

MARCELA RAABOVÁ

Organic meat cattle breeding with wide scope of additional non-farming activities.

Identification details

Name: Marcela Raabová

Location: Horní Stropnice, Czechia

Area size: 170 ha (140 ha of own land)

Year of foundation: 2008

Main activities: cattle, consultancy, green maintenance, construction activity

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

Marcela Raabová is 38 years old and works with her family mainly in agriculture in the South Bohemian region, in the village of Horní Stropnice. She took over the farm based on a subsidy for young beginning farmers in 2008 from her father, who farmed after his father and he after his own. She runs the farm together with her husband, who also found love in agriculture. From the beginning of the business, the family focused mainly on the purchase of agricultural land. They wanted to have their own base that could be used for family farming. Gradually, however, the vacant land was dwindling. Today, it is almost impossible to buy new land.

The farm raise cattle without marketable milk production in an organic mode. The basic herd consists of 85 cows (mostly limousine breed) and three breeding bulls. The family mainly sells cattle for fattening. There are also several sheep with a ram on the farm, which are bred mainly for grazing grass around ponds and hard-to-reach areas.

In total, the family farms on about 170 hectares of agricultural land, mostly in ANC areas (EU terminology for areas facing natural or other specific constraints). They own about 140 hectares; the rest of the land is rented. On the 12 hectares of arable family grows clover for feeding, organic grain (for sale and for feeding). Grain yield is around 5 t / ha. The rest of the land is used as meadows and pastures. The farm also cultivates several hectares of forest, which the family takes care of especially in winter. During the year, the family employs several staff to help.

Farmed animals have access to pastures all year round. Pastures are located around the farm. In winter, the animals have a "pasture shelter" opened 24 hours a day. Animals find in the shelter enough food and heated water. Also, on the pastures, cattle have a place with a side dish and brushes for scratching.

Family farm have diversified their agricultural business from the beginning. They currently provide advice on drafting and processing subsidies for agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises from all over the Czech Republic. Thanks to the knowledge of subsidy policy, the Marcela was successful in obtaining subsidy support for the purchase of agricultural and forestry equipment, construction and reconstruction of agricultural buildings, but also to support the diversification of agriculture. They use the opportunity mainly of the Rural Development Program, the Local Action Group and the National Agricultural Support Program (PGRLF).

In addition to consulting, the family also provides construction services and services with the maintenance of public greenery.

Cooperation with other farmers means, farmers help each other especially during the season. One provide technology, the other can return manure or straw.

Viability of small farms managed by young farmers under new
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As no further expansion of land is possible in the area, the family is looking for other ways to raise funds for their own business. They are currently repairing an old house for 3 separate apartments, which they want to rent. The family owns several ponds in the vicinity of the farm, so logically they would like to use the opportunity to combine tourist accommodation with fishing, babysitting, farm adventures, etc.

Photo:



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