



ŠOBÁŇ FAMILY FARM

Family farm leading to eco-production and direct sales to the customer.

Identification details

Name: Petr Šobáň

Location: Vlčnov, Czechia

Area size: 40 ha of leased land

Year of foundation: 2016

Main activities: milk, dairy products, meat, mini zoo, recreational facilities

Web / Facebook / Twitter: <https://www.farmasobanovi.com/>

Petr Šobáň is 26 years old and operates as a farmer in the village of Vlčnov in the Uherské Hradiště region. Between 2014 and 2014, he graduated with a master's degree from Mendel University in Brno. In 2016, he started a business, and in 2017 he applied for a subsidy from the Rural Development Program to support young farmers. He used the funds to build shelters for cattle. During its agricultural activity, he tried to use subsidy titles to equip the farm, which would lead to his independence, better competitiveness and farm efficiency.

Petr farms on 40 leased hectares and keeps 40 cattle. He decided on agriculture because he was born into an agricultural family. Petr's parents have been farming since the 1990s. He fell in love with working on the farm. Petr's vision is to build a farm that will produce food for the region's people. The farm now operates in a conventional system, but in the future, he would like to convert all production to a "smart and sustainable" type, i.e. organic farming. Through their activities, they are constantly moving towards this goal. Soon, Petr will only have to change his official management style administratively.

Another farm activity is the construction of a mini zoo - called "Rural yard". Here they breed and show visitors hens, turkeys, geese, sheep, goats, pigs, horses. This should be a place to sit, relax. It includes a playground, a garden with vegetables, various Czech trees with labels. In this way, Petr would like to create added value for the public. He would like to welcome kindergartens, schools, and families with children. They are preparing a teaching project with a local elementary school.

Under the rural development program, he bought some feed and tillage machinery—one of the supported projects provided funds for the equipment of a small dairy plant.

Petr works closely with his parents' farm. It manages 70 ha, of which 30 ha are their own. They keep 100 pieces of cattle. They share one agricultural area; together, they develop plans. Furthermore, Petr cooperates with two other farmers from the area - they help each other with fieldwork during the harvest. The advantage of such cooperation is faster harvesting, reduced investment in more expensive machines, which they would not have individual use, resp. would be a significant financial burden for farms.

Petr has wheat, barley, corn, alfalfa, and grass in the sowing process. They fertilize manure under the corn in the summer, then plant and sow the intermediate crop, which they roll over in the winter during frosts. In the spring, they sow directly into the mulch. Alfalfa is kept in the fields for four years.

Peter's farm set out on a journey to sell to a direct customer. It sells fresh milk in a vending machine, dairy products, and meat from young pieces directly. So far, they sell most of the milk to the sales cooperative,

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

and only about 10% of milk is sold now from the milk vending machine or in the form of products. However, about 75% of fattening beef is already sold directly to consumers. Membership in the marketing cooperative allows Peter to sell milk at a better price, coop controls payments from the dairy and allows Peter to gain more bargaining power.

As already mentioned, the farm premises will open for schools, kindergartens and families with children. Over the last year and a half, the family has invested in building a small "recreational" area: playground, shelter, kitchen, museum of old machines, toilets, a place to camp.

In 20 years, Petr would like to see a farm processing all primary production (dairy products, meat, and to a lesser extent various grains, or flour) and selling everything directly to customers, ideally to customers in the region. He would like to organize camps, welcome school trips on the farm. He would like to acquire at least 50 hectares of land and set up a small corn cleaning and drying facility. Petr's greatest wish is to pass the farm on to the next generation in 20 years, which would bring a new spirit and hope to the farm.

Photos:

