



FARM OF BARTAS GIEDRAITIS

Larger crop farm with cooperative support in agronomy and sales.

Identification data:

Name: Farm of Bartas Giedraitis

Location: Paskynai village, Jurbarkas district, Lithuania

Farm size: 210 ha

Year established: 2015

Production: grain

Facebook / Twitter: <https://www.facebook.com/bartas.giedraitis>

Since 2015, Bartas has been a farmer working on more than 200 hectares. He registered his farm in 2015 but has been working on the farm for a long time. He was engaged in farm economic activities since 2005, when reached 15.

Agriculture and farming have been fun since childhood. Bartas dad was a farmer, his grandfather was a big beekeeper, and his great-grandfather was also a farmer. Work in the great-grandfather lands is still going on today, and continuity brings great confidence. Bartas father since 1992 started farming on grandparents' land in Paskynai village, Jurbarkas district.

The farmer has a university degree in rural development administration. He constantly accumulated knowledge of agricultural development while working with his farming father Egidijus Giedraitis.

The farm is located in a logistically convenient place, only 15 km from the highway near Raseiniai. Almost all farm products are transported to Klaipeda port, which is 150 km away from the farm.

The farm's products are food and feed wheat, rape, peas, beans, malting barley. Attempts have been made to grow lupins and radishes for several years, but results were not promising. Over the years, it is planned to expand the farm and have high-quality forage grass. Farm-grown products are not processed. In the future, with the help of cooperation, it is planned to start processing.

The farmer is a member of the agricultural cooperative Viduklė, and also belongs to the Lithuanian Farmers' Union and the Lithuanian Grain Growers' Association.

Batas Giedraitis farm cooperates very closely with the agricultural cooperative "Viduklė". All products grown on the farm are sold through a cooperative of which the farmer is a member. Viduklė Agricultural Cooperative hires professional agronomists who supervise the crop and advise on all necessary issues. The pesticides and fertilizers used on the farm are sourced from the cooperative. In the long run, co-operation brings significant benefits that improve the economy's performance every year.

The administration of the cooperative works intensively on the sale of products. Farmer Bart doesn't have to worry much about selling procedure. The agronomists of the cooperative, who take care of the crop, also take care of the pesticides and fertilizers needed for the farm.

From 2021 Bartas Giedraitis is also working with a local farmer who took over his grandfather's small farm, but looks at everything with great prospects. Bartas advises the local farmer on technological issues, provides loading and sowing services. In exchange receive other agricultural services.

Cooperation is a complicated thing and quite foreign to Lithuanians. Lithuanian farmers can hardly imagine that the equipment can be used not only on their own farm, but also on the farm of a neighbor or another

local farmer. Viduklė Agricultural Cooperative provides services to the members of the cooperative, it is not always possible to plan everything smoothly, which is why there is a lot of discussion, but the discussions lead to even more successful activities in the future.

A wide range of projects have been successfully implemented on the farm. A modern and efficient combine harvester was acquired in the area of "Investments in tangible assets" "Investments in agricultural holdings" in 2016.

Before starting farming, Bartas carried out research on the impact of agriculture on rural development in Jurbarkas district and Pagėgiai municipality, participated in the entrepreneurship education project START, and Bartas' idea was one of the best in the business idea competition (2013). He also worked for a couple of years and successfully coordinated the project aiming at entrepreneurship education of rural people.

Based on the EU policy, he realized that the future of farming is multifunctionality. This is a very complex and knowledge, effort and financial model. However, in any case, multifunctionality in agriculture is the goal of Bartas Giedraitis' farm. The start is slow and difficult, but Bart believes that the achieved results will eventually become significant for his relatives and the village.

Future plans for a number of years have shifted to direct sowing. The future is already this year and the farm will switch 100% to a new agricultural technology - the farm will use strip-till technology. This is not a no till technology, but under farm soil strip till is a more suitable option for at least the next 6 years. Farmers never stop dreaming and making plans for the future, like changing heating from forest wood to oats and grain husks grown on the farm.

Photos:

