

## KAROLINA KOČIŪNAITĖ FARM

*Limousin pure-bred beef cattle farm*

### **Identification data:**

Name: Karolina Kočiūnaitė Farm

Location: Petroškai village, Lazdijai district, Lithuania

Farm size: 21 ha of its own land and 10 ha rented

Year established: 2017

Production: pure-bred beef cattle – Limousins

Web / Facebook / Twitter:

Karolina registered her farm in mid-2017. No one was surprised by her decision to farm, as for many years her family, friends and acquaintances have seen her as a true “child of the land”, who loves her land, nature and animals, and who is not afraid of work. The young farmer raises pure-bred Limousin beef cattle. The farm currently has 17 Limousins. She keeps increasing the number of cattle. Her parents, Vidutė and Darius Kočiūnai, who are also farmers, helped her to choose cattle farming. Already working on her parents' farm, she learned about the specifics of the field and got used to the animals, so it was not difficult to decide which branch of agriculture to choose and develop.

Karolina Kočiūnaitė's parents have been farming since 2012. When the head of the family retired, the couple decided to focus on meat farming. Initially, they bought seven purebred Limousin heifers and a bull. They now have 72 Limousin cattle. Darius Kočiūnas is a member of the meat cattle breeders' cooperative “5 000 aubrakas Lazdijai”. By selling their cattle to Polish buyers, members of the cooperative get a higher price for their cattle, while at the same time getting cheaper prices for some of the tools they need for agriculture.

The Kočiūnai family owns 73 hectares of land, 30 hectares of which they own and the rest is rented. 46 ha are grassland and 27 ha were sown this year with wheat, rye, triticale, oats and maize. They make hay for their livestock and produce maize silage. The young farmer has only a tractor with a loader, and all the other equipment she needs to prepare fodder is “borrowed” from her parents' farm.

Karolina Kočiūnaitė has received support under the Operational Area “Support for setting up young farmers” of the Lithuanian Rural Development Programme 2014–2020. Without this support, she probably would not have started farming. It is virtually impossible to buy new machinery for a start-up farm: the prices are very high and the farm's income is low. Karolina used the support to buy a new tractor and loader. The grant amounted to 40 000 Eur. As the tractor was more expensive, she had to add a lot of money of her own and took out a bank loan. The young farmer has also applied to modernise her farm. It plans to buy a modern combine harvester.

Karolina Kočiūnaitė learns new knowledge by attending seminars organised in Lazdijai district, and says she finds a lot of useful advice on the internet, where farmers share their experience and help answer many questions. However, there is still a lack of knowledge, so she hopes to learn a lot in the future. Karolina Kočiūnaitė studied law. She is determined to help farmers fight for their rights and for better farming conditions, if given the chance, as this is something that is important to her too.

**Photos:**



**Farm livestock**

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