



BOČIŲ FAMILY FARM

Bee products honey, pitch.

Identification data:

Name: Tomas Bočys

Location: Nedėldaržio village, Marijampolės district., Lithuania

Farm size: 4,1 ha of own land

Year established: 2004

Main activities: beekeeping

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

The beginning of beekeeping can be considered in 1985, when four bee families were now handed over to the oldest member of the family, Povilas. The farm gradually expanded. In 2004 an apiary with 20 bee colonies was registered. The farm was established in Nedėldaržis village, Marijampolė district. With the increase in income from beekeeping, the apiary began to expand. Opportunities were sought to rent more land. Since 2012 the apiary has owned 100 bee colonies. After graduating, his son Tomas joined the farm. Economic development in 2020, an EU support instrument was used; a device was purchased to reduce the loss of beeswax and honey. In 2021, the beekeeping farm expanded to 120 bee colonies. Own land is 2.5 ha, and 1.6 ha is leased.

Farmers offer the market not only honey but also other bee products - wax, beebread, pollen.

The whole family is involved in beekeeping activities. Povilas and Tomas are beekeepers. Virginia (wife) is responsible for managing the farm's finances, helping to extract honey, and selling farm produce at the market. All production is now sold by the farmer himself. Judita (daughter) helps with the purchase of honey plants and the promotion of farm products. The name and logo Agro Bočiai apiary were created in 2016. The name shows that the apiary cooperates with farmers and grows honey plants themselves. The honeycomb plot in 2015 was 0.2 ha and was later increased to 1 ha. Bit phacelia, buckwheat and mustard are grown.

In the future, it is planned to go beyond bee products. In part of the land, it is planned to grow vegetables, fruits, berries, herbs, and honey plants. This will increase the income from farm activities. Farm member Tomas educates other people who want to become beekeepers, advises beekeepers and helps them with beekeeping.

The farm also belongs to the Beekeepers' Association. The organisation provides to Tomas training and professional development, it organises specialised lectures, and supports the whole industry by representing the interests of Lithuanian beekeepers in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Tomas also cooperates with other farmers. Cooperation is essential, as it could save time and money. For example, farmers together bring bees to fields, etc.

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

Photos:

