

ŁAGODA FARM

Family pig farm successfully managed by a member of agricultural producers' group

Identification details

Name: Maciej Łagoda

Location: Kaczagórka, Wielkopolskie Voivodeship, Poland

Farm size: 1,200 pigs, 48 ha (41 owned)

Year of foundation: 2010

Main activities: pigs, crop production for fodder – sugar beet, wheat, barley, triticale

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

Farm is managed by 38-year-old man, who completed agricultural technical school. He started the agricultural activity in 2010 when he took over the farm from his parents. Agricultural tradition and fascination with working as a farmer were the major factors that made him running agricultural activity. The farmer enjoys being with animals and cultivating the land as bringing new challenges day by day. It is not easy to face them, however, it is satisfactory when it comes.

The utilized agricultural area (UAA) of the farm is 48 ha, including 41 ha UAA owned by the farm manager. The farm specializes in pig production. Around 1,200 pigs are produced annually. Plant production is carried out in order to provide animal fodder. Sugar beets (9 ha), winter wheat (20 ha), winter barley (15 ha) and winter triticale (4 ha) are grown. Moreover, non-agricultural activity is driven on a farm. Agricultural services have been provided by a tractor with a front loader for 7 years. However, the farmer does not rule out stopping this activity in favour of developing pig production.

Since 2018 the farmer is a member of the Wyrębin pig producers' group, which is organised as a cooperative. Thank to joint organisation of the activities, the membership in agricultural producers' group allows farmer to pay lower prices for means of agricultural production (mainly cereals and piglets) by around 5-10% and get higher selling prices by 5%. Moreover, the farmer is a member of the regional agricultural club and takes a part in the volunteer fire brigade activity.

Subsidies within the EU funds are an important factor affecting agricultural activity on that farm. A series of investments in agricultural machinery and buildings was made on the farm since the farm manager has started the agricultural activity. Tractor and agricultural equipment such as a cultivating and sowing unit, a spreader, a septic barrel and a stubble picker were purchased. The old pigsty has been modernised into a litter-free one, while the new pigsty for about 600 animal units and grain silos for about 450 tons were built. Besides, maneuvering yard has been hardened.

That is a family farm running by the fourth generation of farmers. The pigs are kept at a high level of health with very low antibiotic consumption and very good welfare conditions. At this time a new project aiming at non-antibiotic fattening is considered by the farmer. In plant production, the farmer uses in 80% natural fertilizers, using a small amount of fungicides and pesticides at the same time. All those gives the farm an advantage over the competitors. The farmer points at the importance of financial liquidity to agricultural activity and the necessity of long-term planning, when thinking about the development of an agricultural farm. In 20 years he would like to run the farm as successfully as today and not worse.

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

Photo:

