

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



JÁN MADŽO

The family of Ján Madža is an example of the transfer of a profession to a young generation.

Identification details

Name: Ján Madžo

Location: Lehota pod Vtáčnikom, Slovakia

Farm size: 48,75 ha

Year established: 2016

Main activities: cattle – meat and milk products

Web / Facebook / Twitter:

Ján Madžo is a self-employed farmer in the village of Lehota pod Vtáčnikom, located in the district of Prievidza in the Trenčín Region. The Vtáčnik Mountains, as a part of the Upper Nitra Uplands, create a natural wall in the area protecting the village located at the foot of the mountains. The area with sufficient moisture creates ideal conditions for cattle breeding. As Ján Madžo is a local native, the development of the area is an important factor for him. He manifests local patriotism in his activities as well as in activities within civic associations helping agriculture.

He is a promoter of agricultural family lifestyle, his effort is to achieve full income independence for the family from agricultural activities.

It is one of the first farms to open an on-farm milk processing plant and on-farm meat processing premises. An equally great advantage is the establishment of its own store at the place of production.

The family is trying to contribute to improving the supply of dairy products and meat by selling from the yard. They serve customers from close and more distant places (villages and towns) due to the spread of good reputation. By respecting the quality of the offered products and the offer of services in tourism, a precondition is created for the development of the farm and its expansion of activities.

Ján keeps quality dairy cows supplying the farm and also he preserves quality slaughter animals for the offer of meat products. Due to that he increases the share of cultivated area for obtaining his own fodder, namely quality hay, which is the basis of cattle nutrition.

Ján is the second farmer generation. The family of Ján Madža is an excellent example of the transfer of from one generation to another.

Ján Madžo gradually took over the father's original intention. From the beginning as a father's helper, he later created his own farm. Over time they exchanged roles, now father became a counselor and helper. As they have a large range of activities - dairy and meat production, Jans wife helps in dairy production.

His father is mostly engaged in forage processing, pasture management and grazing cattle. It helps in milking and also in feeding pigs kept for slaughter.

The family improved the financial health of the farm by offering processed meat products - especially sausages, bacon, smoked meat. They also offer on-farm product tasting combined with rural tourism. The

complexity of the offer - dairy products and meat products, hospitality on the farm is associated with involvement and cooperation within the whole family. Everyone has their place and develops their area according to their own ideas, but in accordance with the intentions of the whole family farm and in connection with the needs and possibilities of other family members.

The family plans to develop farm in terms of quality. There is a limit to what the family can do on its own and where its strength is already insufficient. Therefore, their goal is to provide quality in the first place. Increasing acreage is not possible without further investment not only in machinery, but also labor, which is little available in the region. The work is thus exclusively in their own hends. Nevertheless, they are not afraid of this challenge and plan to remain in agriculture and to educate the young generation in this direction, so that they can continue the family tradition.

Photos:





