

FAMILY FARM UCHYTIŁ

Solar-powered farm full of life

Identification data:

Name: Pavel Uchytıl

Location: Šeborov, Czech Republic

Farm size: 135 ha, 100 of own land

Year of foundation: on his own officially since 2011

Main products: cattle, barley, poppy, grasses for seed, meat

Web / Facebook / Twitter: <https://www.facebook.com/farmarodinyuchytilovy/>

Pavel Uchytıl and his father farm a small farm in Šeborov, near Velký Meziříčí, Vysočina region. Pavel is 31 years old and graduated from Mendel University in Brno, majoring in Agricultural Engineering. He has been farming with his dad for as long as he can remember, but officially started farming in 2011. Being in agriculture and taking over the farm from his dad Pavel came as a natural fit. He didn't count on doing anything else in life.

They currently farm 135 hectares of farmland, of which about 70 hectares are permanent grassland. They currently have 100 ha of their own and rent the rest.

The farm is mixed - they have both crop and livestock production. Pavel and his father breed crossbred beef cattle (calf production, fattening bulls). Their mothers and calves are spread out in the pastures around the farm for most of the year. Together they look after about 100 cattle. In crop production they produce their own fodder (meadow clover, energy rye and sorghum varieties) and at the same time produce malting barley, feed wheat and poppy on the land. Specialty crops are grasses for seed (perennial ryegrass), couch grass.

In addition to the Society of Young Agrarians (SMA), of which I am a member, and the Association of Private Agriculture (ASZ), of which Dad is a member. The farm is not a member of any marketing organization. Membership of the SMA and ASZ means that it is easier for the farm to access information about subsidies and to participate in the development of the CAP. Of course, membership also includes a social perspective - Pavel can meet other farmers and exchange experiences.

They cooperate with neighbouring farms, but basically it is an informal cooperation. They need the machine that Pavel has, so they go and provide the service. This also works the other way around. Such relationships bring economic savings, where it is possible to "share" machines that they could not otherwise afford on their own, given the cost (e.g., specific need for technology for grass/clay harvesting).

This year, Paul and his father opened a self-service tourist bar to serve refreshments to passers-by and passers-by. The farm is located right on the bike path. So, the family believes that the self-service bar will not only serve as a refreshment for cyclists and tourists but will also allow the public to learn about the farm's activities.

Currently, the family is focusing on selling produce directly from the yard. Currently, they mainly sell their own packaged beef. For the time being, they are butchering it at a friendly farm that has the necessary equipment. In the future, they plan to own their own equipment for butchering and cutting cattle into portions.

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

During the time of Paul's farming activity, the farm has invested with the support of the Czech Paying Agency (SZIF) in the renovation of the barn, the purchase of a baler, the purchase of a tractor, a picking wagon, or a spreader. Pavel uses the interest support of the national support fund (PLGRF) for all loans - for example, he has received support for an operating loan, a loan for land purchase, etc.

What makes the farm different from others? This is a difficult question to which Paul cannot immediately find an answer. Perhaps it is no different at all. But he tries to farm with love for the land and the animals, for nature. He is friendly to all visitors. He tries to keep the farm tidy, but that's not always possible.

What are Paul's plans for farming? He wants to do his job as well as possible, to finalise and process production and to make his own work as efficient as possible. Twenty years from now he would like to have an economically stable farm, independent of subsidies, processing his own production as much as possible. By being in a promising tourist location, there is certainly an opportunity to diversify towards agri-tourism.

Photos:

