

FARM AT TWO VIOLETS

Organic meat, milk, fruits and vegetables from a small family farm near Brno.

Identification data:

Name: Daniela Fialová

Location: Klobouky u Brna, Czechia

Farm size: 40 ha of own land

Year of foundation: 2017

Main products: fruit crosses, sheep, goats

Web / Facebook / Twitter: <https://farmaudvoufialek.cz/>

The farm "At two violets" is a joint family business. The couple are completely out of agriculture, Ms. Fialová has an economic education, her husband is a plumber. Ms. Fialová handles administration, accounting and subsidies, Mr. Fiala takes care of land and animals.

Originally, the farm began raising poultry and rabbits for its own use. However, interest from the surrounding area led to the fact that the breeding became official and the search for a suitable property began. They rented a former pig breeding barn, from a farmer's friend. Due to the fact that the building has 1000 m², the breeding has expanded and included also pigs. Sheep graze the surrounding land. Due to free capacity, the family also decided to breed Norman cattle. They received a recommendation from a friend to start farming activities in the ecological mode.

The number of animals grew and so did the need for land. There are no meadows for grazing south of Brno, agricultural land is intensively used. The only option was to use old orchards for grazing. Unfortunately, the purchase of land was not possible due to the high price, so the family leased all the land. It currently farms on a total of 40 hectares (5 hectares of arable land used for alfalfa, 35 hectares of orchards). We use the orchards somewhere as pasture and some are used to harvest fruit (apricots and apples).

Animals are the cornerstone of the farm, currently family breeds 5 cows, 4 heifers and 2 bulls for fattening, about 20 sheep (Suffolk and Charolais breed), sows and breeding Přestice black-spotted pig. Furthermore, the family breeds about 150 hens for eggs, breeds chickens for fattening. They also have several breeding pairs of geese.

Crop production is mainly focused on the production of animal feed, from 5 hectares of alfalfa we harvest about 230 bales of hay a year, which is enough for winter feeding. During the summer, sheep and cows graze in orchards. It is necessary to buy grain for poultry and pigs. Fruits are sold directly to consumers, or consumers could come and pick fruits on their own directly from trees (self-collection). We use apples to produce apple juice. In addition, the farm experimentally uses about 0.5 hectares, where vegetables and herbs are grown.

As the family had no land or equipment, they tried to use various subsidy titles - mainly from the Rural Development Program. For example, they used the "Young Farmer" program to buy animals and build an establishment in their family house They also use the grant title from the Local Action Group.

The family cooperates with two friendly farms, only informally and mainly uses the rental of agricultural machinery (baler, loader, etc.). Sophisticated technical equipment is very expensive, so for the family it is better to borrow it for a fee or in exchange for products.

The farm also has a fruit and vegetable processing plant. They produce fruit jam, various vegetable preserves and apple juice. They are preparing to open a small cheese plant for milk processing.

Viability of small farms managed by young farmers under new
"farm-to-fork" strategy (2020-1-CZ01-KA203-078495)

They sell products (eggs, meat, fruits, vegetables) mainly to customers from the surrounding. At the same time, they distributed their products to one international company in Brno, but that outlet was limited at the time of the covid. The company plans to enter the system of community-supported agriculture, but there is no capacity for that yet.

In the future, the family wants to expand cow breeding with subsequent processing of milk into cheese and other dairy products. Another plan is the further development of fruit and vegetable growing, as the demand for local BIO products is high. Unfortunately, the farm is limited by the price of land, which is really high in the vicinity of Brno.

Photos:

