

**Open letter from Alex Podolinsky**  
**Addressed to the Healthy Common Sense of Bio-Dynamic Farmers and Peasants**  
(Translated from German)  
April 2010

I beg readers good will. There was no time for editing these scripts, but it had to go out before my anticipated visit to Europe.

After initiating the fundamental impulse of Agriculture, Rudolf Steiner recognized the necessity, that the preparations be worked out with exact science regarding content, quality, application, storage etc. He did not proceed similarly with medicine and medicines, because, obviously in these areas professionalism existed compared to agriculture. After the first World War, Steiner recognized in the young student, Ehrenfried Pfeiffer, the individuality to fulfill his agricultural expectations and suggested to Pfeiffer his study program and offered abode in his own house. An indicative action.

Pfeiffer became a great scientist, in particular as a bacteriologist. He fulfilled Steiner's task over many years in Holland, England and finally in the US intensively. He demonstrated, that high quality cow manure filled into cow horns contained only faecal bacteria, whilst after wintering in soil with the proper result, no faecal bacteria remained but were replaced – per gram – by 500 million aerobic bacteria, partly of a totally new kind. For this reason he named this substance "500".

During this work of many years Pfeiffer recognized that in the transformation of substance from manure to 500, as with the other preparations, each total transformation had to happen in a humus process and that in the correct storage these "preparations" had to be maintained in correlated moisture to remain alive.

In our Australian bio-dynamic work of over 60 years we followed Pfeiffer's experience exactly and exchanged preparations with him and he recognized some of ours as superior. Whereas we did not follow his suggestions regarding a wide acreage "soil spray" as a replacement for 500. We could not accept this as being equivalent to 500, but more akin to a biological application. For broad acreage application (one owner operator, sole farm worker, for 1000 or more hectares) we spray 500 in the indicated quantity of 88g/Ha (1¼ to 1½ ounces per acre), with a droplet per square centimeter, prepared with the appropriate quantity of the compost preparations. Pfeiffer was no farmer and suffered from lung problems and was hospitalized several times, and whilst there he improved laboratory activities. Eventually he was awarded an Honorary MD, as well as becoming a professor in nutrition.

Historically, especially in Europe, peasants were not recognized as Nature-Builders and maintainers of Life, but were often relegated as "simple". They were the underlings of elevated classes.

Medical practitioners or teachers would never accept to be represented by inexperienced bureaucrats, but farmers even today are guided by such. Farmers recognize each other worldwide instinctively. They are “real”, seriously so, and – if they are able to maintain themselves in present day conditions on their farms (to be highly respected) they are “practical”.

Pfeiffer in spite of health problems attempted to run a dairy farm, but had to eventually give up. Farmers listen to a farmer and when a conventional agronomist addresses them with theories and graphs, they hide a smile, knowing that this man could not run their farm.

I suggested to my friend Harold Hoppe, when he was in charge of the German Demeter organization and a director of the Forschungsring, they should gain practical experience, hire a farm and produce vegetables. He indicated their intent in so doing. I then stated, “to produce vegetables of a quality accepted by the market requires practical, professional know-how, to make such undertaking real, you would have to deduct the hours spent on production from your Institute salary hours”. Eventually this idea was not realized. (Today, Harald Hoppe has created a valuable organisation supplying high quality pre-cooked meals.)

With exact application of the method Steiner required Pfeiffer to establish, and with co-working of farmers, who observed how astonishingly rapid correctly made and applied preparations performed – supported by the equally new impulse: professional application of agricultural methods – appropriate to effective working of the preparations – farmers cooperated seriously.

No demonstration is required to show that one man cannot hand stir 500 to spray 1000Ha. Therefore at an AGM some 45 years ago the need for a stirring machine was raised. Important: that the reversing of vortices be determined by the vortex and not a time switch, and the machine performs as near as possible to hand stirring (see DVD “Stirring and Stirring Equipment”). As, well known, during appropriate hand stirring, the stirring becomes easier and easier as more air enters the water.

Sure in the Agricultural Course Steiner expressed opposition to stirring machines, as he did equivalently for medicines. The latter developed further during Steiner’s life, bio-dynamics did not. When the pharmaceutical chemists indicated to him that they could not cope without using mechanical equipment, he relented, but indicated that the man in charge should have the particular process in his mind. For our farmers the stirring machine is an INSTRUMENT, which has to be tuned” (See DVD “Stirring and Stirring Equipment”). Three weeks after the AGM request, a brief letter arrived from the dairy farmer Kevin Twigg: “Stirring machine as requested ready, shall I bring it or will you come (*3 hour drive*)”. I was there the next morning.

