

MARIÁN GLOVAŤÁK

He does not perceive himself as an entrepreneur but as an ordinary person.

Identification details:

Name: Marian Glovatak

Location: Oravská Polhora, Slovakia

Farm size: 80 ha

Year established: 2012

Main activities: dairy cows

Web / Facebook / Twitter: FB Marian Glovatak

The farm's history began in 2012 when the young farmer Marián and his wife decided to farm. Then they bought a mower and a milking machine and started milking 4 of their parents' cows. They decided to take care of these cows and start farming. In 2013, they started building a farm on a greenfield by constructing a farm building, in which they moved the first cattle this year. Then the farm gradually expanded from year to year.

Marián Glovatak family farm is located in the village Oravská Polhora, below Baba Hora (district Námestovo, Žilina region) in Slovakia.

The farm manages 4 hectares of its land and 30 hectares of leased land on which they can rely. Together with the leased land, which they take care of but cannot rely on, it is about 80 ha.

They specialise in animal production to produce milk and partly meat.

This farm officially produces milk, but due to the legislation, which opposes processing, the milk is processed by natural persons, Marián's wife. This means that together they produce cheese and raw products. They try to make the final product so that there is the highest possible added value. In addition, they also have some meat. They kill three to four bulls a year and also sell calves.

In the past, they produced potatoes, which they sold to schools, and also grew oats on some 5 hectares. But later, they decided that they would devote themselves entirely to only one direction, mainly milk production and processing. They would like to diversify in the future, i.e. spread the farmer's income in as many directions as possible. This means adding crops into production again, establishing agrotourism with guided adventure hikes around the farm. However, they can do this only after mastering milk production, but first, they need to invest in modern stables. Their stables are very low-budget, as they could not afford better ones.

They would also like to improve the added value generated by enhancing the quality and extending the assortment. But this is limited by finances and by legal barriers.

There are currently 50 animals on the family farm, including 24 dairy cows. The "Slovak Spotted" breed predominates. They also breed "Red Holstein" cattle to have calves that will give more milk. They also had a few crossbred cows from a single peasant cooperative, so the genetics remained among the cattle.

On the acreage, they have planted in small quantities potatoes and wheat for their consumption.

Marián perceives his farm more than farming. He does not perceive himself as an entrepreneur but as an ordinary person who takes care of land and animals, tries to manage them and bring gifts and some results.

He is also a member of the Association of Young Farmers in Slovakia - ASYF. As such, the association lobbies to improve conditions for young farmers. He sees ASYF as an opportunity for his children or grandchildren in the future to have easier conditions to start a business. Certainly, Slovakia needs such organisations to represent young farmers

The Marián farm was financed only from his resources, savings and loans. Everything they earn is still invested in the farm.

Marián and his wife decided to farm because they wanted to be together as a family. The second reason was that they wanted to keep a helpful trail in this world, to do something that made sense. Marian parents always kept a cow at home. Although not based on education, he has a theoretical and practical basis for farming. He controlled all the necessary things, whether for cultivation or breeding. He enjoys this job because it is varied and exciting. Apart from milking, two days in a row are not the same.

This farm differs from other farmers mainly because they started on a green field. They began to build a farm building in the grasslands. The family wants to produce the best possible products so customers can recognise their products quickly. They also differ from other farmers in that they are still relatively young. Sometimes they fail, but they still want to look at the world with cheerfulness and optimism.

Marián's family farm plans for the future are straightforward - to live the world happily, with the family, live in harmony and peace. Not to chase hectares at all costs, because that is not the point of agriculture, but rather to pursue quality products.

In terms of further development, they would like to use more modern technologies to facilitate work on the farm, such as milking robots - to be able to track animals from roars to milk quality, drones - to control the herd, GPS for animals - to be able to track cattle. They would also like to procure tractors and efficient forage preparation machines. In the future, Marian plans to have the farm automatised to a certain extent to spend more time on sales or developing and presenting products.

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