



TOMÁŠ HLAVENKA

Organic farm caring for the landscape and striving to establish the first Czech moshav.

Identification data:

Name: Tomáš Hlavenka

Location: Mikulov, Czechia

Farm size: 15 ha of own land, 17 ha leased

Year of foundation: 1993

Main products: rye, barley, oats, alfalfa

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

Tomáš Hlavenka is a healthy, happily married man who has 2 children - a son and a daughter. He graduated from the Bishop's Grammar School in Brno, Mendel University in Brno. Due to his former employment, he completed postgraduate studies in management and strategic management at the Brno University of Technology / Nottingham Trent University.

The farm is located in Mikulov, Břeclav district and includes its own 15 hectares and another 17 hectares of arable land leased.

The main production of the farm is rye, barley, oats, alfalfa. The farm is certified as organic, and therefore all production is BIO. Tomas enjoys the fact that food can be produced without poisons and pointless industrial fertilizers. In addition, it is very nice how the accompanying flora starts to grow after the harvest and the growth is filled with butterflies.

Our soil is very heavy, clayey and requires tillage in often time windows of optimal conditions, which are often only on the order of hours. For harvesting, there are two to three-way cultivators with a disc plow. Gradually they learn to work with rebar gates, which are called Striegel in German.

Cereal yield oscillates between 3 and 5 t / ha.

Farm does not perform animal production, but they use manure from a partner riding stable (approximately 30 horses), from which they produce manure. However, Tomáš plans to buy 4, maybe more bulls for meat and a few sheep to graze their forest.

The farm is not a member of any organization. It cooperates sporadically with other farmers at the level of information exchange - one similar organic farm is about 30 km away. It is led by a Viennese social psychologist and one Prague cultural anthropologist. Together, they share similar social, economic, technical, and technological information in both agriculture and the countryside.

They do not perform any relations with the former members of local cooperative (kolkhoz type).

As the farm is located close to Austria borders, Tomáš cooperates more with Austrian organic farmers at the level of exchange of experience (information transfer mainly from Austria to the Czech Republic) and in the acquisition of used equipment (capital transfer mainly from Austria to the Czech Republic). The cooperation is mutually beneficial, Austrian farmers have good outlet for their old equipment, but it still will serve well on Tomáš's farm.

The farm and its location are very specific. Stables for horses, riding club and the accommodation is located close to the farm. Also, nature close houses are slowly constructed in the area. The locality development plan aims to build the first Czech Moshav (type of Israeli town). Together with 32 hectares of arable land, the family also owns 13 hectares of urban area and more than 5 thousand square meters of built-up area.

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

Buildings there are often in poor condition from the times of socialism, so they are gradually being demolished.

The history of the farm dates to 1993, when Tomáš's father was returned the property after a nationalized brickyard, which was taken from the family during communism. Investments included roof repairs, new engineering networks, repairs of key roads, housing, modifications of storage facilities, acquisition of tractors, technical accessories, harvesters, etc. All this was acquired without any subsidies.

Tomáš himself became a farmer when he took over the family property from his father.

In the future, he plans to expand the agroforestry system connecting orchards and grazing forests so that the cultivated landscape is beautiful, ecologically stable, and reasonably productive. The goal for the future is to create a small, nice village where it would be possible to live from resources that are produced locally, including energy, food, and other materials. The family would like to be independent from the madness of the unnecessarily globalized world.

Photos:

