farm organism

The intrinsic role of cattle in the organism of a farm



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The digestion of the cow and her cosmic quality analysis

The importance of horns and hoofs

The art of creating a farm-adapted herd of cows and the role of the breeding bull

The feeding and rearing of calves on a biodynamic farm

The milking of dairy cows

The construction of suitable livestock barns

The art of pasture management and rotational grazing

Different ways of fencing

The cultivation of fodder crops and the art of haymaking

Forgotten healing remedies: leaf hay and hay flowers

Vitalism in livestock and an introduction to veterinary homeopathy

The human being and the organisation of the human "I" as part of a farm individuality

The nutrition of the human being

The sleep and death of the human being

Understanding the evolution of the "I" through different incarnations

The social aspect in farming - working with supported individuals

The impulse for the development of a social organism (basis of three-folding)

An open farm gate policy and cultural events



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2nd Year: The Three Pillars of Soil Fertility

1st Pillar: Tillage

Long-term and short-term development of the soil

Winter and spring processes in the soil and their support through tillage

Summer and fall processes in the soil and their support through tillage

The earthworm as builder of lasting soil fertility

Different implements for soil cultivation and their pros and cons

2nd Pillar: Crop Rotation

The development of a sustainable crop rotation from the fertilizing point of view

The arts of under-seeding, catch crops and cover crops

The development and reproduction of the farm's own seeds

The celestial planting calendars

The art of weed control on a biodynamic farm

3rd Pillar: Fertilization

The extension of fertilization between matter and spirit

Level -1: The effects of mineralized nitrogen fertilizer

Level 0: The substitution of mineral substances

Level 1: The composting of plant residue and the four phases of transformation

Level 2: The imprint of different soul configurations into the manure

Different ways of animal manure storage, application and mode of action

Level 3: The human contribution to the fertility of the soil

The nutrition of the human being and the problem of human waste

The evolution of the world (an introduction)

Basic aspects of the biodynamic spray preparations

Cow manure: fertilizer of etheric and astral forces

The cow horn and the mesentery: sense organs of the cow

Horn manure preparation, making, application and mode of action

Quartz crystal preparation, making, application and mode of action

The composition of the yarrow preparation

The composition of the chamomile preparation

The composition of the stinging nettle preparation

The composition of the oak bark preparation

The composition of the dandelion preparation

The composition of the valerian preparation



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The growing of the preparation plants

The collaboration of all six compost preparations, application and mode of action

The horsetail preparation

Researching the formative forces of life and growth

Connecting with the world around the farm

The mental challenges of starting, running and passing on a farm

The art of making ends meet on a farm

The advantage of added value in agricultural products

The benefits and challenges of value adding and on-farm processing

Product design and corporate design

DEMETER certification, regulations, record keeping and inspection

The advantages and challenges of wholesale

The ins and outs of farmers' markets

The farm store and farm sales

Starting and running a CSA

The therapeutic effect of farm stays (agri-tourism)

The farmer as an artist and meditator

The biography of a farm individuality documented by marker trees

The agricultural operation - as a school of consciousness

Final recap, summary and final thoughts