

MANIA FARM

Dairy farm managed by a cultivating local traditions housewife

Identification details

Name: Justyna Mania

Location: Kluczewo, Wielkopolskie Voivodeship, Poland

Farm size: 28 ha (26.5 owned)

Year of foundation: 2011

Main activities: cattle, milk, crop production, barley, maize, frain, rye, grasslands

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

Farm is managed by 33-year-old woman, who completed the BSc programme in Agriculture and currently is a student of MSc programme in the field. She started the agricultural activity in 2011 when her husband inherited the farm over his parents. Currently the utilized agricultural area (UAA) of the farm is around 28 ha, including nearly 26.5 ha UAA owned by the farm manager. Cattle production is the main specialization of the farm. Herd counts forty milk cows, four breeding heifers, six 1-2 year heifers and fourteen heifers up to 1 year. Milk from the farm is delivered to the Mlekovita Dairy Cooperative, while the farmer is a member of that cooperative. The Mlekovita Group is the biggest dairy company in the Central and Eastern Europe and the top producer of butter. Milk deliveries from around 15 thousands of farms are under contracts. Quality of milk delivered is tested by the laboratories of the Cooperative's Milk Research and Analytical Center, however milk samples are not duplicated for the farmer. Along with the inability to affect the prices this is one of the shortcomings of the cooperation with the Mlekovita Dairy Cooperative. Except for that, the farmer is satisfied with the standards and conditions of the cooperation within that vertical cooperation. Plant production is carried out in order to provide animal fodder. Winter barley (1.18 ha), silage maize (7.85 ha), spring grain mix (1.95 ha), winter rye (2.38 ha) are grown, while permanent grassland is more than 12.6 ha.

The woman is not a member of any agricultural producers' group, however, she is a member of the Greater Poland Chamber of Agriculture and the local farmer's wives' association. Membership in the Greater Poland Chamber of Agriculture is a way to broaden the knowledge and skills on a regular basis. Thank to the numerous trainings the farmer is more and more familiar with the current regulations of agricultural activity, including those related to the fertilization plan or obtaining subsidies for agricultural farms. An additional advantage is that the trainings organized by the Greater Poland Chamber of Agriculture are free of charge. Moreover, the farmers share their experience and cooperate in improving the position of farmers in the countryside. An important part of the everyday activity of the woman is a membership in the local farmer's wives' association, which allows to maintain good relationships in the small homeland, as well as cultivate the traditions and culture of local population as not to lose this unique heritage.

A series of investments in buildings and machinery was made since the farm manager has started the agricultural activity. New livestock buildings were built, while the existing ones were improved and machine park was modernized. This continuous process of farm modernisation constitutes the advantage of the farm over the competitors. Next step to strengthen the position of the farm in the value chain is to increase the level of production and to open an own cheese factory. Bigger scale of production should allow to decrease the cost of production, while direct sales should contribute to increasing the level of revenue.

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

Photos:

