

## MAGDOLNA MESZES

*Minimalistic farm focused on grassland management in Natura 2000 area.*

### Identification details

Name: Magdolna Meszes

Location: Csongrád-Csanád county, Deszk, Hungary

Farm size: 10 ha, (out of which 3,9 ha is NATURA 2000 grass field)

Year of foundation: 2018

Main activities: grassland management

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

Magdolna Meszes is a primary producer with a BSc degree in food engineering from the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Szeged. She embarked on farming because her mother had previously bought the land and transcribed it to her name 2-3 years ago. The area under management has 10 ha, of which 3.9 ha is NATURA 2000 grass field. The whole farm is located on the outskirts of Deszk, Csongrád county.

Magdolina is involved in grassland management. She does not have any animals on the farm, and she does not engage in any other non-agricultural activities yet. She is not a member of any farmers' association or any organisation of agricultural holdings. She has partnered with the neighbouring primary producer with whom she made an agreement. He mows the area twice a year, and he can take the hay for free in return. Other cooperating partners are the National Chamber of Agriculture and the Hungarian State Treasury. As farming takes place on a NATURA 2000 grass field, the farmer must participate in a training program organised by the National Chamber of Agriculture, finalised by an exam. Also, because the area is a NATURA 2000 grass field, the farmer is entitled to agricultural support, which could be reached through the help of a consultant.

If the farmer complies with the rules learned during the training, the Hungarian State Treasury will pay the agricultural support. The cooperation with the National Chamber of Agriculture and the Hungarian State Treasury is primarily aimed at transferring knowledge and information. When operating, no transfer or sharing of machinery or equipment is realised by the farm. The advantage of the established cooperation is the successful access to agricultural financial support. However, in case of improper management or non-compliance with the rules, the support may be withdrawn, or the farmer can even be fined. Among the number of rules that must be observed is, as an example, that the territorially competent nature conservation directorate must be notified five working days prior to mowing in a written form. The mower must be equipped with a game alarm chain on the mower, and the direction of mowing is also mandatory. The area must not be irrigated or drained; fertilisation is prohibited. The organic manure produced by animals grazing in the area may remain on the field. Ducks, geese, hens, pigs, however, must not be grazed on the grass field.

Since the start of the activity, no significant investment has been made in the area, and no plans have been made for investments. The unique nature of the farm, which distinguishes it from other farms, is a NATURA 2000. Long-term goals include maintaining current farming methods.



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

**Photos:**

