

KARBOWIAK FARM

Pig farm managed by a socially involved housewife

Identification details

Name: Paulina Karbowski-Zaworska

Location: Biadki, Wielkopolskie Voivodeship, Poland

Farm size: 2,000 pigs, 30 ha (1 ha owned)

Year of foundation: 2016

Main activities: pig production

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

Farm is managed by 27-year-old woman, who is a holder of the MSc degree in Agriculture, specialization in agronomy. She also completed the MSc programme in public procurement. She started the agricultural activity in 2016 when she leased agricultural land from her father. At the beginning of 2019, she completed the construction of a pigsty and she started breeding pigs. She gained practice and experience from her parents. She has been helping them on the farm since she was a child. Passion for agriculture and the fact that she is an only child made her the successor of the farm. That is a family farm, taken over from generation to generation. Each generation tried to develop the farm and modernize it by purchasing land and machinery, as well as building and expanding a piggery. In the past, cows, cattle and pigs were raised on the farm. Currently specialization in pig production is taken. Such a specialization and scale of production make the farm position in the value chain strong. Annually around 2,000 pigs are produced in an open herd turnover. Plant production is carried out along with the pig production to provide own animal fodder. Wheat (10 ha), barley (6 ha), triticale (6 ha), maize (5 ha) and sugar beets (3 ha) are grown. The total farm area is 30 ha UAA, however, only 1 ha UAA is owned by the farmer.

The farmer is a member of agricultural producers' group. This way it is possible to arrange the joint purchases of means of agricultural production in order to decrease the cost of production and to organise the joint sales of animals to get higher prices. Moreover, the farmer participates in the project "Fattening pigs without antibiotics and GMOs". Ability to decrease the cost of production and get higher prices due to the membership in the agricultural producers' group, as well as food safety constitute the advantage of the farm over the competitors.

Financial support from the EU is an important factor decisive to agricultural activity on that farm. Thank to the funds under the "Setting up of young farmers" measure of the Rural Development Programme a series of investments was made since the manager has started the agricultural activity. The biggest investment was the construction of a piggery. In addition, a disc harrow, a trailer, a slurry tanker were purchased, while the farm was fenced in accordance with the biosecurity regulations. In the future, the farmer is going to harden the area around the piggery and buy a truck scale. As the farmer realizes that knowledge and practical skills are keys of successful activity in agriculture, she willingly attends trainings related to the farm finance, the use of fertilizers, plant protection and animal nutrition. Despite the satisfactory results of agricultural activity, in the face of the currently difficult situation on the pig market, the farmer is concerned about the future of the farm. However, she would definitely like to go on with pig farming.

The farm manager is also involved in social activities. She is a member of the 'Together for Biadek' Association, which year by year organises family festivities entitled "Let's live healthy and active", bicycle rallies, roller skating rallies, nordic walking, one-day trips, and dance evenings (at the St. Andrew's Day or at the carnival). The Archeologist's Day for children was one of the latest activities organised by the Association in cooperation with the local library. The farmer is also a member of the Farmer's Wives' Association in Biadki. Each year the women involved take part in various competitions addressed to such associations and organise an Easter Breakfast for the inhabitants of the village. In the opinion of that young farmer all above-mentioned activities bring many benefits for a local society. At this time a serious problem is that small family farms often collapse, while the farmers sell their land to city dwellers, who want to live in the countryside. Unfortunately, those people do not really understand the specificity of agriculture (working late during harvest, bad smells etc.). Therefore, such organisations as the 'Together for Biadek' Association and the Farmer's Wives' Association in Biadki aim at integrating the entire rural society. All those joint initiatives create an opportunity for both farmers and townpeople to get to know each other better. It is possible to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and cooperation.

Movie with Paulina:

<https://poznan.tvp.pl/54958958/20072021>

Facebook of the 'Together for Biadek' Association:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/611574462250395>

Facebook of the Farmer's Wives' Association in Biadki:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/685052775590465>

Photos:



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

