BINGN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Aims and Objectives

The BINGN Apprenticeship Program enables the apprentices to acquire the skills, knowledge and understanding to work as a confident, independent worker within an organic or biodynamic farming enterprise.

This means that the apprentice:

- Can perform the main regular work on an organic and biodynamic farm independently, without close control of management and on his/her own initiative.
- Is able to find and consult resources to find solutions to unknown situations
- Can plan, coordinate and monitor specific practical farming activities and can organize and instruct co-workers.
- Can take responsibility for his/her labor, tools, machines and the health of people he/she works with.
- Understands and can work with health and safety requirements • Possesses good communication skills and is able to improve his/her own learning performance and problem solving.
- Has a conscious, critical and self-aware approach to anthroposophy and biodynamic agriculture.

The BINGN Apprenticeship Program aims to prepare the apprentices for the vocation of the biodynamic farmer/gardener.

This means that he/she:

- learns to develop and organize themselves in such a way, that soil, plant, animals and the wholeness of nature becomes his/her teacher.

- Takes up and understands the vocation of the farmer as one that is born out of love and commitment to take care of and develop the soil, plant, animal and human being.
- Acquires the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding to develop, design, plan and implement with confidence an organic or biodynamic enterprise.
- Understands the world around us as both, a material and spiritual reality.

The BINGN Apprenticeship Program also aims to:

- Achieve a mutually beneficial relationship between farmer and the apprentice. The farmer provides learning conditions for the apprentice and the apprentice contributes to the work needs of the enterprise.
- Create a foundation for developing an independent understanding of earth, nature, life and human beings from a spiritual perspective.
- Offer a teaching climate in which the apprentice can become familiar with the inner attitude and perspective required for biodynamic farming.

Curriculum

Units

The BINGN Apprenticeship Program offers the following courses, themes and units to the student:

1. Agriculture and Sociology

Content: History of Agriculture, Agricultural Policies.

Aims: Give the student knowledge and understanding of:

- Where agriculture comes from and what it meant for the history of mankind.
- What it means to work within agriculture in today's society and how that could change in the near future.
- The organic and biodynamic movement in Scandinavia and Europe.

2. Soil

Content: Soil Science, Soil Formation, Soil Nutrition, Soil Evaluation, Composting.

Aims: Give the student knowledge and understanding of:

• The physical, chemical and biological basic principles in and around the soil.
• The soil as a living organism and the different effects of manuring.
• The different types of farmland and their special needs and benefits.
• Different ways of agricultural soil cultivation.
• The soil's intrinsic importance for every kind of agriculture. **3.**

Plant

Content: Plant Science and Phenomenology, Agricultural Botany, Crop Rotation, Plant Health and Nutrition, The Cropping Plan and Seed Order, The

growing Crops, Crop Harvest, Seed Saving and Breeding, Arable Cropping, Grassland and Fodder.

Aims: Give the student knowledge and understanding of:

• The individual plant as a growing, living and dying organism between soil and sky.
• The different Plants of agricultural importance and the organic and biodynamic way of cultivating them.
• Plants as food for soil, animals and humans - and therefore of the crop rotation.

4. Animal

Content: Animal Anatomy and Phenomenology, Farm Animals, organic and biodynamic Milk-, Meat- and Egg-Production, organic and biodynamic Beekeeping.

Aims: Give the student knowledge and understanding of:

• The individual animal as a growing, living, dying and soul inherited organism.

• The different types of farm animals and the different ways of "keeping" them inside of an organic and biodynamic farm – of animal husbandry. • The importance of the farm animals as the link between nature and mankind through their enrichment of the soil and their production of food for humans.

• The importance of the honey bee and other insects for the plant in general and especially in the agricultural cultivation of plants.

5. Weather & Astronomy

Content: Meteorology, Agricultural Astronomy.
Aims: Give the student knowledge and understanding of:

- Different kinds of weather phenomena and their influence on and importance for agriculture.
- Different kinds of cosmic phenomena and their influence on and the importance for agriculture.

6. Farm Economics

Content: Applied Mathematics, Enterprise Management, Gross Margins and Farm Economics, Marketing, National Economy, Regulatory Requirements and Legal Structures/Bodies.

Aims: Give the student knowledge and understanding of:

- The use of mathematics in the daily agricultural routine.
- How to start up an agricultural enterprise.
- How to calculate the different production processes.
- How to place their enterprise in and how to react on the changing market.

Aims: Give the student an introduction into:

- Enterprise management.
- How to budgetize a farm.
- The importance and the task of agriculture inside of the national economy.

7. Farm Organism

Content: The Mixed Farm, Organism-Thinking, Biodynamic Farming.

Aims: Give the student knowledge and understanding of:

- The farm as a living organism.
- The consequences of "Organism-Thinking" for a farm and their benefits. • Different methods and "tools" for strengthening the farm as an organism. • Biodynamic farming and its specific methods (such as the BD-compost, -spraying and ash-preparations).

8. Machinery *Content:* Farm Machinery, Workshop Tools, Safety and Health Requirements.

Aims: Give the student knowledge and understanding of:

- The different kinds of farm machinery and workshop tools.
- How to use them appropriately.
- How to fix them and/or how to analyze disturbing factors. • Safety and health requirements and how to react in first aid situations.

9. Food Processing

Content: Butchering & Meat Processing, Milk Processing and Cheese Making, Food Preserving, Baking.

Aim: Bring the student in touch with different ways of food processing and preserving, directly connected to agricultural production.

Throughout the whole education the different seminars will contain a broad variation of topics, but there will be a certain structure as follows:

In the first year of the program, "Agricultural & Sociology", "Soil" and "Weather & Astronomy" will be mainly focused on, together with an introduction into many different subjects.

In the second year (while deepening first year's topics) the focus will turn on

“Plants” and “Animals”.

In the third year “Farm Economics” and “Farm Organism” will complete the curriculum and by this relate the different aspects that occurred during the whole education to each other.

Subjects such as

“Tools & Machinery”, “Food Processing” et al. will occur throughout the whole Program.