45 years ago we made comparative trials: hand stirring versus machine stirring. Chromas, root and upper plant development tests, growth, plant health, soil development etc. ENERGETIC hand stirring, inclusive of a BUBBLING Chaos (DVD shows this) could only be achieved to a maximum of 12 gallons (using the large volume German barrels neither energetic stirring nor a bubbling chaos can be achieved, with flow forms much less). Hand stirring with 12 gallons was slightly more effective than machine stirring of the same quantity in equivalent vessel. Above

this quantity machine stirring was preferable. We limit maximum of 270 litres per stirring vessel as the water substance remains the same and larger vessels become less effective. Vortex reversal time of energetically stirred 500 is from 14 to 20 seconds with varying sizes of vessels.

Another important mechanical aid: (a little later than stirring episode) farmer Ginger Hatch and his son Trevor visited and saw us struggling with filling the then over 200,000 horns. Two days later they appeared with a "horn filler", which allows manure to fall into the horn, avoiding pressuring as per the sometimes used sausage fillers. Two workers after picking up fresh manure from paddocks (after morning milking) are thus able to fill and lay in soil from 10,000 to 14,000 horns per day.

Tractor implements have been invented and constructed according to requirements by farmers. These are not "ahrimanic" when we are the masters, not the machines.

Without such cooperation of farmer initiative and skill we would not have come to the existing developments here in Australia.

In Germany, where the "Forschungsring" (Research Organisation - original owners' of Demeter registration in Germany, and supposedly 42 other countries, including France and Italy) was of major influence, today replaced by "Demeter International (DI) little or no notice was taken of Pfeiffer's work.

In my early years in Germany one heard said "in North Germany exist as many Lutheran churches as there are protestant ministers". It is somewhat similar with the preparations. At the same time a surprising re-liance for "quotations" of Steiner's exist.... "it must be written."

Although Steiner indicates in "The Course" that only the milfoil flowers in the deer bladder are to be hung up over summer, today often the chamomile sausages and the dandelion parcels are likewise hung up – because since discovery of Steiner's handwritten lecture notes (approx. 35 years ago) this is suggested ("mysteriousness"). That the heads of milfoil appear silica rich (like untouched rice seed) and the bladder is light permeative and that this combination does not become mouldy over summer and after placement in soil becomes a humus-preparation, is not considered. Equally, that the "fattier" and not light permeable sheaths of the chamomile and dandelion and the flowers themselves are prone to mouldiness, and that if hung up over summer undergo an additional process that does not allow a proper humus state to eventuate when eventually taken from the soil, is also not noticed.

When grape juice has turned to vinegar, ie has gone through one chemical process, wine cannot be made thereof later.

Our preparations and appropriate agricultural practices become effective very quickly. One of many such examples now in Europe is Agrilatina (where the 1999 Demeter International meeting was held). When I was first asked to visit this large market garden (Glass house of 30Ha) was registered as "organic". It was June, end of the ¾ year production cycle and traditional green manure of ONE (only) plant – mustard- was to be applied. I suggested.."if you

can't obtain more plant seed variety than 20, plant 25. Sow, irrigate to 10cm (sandy soil) deep and back spray 500 (ie no tractor compaction). Plants germinate, apply further 10cm so plants grow to 10cm, then apply final water 1meter deep. With 500 vastly more white feeder roots develop and follow the receding water. After six weeks the roots have filled the soil down to 1meter, and the soil – originally worked out orange yellow, turned darker. (This is all documented and available as e-lecture <http://www.demeter.org.au/e-lectures/BD%20Ag%20of%20Future.pdf> )

As soil structure, humus and colour develop surprisingly quickly, so correspondingly does bio-dynamic “upper plant expression” develop in uprightness and colour – astonishingly preseen and depicted in the paintings of Vincent van Gough .

Soil and upper plant bio-dynamic development are two major factors in Australian Demeter bio-dynamic farm inspection and certification- not bureaucratic calendar dates or just “no use” ie of artificial fertilizer or chemicals.

In the process of becoming 500 this substance is activated several times. The horns are filled with fresh bio-dynamic manure, adequately layered into suitable soil close to each other, but NOT touching, laid into WINTER coldness, when there is hardly any biological activity. It would be much easier to change manure into humus in a warmer environment – but then it would be just compost, and not have the “activating” power of 500<sup>1</sup>. How such a change happens - manure to humus – is difficult to explain conventionally: a kind of activated cosmic happening (explained in the book “Active Perception”). Secondly, 500 is to be stirred ENERGETICALLY with a bubbling chaos interceding. Even in human understanding it is difficult to accept the other's offering to one's own. How much more difficult in the realm of substances. In the vortex, according to Schwenk, there is unending suction to the centre bottom – similar to the Sun activity in our solar system, and the reason why our planets don't disappear into the universe. This is similar to Kepler's first law of our solar system. His second law pertaining to the near planets running round the Sun quicker than the further planets is all equaled in the vortex we create. Equally mirrored is his third law pertaining to the zodiac signs (see his work, or a summary of this in our “Bio-Dynamic Agriculture Introductory Lectures Volume 1).

