

AGRO BOSKOVŠTEJN

Diversified farm into animal, crop and energy production from biogas.

Identification details

Name: Vojtěch Rada

Location: Hostim, Czechia

Area size: 512 ha (55% own)

Year of foundation: 2011

Main activities: corn, beef cattle fattening, biogas plant, grape seed oil

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

The company AGRO Boskovštejn s.r.o. (limited liability company) is a family farm, where a father (Bohumír Rada) and his son (Vojtěch Rada) are the executives. The company was established in 2011. The company's establishment was essentially a partial spin-off from a larger company. The decision to start a business was the impulse to establish a family farm in place of the family residence.

Both executives graduated from Mendel University in Brno in zootechnics, agribusiness and phytotechnics. The farm is located in the South Moravian Region in the district of Znojmo. This location is a very dry area, where precipitation is often a major limiting factor of the production. The company manages an area of 512 hectares, of which about 55% is its land, and 45% is leased out.

The farm focus on crop and animal production provides services in agriculture, road transport, production of renewable energy sources in the biogas plant and produce of grape seed oil.

In crop production, they mainly grow corn, both for grain and silage. Most the corn harvested is used for silage to provide cattle feed and also is a raw material feed into the biogas plant. They also grow winter wheat, vegetables (peppers, cabbage, pumpkins). A small part of their lands is covered by grass (temporary and permanent). Spring and autumn season is very labour demanding for the farm as sowing and harvesting activities are conducted. Corn is sown with modern no-till sowing technology in so-called double rows. This method of sowing has the advantage of better distribution of individuals in the area; it results into better root and leaf system, which in turn leads to higher yields. This no-till method requires ploughing on land once every 3 to 4 years.

Livestock production includes 100 head beef cattle. Farmers buy young calves, still on a dairy diet and fatten them up to about 600 kg, then sell them to a nearby slaughterhouse distant 30 km from the farm.

The company is not part of any organization or association; they are not property or management related to any third party. Cooperation with other entities is purely on the business level and includes purchasing and selling products and services. Although farmers are aware of many associations and organizations, there is no time left for active participation in these institutions. The administration and bureaucracy activities associated with agriculture are very demanding.

Farmers carry out two non-agricultural activities on the farm. One is the production of edible oil from grape seeds, and the other activity is the operation of a workshop and repair shop for agricultural machinery and trucks.

In the last ten years, they have made investments mainly in purchasing agricultural machinery and trucks. They also built a shelter for breeding heifers.

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

As part of the investments mentioned above, the farm once used the Rural Development Program to diversify its activities. They bought a loader to provide services outside the agricultural sector, mainly in construction. Farmers are currently working on another EU Rural Development Plan application, where they would like to obtain additional funds leading to further diversification. Although they are happy that subsidies and other support programmes exist in agriculture, Vojtech and Bohumír would welcome more equal conditions in agricultural support throughout the European Union.

Photo:



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