

JAKUB FUKAL

A young farmer, a teacher, expands a network of automatic milk vending machines.

Identification data:

Name: Jakub Fukal

Location: Račice - Hrotovice, Czechia

Farm size: 15 ha (9 own and 6 rented)

Year of foundation: 2015

Main products: milk, bulls

Web / Facebook / Twitter: <https://www.facebook.com/Statek-Ra%C4%8Dice-u-Hrotovic-prodej-ml%C3%A9ka-z-ml%C3%A9komatu-102170872001760/>

Agriculture is Jakub's lifelong hobby. In addition to his private farm, he is employed as a chief zootechnician on a farm that keeps 600 cows in a basic herd with an average milk production of 8,000 liters per lactation. He also teaches several vocational subjects at the Secondary Agricultural School in Třebíč, where he teaches animal husbandry and veterinary zoohygiene.

Entrepreneurship in agriculture was Jakub's lifelong dream, which he began to realize after graduating from school (Benešov Higher Vocational School - Business in Agriculture). In the first years, he started in rented premises, in 2015 he manages, i.e. buy own farmstead. Currently, Jakub's farm is focused only on the production of raw cow's milk, which is sold to customers through a milk vending machine located at the farm. With regard to other activities (teaching, work for a large farm), the farm itself is actually run as a hobby and the basic herd of the Czech Red breed consists of only 6 dairy cows with subsequent breeding of calves and heifers. At the weight of 200 kg, the bulls are sold for further fattening.

All milk produced is sold directly to customers through its own milk vending machine or sale from the yard. Unsold milk is fed to calves. The cows are housed in a renovated stable in a free stable with cribs and daily manure cleaning. Milking takes place twice a day in a simple parallel milking parlor 1x2 places. Heifer rearing takes place over the summer on pasture and over the winter they are inside. Heifer feed ratio is composed of the same raw materials as the feed of dairy cows.

Crop production takes place on 15 hectares, of which 9 hectares are own, 6 hectares are leased (mainly permanent grassland). The sowing procedure is oriented to ensure the feed for the winter. All field work is contracted as a service, also the production of silage is carried out under a contractual regime. There is a mutual cooperation between other farms in the area, which help each other in various activities (equipment exchange and sharing). Jakub also uses a large-capacity mixer from the big farm to produce the compound feed.

Since buying the farm, Jakub has been trying to improve the farm, keeping it clean. He wants visitors/customers with children to see that it is possible to keep the farm clean. The farm underwent a complete replacement of roofing, new plastering was conducted on all buildings. A barn serving as a straw and hay warehouse was demolished and rebuilt. The whole yard was paved, and a new Cesspit was built at the stable. In 2020, the stable was reconstructed, and the tethered stables were replaced by free stables. This improved animal welfare considerably.

All investments were made from own resources and with a loan. This year, for the first time, the farmer applied for a subsidy to buy new milk vending machine through the Rural Development Programme. The request was successful and is pending. At the same time, he used funds from the Local Action Group Rokytná, where he applied for funds for the purchase of a front loader with accessories. He is still waiting for a decision.

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

If the sale of milk through another vending machine proves successful, it would like to expand the vending machines to other places and try to convince the public that fresh regional food is healthy and, most importantly, affordable. He therefore sees the future of the farm in the gradual expansion of the basic herd and in the increase of milk production. Investing in your own dairy could be a big challenge, but this is not yet relevant due to time constraints.

Photos:



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