In totality, a slow introduction of the new – half called in, chaotized and recalled the other way round – exactly for the essential one hour and with energetic stirring. Where the latter occurs 60% extra oxygen (termed ‘biogen’ by Hauschka) enters the water, ie the physical water substance must alter chemically, to take in the extra cosmic music. The Biogen though, immediately after end of stirring begins to breath out and therefore spraying out should happen within one hour.

Australian farmers have built equipment (John Cashmore – see DVD Broad acre Bio-Dynamic Farming) which enable them in a time of ¾hour to spray out 500 from six or eight 270 litre machines, return, refill, sieved into spray tank, refill with 35°C water and 500, restart in 8

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<sup>1</sup> (We grow in adversity)

minutes and spray again, one man, 30meters spray width, lit like a Christmas tree, commencing in appropriate time till 2am, covering up to 2000Ha in 7 days.

In these sandy soils, 250mm annual rainfall, producing highest quality grains, there is sufficient soil moisture for effective 500 activity only for about 3 months and the farmers desire for their whole farm to receive the 500 as quickly as possible. We have published aerial Government photographs of the salt redemption of the Cahsmore's soil (can be referenced at <http://www.demeter.org.au/case-study1-sm.pdf> ), as the new bio-dynamic soil structuring allows the salt drawn up in compacted soils by Sun capillary activity, renewed drainage of salt to below root zone. Typical organic matter readings of these types of soils before bio-dynamics is 0.33% and after two years of bio-dynamics 2.5% organic matter (not expressed as humus, because conventional agriculture cannot distinguish between organic matter and humus).

With effective production of 500 – also in consideration of cosmic factors – in place of egocentric Christ talk, for instance in monasteries – where in early Christian centuries soil and plant culturing took place, today I smell chemicals. I point out to monks and priests that God created not only man, but also our universe, Nature, plant and animals, which should be honoured.

The same as for 500 applies to the other preparations (501 is especially discussed in Bio-Dynamic Agriculture Introductory Lectures, Volume 1), care of growing, picking (only the flower heads) and inserting in very non-fatty sheaths, difficult to obtain in Europe because of stabling, dual cattle breeds, etc. Too fatty sheaths inhibit transformation into humus (instead it forms silage). In lecture "Bio-Dynamics Agriculture of the Future" I demonstrate – realistically – how 500 is not transformed manure, but something totally NEW and therefore the only (non belief) **transubstantiated** NEW objective sacraments.

About 35 years ago my close friend Hans Heintze, who headed redevelopment of bio-dynamics after WWII in Germany as we did here, took me to main German bio-dynamic properties. At the then Dottenfelderhof (Klett was absent that day) Becker guided us. The preparations were lying on an open tray, divided into 6 sections, dry and mouldy plant substances (like snuff tobacco) , no humic development.

In conventional agricultural literature, should humus be at all mentioned, "permanent" humus may be mentioned. There is no such thing. Humus is either dead and stinks of Ammonia or is in constant transformation. Air is the most essential component of living soil.

To retain 500 and the other preparations in life they must remain adequately moist. At a later occasion, invited by Harald Hoppe, I spoke to Damstadt agronomists (Uli Koenig was absent) and I was shown 500. At the top of the container were hard "footballs" of "500". Harald said "we had a dry winter". I dived my hand and arm deep down and came up with a vilely stinking, wet substance. I replied, "do you look after your babies like this too?" 500 must be continuously checked and maintained.

Becker was proud of his soil cultivation. A rich soil, but overworked to sand. As much as possible soil cultivation – we have new equipment – should retain crumbiness. – A bulldozer destroys a house. The bricks can be cleaned and used in rebuilding. If though, the bricks were ground to sand, such is not possible. Soil would then take much longer to recover. One of the wives of the three main Dottenfelderhof leaders expressed sadly, “had we only one healthy man who can work like Finkenstein.....”

When we arrived at Maria Thun, who I value because she has contributed practically, she welcomed us, stating that this year her preparations and compost were not good. With compost all contents should be mixed beforehand. Layering compost –when the manure layers are long humus ready, the hay layers far from it - does not work. Heintze pointed out to me 12 hills surrounding her place as having been dedicated to Germanic Gods, saying that near the sea in Holland the moon influences pre-dominate the zodiac influence. Heintze did the statistics for Maria Thun.

