



## SHEEP FARM LUPTÁKOVCI

*Family sheep farm that is constantly adapting to changing market and farming conditions.*

### Identification details:

Name: Ing. Lucia Luptáková PhD.

Location: Pokryváč, Slovakia

Farm size: 100 ha

Year established: 2010

Main activities: sheep production

Web / Facebook / Twitter: Youtube: <https://www.facebook.com/ovciafarma>

Sheep farm Luptákovci was established in 1992, when Lucia's father Miroslav Lupták founded a trade and became a self-employed farmer. Since childhood, they had a farm at home with 5 cows and 10 sheep. Gradually, the farm formed and gained its features. After graduating in 2010, she and her family started processing milk into products directly for the consumer in small quantities.

The farm is located in the north of Slovakia, the Dolná Orava region, the village of Pokryváč, the High Mountain region in the Protected Area of the Choč Hills with many meadows and pastures. Conditions for agriculture and cultivation are demanding, the climate is alternating, short summer and long winter. The village was a Wallachian settlement, there was a mountain hut on every hill, people were engaged in small-scale agriculture and growing vegetables.

Lucia and her family have lived in agriculture their whole life and they see great importance in creating value for society. Mountain conditions in their area are suitable for sheep and cow grazing, so they decided to preserve the heritage of breeding sheep.

At the beginning, they managed about 10 hectares of land and raised a few cattle and sheep. The mechanization and machines were gradually modernized. They bought the necessary tractors, the line for baling bales (in 2000), the technology for milking and feeding with feeding belts was gradually modernized. Objects from a small barn to current buildings were also built and they are still being built and adapted to what is needed. At present they manage about 100 ha of land, breed 300 sheep of the lacaune breed and their crossbreeds and 15 meat cattle. Milk is processed in the dairy factory, products are finalized and offered directly to customers or to small shops.

As Lucia explains, constant changes and adaptation to the market and food and agricultural conditions are needed. Machine innovation and labor productivity are important, although maintaining manual labor is essential in processing due to the quality of the final products (cheeses, cheese threads, cheese strings) where manual labor replaced by the machine destroys the quality of a traditional quality product and thus becomes industrial and loses its inherent taste.



Four family members are working in the farm, parents and 2 daughters. Everyone has a role to play and is responsible for their department financially and professionally. The responsibility of father includes primary milk production, feed processing, animal production; mothers' responsibility is sales of products, retail and for daughters - production and processing of milk, marketing, wholesale.

Lucia and her sister have gradually transformed farm into limited liability company, where they will take over the baton from their parents.

In the future, the challenge for the farmers is to bring customers traditional as well as new quality cheeses. An important task will be the generational exchange and transfer of experience in the field of animal production, feed production and maintaining sheep stocks for milk production for their own processing. The most important task is to find a human workforce that is willing to work at an adequate price in the area, where farm is located.

**Photos:**

