



DEZSÓ JÓZSEFNÉ

The family farm with no external labour force and with economic operated through family cohesion, where the main motivation is the love for animal husbandry

Identification details:

Name: Family farm of primary producer Mrs Dezsó Józsefné, Pál

Location: Csongrád-Csanád megye, Hódmezővásárhely

Farm size: 17,5 ha

Year of foundation: 2005

Main activities: dairy cattle farming

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

The farm's history goes back to 1995, when the founder Mrs Dezsó Józsefné, Pál started farming as part of her paternal grandparents' farm. The main motivation for her was the love for animal husbandry, while the commitment to the profession is also present in the choice of the third generation, which is currently taking an active role in the management of the farm. The main profile of the farm is dairy cattle farming and raw milk production. In addition, cultivation of cereals, primarily for animal feed is also a key activity. As a start, the farm received 3 cattle and 1 more was purchased, and the farm also purchased arable land of 3 ha at that time, which was gradually expanded until 2005. The stock and the land was legally transferred to Mrs Dezsó Józsefné, Pál on 6 April, 2005. At this point, location of the activity and the technology applied has been changed. The size of the herd was then 11 animals, which was extended with a mix of another 12 animals (5 Hungarian Simmental cattle heifers, 2 Holstein Friesian bulls, 1 another type of dairy cattle and 4 other type of beef cattle). The location of the farm was changed to the present site, where the animals were housed in a small barn and a paddock with electric fence system. Milking took place in the barn, with a milking machine and a cheese-making system was used. The milk was sold directly from the farm. The sale of bull specimens continued on the same principle. Artificial insemination was used. The herd changed continuously until 2008, but the size of the population varied between 20-30 individuals during this period and the technology remained unchanged. Size of the arable land was almost 8.5 ha at this time. The required amount of feed was covered by the crops produced on their own arable land, which was necessarily supplemented with fodder produced on rented land as well as grazing of animals on the canal banks in the surrounding area. In 2008 the farm became a family farm. From this year state subsidies are available for the farm, and raw milk is no longer sold directly from the farm, but instead is picked up by a purchaser. The primary objective was to increase the quantity and quality of milk production from the herd, but also to maintain the quality of meat production. At that time the Adacsi Friesian Milk Cooperative in Lajosmizse became the farm's milk purchaser

partner. An important change in the field of expertise took place in 2013, when Mrs Dezső Józsefné, Pál successfully completed the cattle inseminator training in Hódmezővásárhely, thus obtaining a licence for Csongrád county. This way, artificial insemination could be solved within the farm, an external specialist was replaced, and their breeding objectives began to be managed by themselves. From 2015 further major changes were implemented. In the spring the milk hall building was renovated and the quality of the access road was improved, which allowed a larger milk trucks to enter the premises. Sole-Mizo Zrt. was contracted to be the farm's new milk purchaser partner.

2018 is another turning point in for the farm, with an investment: a Case IH baler and a tow-behind sprayer have been purchased. The family farm still has 5 members, and no external labour force. The farm is run jointly by the founder Mrs Dezső Józsefné, Pál, and her daughter, who, after graduating from university, started a full-time primary producer career within the framework of the farm. The dominant breed of the herd is Hungarian Simmental Cattle, but it has been crossed with Holstein-Friesian cattle, therefore the farm has some F1 animals. The animals are kept in a covered barn and an adjoining open paddock, separated by age group. There are separate barns and paddocks for the different age groups, and the heifers are also divided into two groups of older and younger ones. In the spring of 2021 milk somatics separator was also purchased to ensure better milk quality.

Fodder is produced on their own 17.5 ha arable land. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the area is used for the production of cereals (wheat, barley, oats) and fodder maize, the rest is used for alfalfa production. The cattle herd currently consists of a total of 28 individuals

Cooperation has been established with the grandparents' farm, which is continuous, mainly in sharing available equipment and resources. A forage harvester and a combine harvester are available on the grandparents' farm, while, for example the two-behind sprayer is made available by the family farm of Mrs Dezső Józsefné, Pál. It is an absolute advantage for both farms that expensive assets need not be purchases, due to their cooperation. Further cooperation with other farmers in the area has developed mainly in terms of information sharing. The farm is a member of Hungarian Simmental Cattle Breeders' Association. The advantage of the membership is that through the association they get information on current economic and production trends, it is possible to consult with other farmers and professionals. As changes in legislation are sometimes difficult to follow, being informed about the latest legislative issues is certainly an advantage of the membership. Also, through their membership it is easier to follow the latest information on breeding, breeding developments, new trends and technologies.

The purchase of a baler and a milk separator can be mentioned as a significant investment, which was financed through the Agricultural Széchenyi Card scheme. In case of the milk separator, public financing was used through a project proposal. The farm is typically distinguished from other farms by the fact that it is an economic operated through family cohesion, where direct sales from the farm has been replaced by sales through purchaser partner companies. Their distinguishing feature is the aspiration for continuous improvement of quality, for which they seek to ensure the development of both professional expertise and infrastructural background. Their long-term goals include the establishment of their own milk processing plant, which is to

Viability of small farms managed by young farmers under new
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use quality milk produced on their own premises, and eventually they intend to develop their own brand.

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