It is astonishing that the bio-dynamic section leaders at the Geotheanum, which I knew inclusive of Dr Schmidt, who was a valuable nutritionist, all were not farmers, and all had no practical experience in adequate preparation making. I raised with Koept (welcome as former associate “professor”) a problem with Geothaneum preparations, he made a pst sign, apparently he could not disturb the preparation maker there in his “holiness”. When I told Koept that at Finkensteins we found the bio-dynamic spray equipment lying in the dirt yard filthy and the storage tank for 500 water with green scum on top (area of great pollution), he referred to this in next Newsletter in a general way.

Contrary to the here expressed experiences of Steiner’s request which Pfeiffer fulfilled so well, I must mention that in the Koberwitz course also quite unessential things came up. The talk of the estate owner (who I know generally never had worked) of Steiner as a “Grossbauer” (farmer) – Steiner was no farmer, but had observed peasants in his childhood. Steiner’s afternoon coffee suggestion, that visiting weekend relatives or friends could stir and spray out 500 (on a large estate acreage) is dilettantic. My coworker, Frances Porter, said “they would soon not have any visitors”. To a European statement “Bio-Dynamics is mystical”, she replied, “yes very. It means hard work.” She hand picks the preparation flowers 7 to 9 hours every day for many weeks. For many farmers here and in Europe it has become more and more difficult to make effective preparations because of the time consuming materialistic pressures.

In the Agricultural Course audience (see also the great Keyserlنگk book German original, not English translation) I cannot really discover a real farmer. Ernst Jackobi was not yet associated and my friend Ernesto Genoni, who worked one year at Stegemann’s farm after the course, never saw Stegemeann other than in a suit and tie.

Of the ‘democratic’ election of the International Bio-Dynamic Associations seven directors, four are appointed “positions” (“safe” members), three can be elected. I recognized – after 20 years bio-dynamic application – “some” bio-dynamic results at Uli HuerTERS. Our farmers would not wait that long to see such little results.

Is there fear (as is everywhere conventionally – loss of workplace, advancement, political party loss, corporation tycoons of shareholders etc etc.). Has one need for ever growing “insurance” coverage etc etc? We are moving positively toward with help of positive farmers, processor, wholeseller, shops and grateful consumers.

According to my experience Demeter International (DI) is a bureaucratic organization without farmer input, but of “safe”, positioned, anthroposophic members. – Steiner indicated that bureaucracy does not fit with Anthroposophy. – After Heintze’s retirement DI started without us knowing - accepted as farming 85% of bio-dynamic soil on Earth. A letter came after the DI system was established (inclusive of costing) and threatened our export to Europe, should I not appear at their next AGM. We would have had to pay for about 85% of their – to us – totally unnecessary costs. I did not become a member and paid my expenses and travel myself. I attended eight times, the last in Holland. No Australian farmer would have taken the waste of time. The professional agricultural parts could have been dealt with in two hours in place of a whole week. At the Holland meeting (where large pictures of our 500 making, made by Camilla Conforti, were displayed on the walls – she had been here to learn preparation making), obviously pre arranged, a leading committee member after a half hour unobjective talking likened our 500 to Auschwitz. I had to answer and then translate this into English for a fine young Finn, and then left.

This committee member has probably never made 500 or used such and therefore has no appreciation of what is required to fulfill Steiner’s wish that bio-dynamics be applied as widely as possible on our Earth – as it has happened only in Australia. One of the seriously (seeking practical bio-dynamic) larger properties in Europe recently described in a letter “the anthroposophic ‘little’ group activity (“keeping it to themselves”): that they are ‘like aliens’”. We here do not hold “courses” on preparation making, but accept committed bio-dynamic practicers who bring homegrown, correctly picked and dried herbs, to participate in preparation making – the only way to learn effectively.

Demeter International registration of a farm seems not to require a Demeter inspection, neither is there an advisory service. But DI charges enormous certification costs, which with us would be AU\$700 per year (approx €350, inclusive of advice and essential farm inspection as discussed above. After quite some swindling – with questionable methods – DI attempted to obtain the trademark rights to “biodynamic” in Australia, and in doing so, denying farmers of 50 years excellent Bio-Dynamic practice this word unless they join DI – and - pay.

I obtained the Demeter trademark right in Australia in 1967, but not for “bio-dynamic” - also applied for in 1964 – as it was considered too generic a term. I agree that the Demeter flower as a symbol is suited, whereas biodynamic being and activity is not. Apparently the EU authorities have expressed non acceptance of trademarking “Bio-Dynamics”.