

PAWLAK FARM

Crop farm managed by a student focused on investment

Identification details

Name: Adrian Pawlak

Location: Bielawy, Wielkopolskie Voivodeship, Poland

Farm size: 31.5 ha (9 ha owned)

Year of foundation: 2018

Main activities: crop production, wheat, winter rape, winter rye, potatoes, onion

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

Farm is managed by 24-year-old Adrian, who completed the BSc programme in Agriculture and currently is a student of MSc programme in the field. He started the agricultural activity in 2018 with overtaking the part of the family farm. His motivation to start the agricultural activity were enjoyable working on farm and a variety of agro-related activities. As the farmer received only a part of the farm, all agricultural activities are carried out on the basis of joint decisions. Hence he runs the farm like his parents, however, he pays much more attention to investment processes in order to modernise the farm. Currently the utilized agricultural area (UAA) of the farm is 31.5 ha, including 9 ha UAA owned by the farm manager. The farm specializes in plant production. Winter wheat (15 ha), winter rape (4.5 ha), winter rye (2.5 ha), potatoes (5 ha) and onion (4.5 ha) are grown. Potatoes are sold immediately after harvesting under the contract agreement, while rapeseed and rye are sold to a nearby collector. Wheat and onion are stored in warehouses and sold in the springtime.

The farmer is not a member of any agricultural producers' group or organisation. As knowledge, practical skills and innovation are keys of successful activity in agriculture, at least 3 times a year the farmer participates in trainings in the field of cultivation of onions and potatoes, organised by seed companies or seed traders. Moreover, he took an internship in the experimental farm. This internship was organised by the university, however, the farmer systematically attends self-financed courses related to the operation of agricultural machinery such as sprayers, forklifts, combine harvesters operator etc.

In the future farmer would like to extend the acreage. Hence, he has bought an unloading and sorting basket for onions and potatoes to improve harvesting. That investment was supported by the EU funds under the "Setting up of young farmers" measure of the Rural Development Programme. In the near future, a tractor will be purchased. Besides, he is going to organise computer-controlled storage, replace machines with newer and more efficient ones, as well as introduce the controlled irrigation of onion and potatoes. It is also planned to convert the cultivation of starch potatoes to consumption ones. All those investments along with increasing the cultivation area should make the agricultural activity more profitable.

The farmer believes that crop diversity is the key advantage of his farm over the competitors, while bigger scale of production combined with professional skills and technology can give him a stronger position in the value chain. He indicates that accurate observation of what is happening on the field and selecting the appropriate dates for the use of plant protection products is of key importance in his current and future activity.

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

Photo:

