

KRISTIÁN KARBAN

Getting to the land (soil) is not easy.

Identification details:

Name: Kristián Karban

Location: Potônske Lúky, Slovakia

Farm size: 0 ha

Year established: 2016

Main activities: goats

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

Kristián Karban is another representative of the young generation in agriculture. In 2016, at the age of only 21, in addition to his studies, he began to engage in agricultural activities, namely the small production of vegetables, which he supplied directly to consumers.

In 2019 he started cattle and goats breeding. The intention is to produce milk in organic farming and its processing in his own dairy. It is an example of a novice farmer going through all the pitfalls of legislation and financial expenses related to starting a business in the field of agriculture from virtually zero.

The idea to start "from scratch", as presented in the call for young farmers in 2016, is unrealistic from his point of view. Without the help of his family, he would never have been able to carry out an agricultural activity moreover, to make a living from it. In the conditions created for farmers in Slovakia today, one can only start with strong support from close surroundings. Today the presence of a farmer is becoming a problem in the Slovakian countryside.

Kristián sees the following problems making it difficult for a young person to enter agricultural production: insufficient support from the state, social distrust in the presence of a farmer in the area, the issue of employing labour (also part-time or voluntary work), obstacles to the processing of own production and its sale. Even if a young person manage to fulfil all bureaucratic and formal requirements, he has to find time to manage own farming activity. Then it isn't very easy to find time for own regeneration or study.

Kristián Karban knows well from his personal experience. Access to land is not easy, and even if it is, there is no guarantee that it will be possible to use it for animal husbandry. The lack of rules for defining a family farm makes it challenging to set up a small farmer who could build his farm and home in one place (an important element in animal husbandry and milking). His efforts to establish a farm in Poľný Kesov ended after a two-year, mainly due to his efforts to set up an electrical and water connection.

In the place of the current business - in the Little Danube basin- cattle breeding conditions seem to be ideal in connection with historical traditions. It had been already described that the situation is different from what it looks at first glance. Because there was no access to the land in the vicinity, cattle breeding took place in housing with a paddock, and the need arose to remove and store manure. The co-operation with local growers proved to be very good when straw was supplied for sharing in exchange for manure removal. At first glance, a small thing is one of the essential elements in maintaining soil fertility and quality. The straw from the plot was returned enriched with manure, which helped improve its quality and fertility. In

the area, flooded with industrial fertilizers, is an actual example of agricultural practice and co-operation between two local farmers.

In Potônské Lúky, the farm is closed due to the sizeable necessary investment in the construction of mansions, as it was not possible to ensure access to the surrounding land.

For this reason, the farm is currently being reorganized and relocated to an area with more favorable conditions for breeding and selling production. Despite the difficulties, the young farmer is determined to try to find a way to make a living as a farmer.

Photo:

