

POLISH BACON

Pork oriented producer organisation of young farmers

Identification details

Name: Polski Bekon / Polish Becon

Location: Podrzewie, Poland

Number of members: 6

Year of foundation: 2019

Main activities: pig sale

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

Polish Bacon (Polski Bekon) producer group was founded in 2019. Currently, it has 6 members, of which as many as half are young people, under the age of 40. The producer group brings together farmers engaged in pigs production. It is a form of organized, registered cooperation. It is located in the so-called "pig basin", i.e. in the southern part of Wielkopolskie Voivodeship. It is a Polish region traditionally associated with pigs production.

The organization was established with the use of the EU support funds for the creation of agricultural producer groups. As far as the management structure is concerned, the key decisions are made by the management board and the operational activities are coordinated by the manager. The day-to-day management of the group is entrusted to Agointegracja, with which the group has a service contract. Agointegracja provides accounting and legal services to the group and provides up-to-date market information to the group members. Agointegracja conducts research and development projects with the members of the group in order to search for current problems of the affiliated producers. Agointegracja provides training and effective knowledge transfer for the groups which are in operation. This is based on the promotion of production effects which are achieved by other farms - the effect of demonstration and imitation.

It is a closed group, i.e. focused on pig production. The condition for new members to join the organization is the production of a specific product and the producer's declaration that he/she does not belong to another group formed for the same product.

The members of the group are family farms with an average size of about 30 ha of UAA. About half of the acreage of the entire group, but also the total value of production, belongs to young farmers. Young farmers - members of the group - are people connected to the farm since childhood. They have gained knowledge, experience and passion for work in agriculture thanks to multi-generational farm management.

The members of the group take part in many trainings, conferences and seminars about farm finances, animal feeding and obtaining EU funds for farm development. The advantage of membership is obtaining lower prices for the means of production (input prices). The co-operative of pork producers Polski Bekon also supports the purchase of inputs at a discount of approx. 4%. The group also has a common nutritional advisor who supervises the fattening of animals. A distinctive feature of the group is that its members know each other very well. It builds trust and open flow of information about all problems connected with agricultural production. Some members have applied to join the EPI group in the form of a consortium founded by Agointegration. The pork consortium pursues the goal of antibiotic-free and GMO-free pig

rearing with a limited carbon footprint. The fattening of animals without antibiotics will take place without the use of GMO and microbial inhibitors in feed.

Thanks to the cooperation, it was possible to modernize farms, including construction of a piggery, adaptation of the farm in accordance with the regulations on bio-containment as well as expansion of the machinery equipment.

Currently, the most important challenge for the group is to survive the difficult period of economic downturn on the pig market. The aim of the group is to support each producers and to promote local business. The business intention is to produce in such a way that the piglets used for further fattening will come from cooperating farms, or at least from Polish (preferably local) breeding. The project will use innovative digital solutions to support reporting and management of production and to determine the carbon footprint.

Photos: N/A