



KAROLIS KUČINSKAS ORGANIC DAIRY FARM

Family organic dairy farm being member of milk marketing cooperative.

Identification data:

Name: Karolis Kučinskas

Location: Rumpiškėnų village, Rokiškio district, Lithuania

Farm size: 30 ha of own land

Year established: 2015

Main activities: dairy farming

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

After the restoration of Lithuania's independence, agricultural companies and family farms began to develop. The parents worked for an agricultural company and had no idea about self-farming. However, when the company went out of business, there was no other choice left. The grandparents had their own land, so it was decided to set up a farm because the parents had an education in agriculture and the experience, they had helped them to make a quicker decision.

Self-farming started in 1994, with 24 ha of own land, the direction of dairy farming was chosen. The farm was financed by the milk processing company "Rokiškio sūris", provided that the produced milk would be supplied to this company. The company maintain good relations to "Rokiškio sūris" and still sells them part of their production,

Gradually, the farm was expanded, increasing both the area of arable land (both owned and leased) and the number of dairy cows kept. In 2005 the farm had acquired 173 hectares of land and raised about 150 dairy cattle. A system for milking cows, milk cooling, manure removal and storage was installed and modernized. In 2005 a separate farm was founded by a daughter, Jurgita.

In 2015 a separate farm was founded by his son Karolis. He started farming with 19 cattle and 30 hectares of arable land and pastures. By 2021 the young farmer had 52 hectares of arable land and pastures, 49 cattle were kept on the farm, of which 24 were dairy cows.

The main goals of the farmer are not only economic, to receive income from farm activities for subsistence and further development of the farm. However, the organic farm certificate confirms that the development aims to contribute to the environmental sustainability by preserving uncultivated soils without exploiting the animals, to make them feel as natural as possible, to produce milk under an organic feeding program that is sustainable for animal health.

The activities of all family farms are similar, therefore the members of the farm share knowledge and experience. Each individual farm has the specialized agricultural machinery it needs, and some of the machinery is shared. All farms have an organic farm certificate.

The farm, together with other 62 members, belong to the dairy cooperative "ECO Tikslas". Part of the milk produced by the members of the cooperative is exported to the Polish milk processing company "Bakoma", part is supplied to "AB Rokiškio sūris". As members of a cooperative, farmers sell milk to processors at a higher price, as larger group they have better negotiation power. Also, cooperative enables them to purchase necessary materials at cheaper price.

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

However, the family farm plans to process part of the production and market organic dairy products. There are already production buildings for this, 1 ha of berries is grown on the farm of the oldest members of the family: blueberries, raspberries, strawberries. EU support is planned to achieve this goal.

Photos:

