



BOVINE FARM

An organic farm that offers a variety of animals and excellent local products

Identification data

Name: Iveta Svobodová

Location: Heřmanovice, Czechia

Farm size: 432 ha

Year of foundation: 1999

Main products: beef cattle, milk, cheese,

Web / Facebook / Twitter: <https://www.farmabovine.cz>

Bovine Farm is an organic farm farming in the beautiful but rugged landscape of the Hrubý Jeseník Mountains. The farm is run by Iveta Svobodová, who graduated from the CULS in Prague, majoring in Zootechnics.

Iveta farms in the system of organic farming on permanent grasslands. The main farming activity includes breeding beef cows. However, since 2016 they have also kept a small herd of dairy cows that produce milk for calves. Surpluses are processed into cheese and other dairy delicacies.

In total, there is wide range of animals located on the farm: cows of meat breeds - approx. 220 pcs; heifers - approx. 60 pcs; breeding bulls - 9 pcs; Tibetan yaks - approx. 20 pcs, dairy cows - 10 pcs, fattening pigs - 3 pcs, hens - 30 pcs, horses - 8 pcs, donkeys - 4 pcs.

The farm is part of the PRO-BIO organization, which is the only nationwide association of organic farmers, processors, and sellers of organic food. This association offers consultations and advice to organic farmers, which Bovine Farm uses. At the same time, the farm cooperates with the surrounding farmers on an informal level (mowing assistance, machine rental ...), because good relations with neighbours and colleagues mean the certainty that even if something goes wrong, it is possible to find help in the area.

In addition to agricultural activities, the farm offers accommodation in a specially prepared building with two apartments, offering excursions for schools and kindergartens. At the same time, they produce dairy products such as yoghurts, cheeses, etc. from its own milk. A small dairy was established in 2019.

For school and other larger groups, they offer excursion opportunities, where children get acquainted with specifics of mountainous farming, they learn to recognize farm animals, kids are explained the differences between organic and conventional farming, talk about animal husbandry, they are shown animals while walking around. If there is enough milk, visitors can experience cheese production and cheese tasting. The apartments are in a separate house, which is divided into two units with private entrance, bathroom, fireplace, and kitchen.

During the history of the farm, the stables were repaired, machines, tractors were bought, and a mini dairy was built. EU funds were used to finance stable repairs, the other investments were financed with a loan. Although they applied for subsidies several times, they were not successful. Either they did not received needed amount of points, or their project was refused for financing during the project implementation.

According to Iveta, the farm has a different approach to employees. Bovine Farm is a family farm with employees in the broadest sense. This means that whole families are employed on the farm. At the same time, they have a slightly different approach to animals - so far, the ecological and protective approach prevails over financial, and economy matters. This does not seem to be very sustainable, as invoices and disbursements must be paid, while financial resources are limited.

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

In the future, Bovine Farm plans to remain a family business so that the animals and people remain satisfied. It will be necessary to further invest, repair, preferably so that the investment brings additional income. And in 20 years, Iveta would like the farm to stay the same.

Photos:

