

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



VILKĖS FARM

A farm where vegetables, fruit and berries are grown naturally

Identification data:

Name: Vilkės Farm

Location: Babrauninkai village, Sventežeris eldership, Lazdijai district, Lithuania

Farm size: 10 ha, own land (the cultivated land (orchards) is 1 ha)

Year established: 2015

Main production: vegetables, fruit and berries

Web / Facebook / Twitter: www.facebook.com/vilkesukis

Vaida Tulabaité founded "Vilkés Farm" in the summer of 2015 on the farmstead she inherited from her grandparents in the Lazdijai district. Vaida Tulabaité said she always knew she would live in the village and grow food.

The history of the "Vilkės farm" is simple. It is the realization of a dream associated with beautiful childhood memories. She wanted to have a table full of the most amazing goodies again so that as little as possible had to be bought. She dreamed of bringing back the times when the farm roared from the children's voices when all gathered on weekends and worked.

"Vilkės farm" is about 10 ha, but they are not fully utilized. Some lands still need to be revived from depletion. All activities are based on a sustainable agribusiness model. Such agriculture does not "eat" the soil, but on the contrary – it keeps restoring and enriching the ground every year. It is a farm with biodiversity; soil condition is improved with its purified methods. The farm grows greens (lettuce, onion leaves, dill, coriander, arugula, mizuna, Chinese bastuts, mangolds, spinach, celery leaves, spring kale, parsley, basil, etc.), vegetables (beets, tomatoes, radishes, squash, cucumbers, zucchini, pumpkins, leeks, etc.), berries and fruits (strawberries, currants, raspberries, grapes, plums, pears, apples, etc.), aromatic herbs (St. John's wort, oregano, tarragon, perilla, basil flowers), medicinal plants (sage, lemon balm, mint, elderberry flowers, hop cones, worms, thyme, linden flowers, chamomile).

Vaida began to introduce foreign experience – goodies baskets for subscribers. She creates a short food supply chain. She organizes training, talks about business, commerce and natural agriculture, shares experiences on what needs to be done to make a business 100% sustainable. With the "Vilkės Farm" baskets, it is possible to order various goodies from friends' farms (bread, eggs, honey, buckwheat, beans, potatoes, berries, nuts, fruits, herbs).

Vilkė Farm does not receive any state benefits and subsidies, 100% viable and self-sustainable.

The farm also runs non-agricultural activities. Vaida organizes training for people who want to learn how to grow food for themselves in a sustainable way, has a programme about farmer activities. The farm is successful in attracting and accepting volunteers from Lithuania and from all over the world. Also, tourists are welcomed, traditional, and new recipes are created and published.

What distinguishes the farm from others -100% sustainability, no state support, direct links to consumers through farm baskets sales and a wide variety of products offered.

Photos:



Vegetables grown on the farm

(Source: http://www.vilkesukis.lt/galerija/)



The strawberries

(Source: http://www.vilkesukis.lt/galerija/)