

KASPARO CANNABIS

Very young farm with big plans in hemp growing and processing.

Identification data:

Name: Kasparas Vaitiekūnas

Location: Stoniškių village, Pagėgių district, Lithuania

Farm size: 25ha, 10 % own land

Year established: 2019

Main activities: cereals, fibrous hemp, beets

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

Kasparas farm has been built from scratch recently; his parents had never been farming. Only Grandmother had about 2 hectares of land. From the age of 12, he started helping farmers in the summers, and he enjoyed that activity. And since then, he was always dreaming of creating his farm. While still in school, he kept several sheep bred on his grandmother's property. And all the processes - barn installation, sheep care. After graduating from school, he did compulsory military service, and when he finally realized that he wanted to create his farm. For this purpose, he entered the Faculty of Agronomy of the WMU Academy of Agriculture. He is already studying in his final year and has a clear vision of his farm.

The farm was established in Stoniškės village. The farmer has leased 25 hectares of land where he grows crops. Cereals, fibrous hemp and beets are grown. The main goals of farming are to engage in favourite activities and to create a farm that would be a source of income.

Although the duration of farming is not long, the farmer has acquired all the necessary agricultural machinery: tractor, tillage implements, combine harvester, sprayer, hemp shredder.

Throughout Lithuania, most farmers' farms market agricultural products as raw materials. A tiny proportion undertakes to process farm-produced products and offers higher value-added products to the market. This is due to many different reasons: lack of time, lack of knowledge, it is not difficult to sell grain or other agricultural products as raw materials. On farms with limited labour, etc., making and implementing such a decision is quite risky. Therefore, decisions on the processing of products are made with minimal risk - limited to the raw material grown on the farm. Kasparas does not process all the crops grown on the farm, but only hemp.

As cannabis products were produced for two years, the farm does not yet belong to any cooperative or association. But this possibility is not ruled out in the future.

There are plans to expand the farm in the future, with a dream of a cannabis processing plant producing various food and medical products made from fibrous cannabis, such as CBD oil, seed oil, cannabis flour, bars, different teas, and more.

The farm is newly established, and there aren't any established partnerships yet. A relationship is still being built. Another thing cannabis is rarely grown by farmers, and if they are growing cannabis, there may be different motives for producing them - because of the fibre or the seeds. However, Kaspar agrees that cooperation with other farmers is essential. He is currently preparing a project about cannabis cultivation technology, conducting experiments and consulting with researchers from the Academy of Agriculture.

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

Controlling all farm activities is a difficult task for one person, therefore harvest is sold in different ways, small part is sold directly, but most of the production is sold through intermediaries.

Photos:

