



## MÁRIA BUJŇÁKOVÁ

*Farm perceiving cooperation between farmers, sellers and producers as an advantage.*

### Identification details:

Name: Mária Bujňáková

Location: Krásna Lúka, Slovakia

Farm size: 650 ha

Year established: 1995

Main activities: cattle production

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

The farm of Mária Bujňáková is located near the village of Krásna Lúka, which with its name perfectly describes this environment and its potential for agriculture. The village is part of the Levočské hills with an altitude of 545 m above sea level. The founder of the farm was her father, who was drawn to agriculture from an early age. This did not change during his youth, so he decided to study at an agricultural high school. Although he did not meet his family's support for embarking on a path of farming, he began active farming in 1995.

On the first years of farming focus was on the purchasing of weaned bulls, which have been preserved to the required weight and aimed at slaughter. In addition, the farm milked 3-5 cows, the milk was sold to the locals and the rest processed into products, which were mainly cottage cheese and cheese lump. Gradually, Mária and her family switched to cow breeding without market milk production and wanted to focus on the Aberden Angus breed. Over time, it turned out that then European policy did not support this breed very much and its sale was associated with great complications, so they were forced to switch to another breed - Limousine. This breed has been very useful and they continue to breed it to this day. Over time, they also got into the issue of primary milk production, and since 2016 they have become the sole owner of a farm focused on breeding cows with market milk production. This farm required extensive reconstruction, not only in terms of space, but also technology, so they gradually embarked on the reconstruction of the cowsheds, where the goal was to move from the tethering of cows to free housing. The next step was to build a milking shed, as the farm was still milking into the pipeline. They launched a new milking parlor in May 2020 and currently they are milking 160 dairy cows of the Montbeliarde breed. They are still continuing the gradual reconstruction of the barns in order to create welfare for both animals and humans.

There is a very close and good cooperation between farmers, but also sellers and producers. They are mutually aware that they need each other and that is why they value every cooperation.

In the future, Máriás' intentions are aimed at finalizing products not only in terms of meat, but also part of the milk produced and sales from the yard. They also see a great benefit in agritourism and therefore would like to open the farm gates to people, bring them closer to the life and work on the farm. Also, the aim is to



show people what their food is all about and to stimulate interest in this industry; to offer children and young people the opportunity to be educated in this environment, to introduce them to the importance of animal husbandry or just to acquaint them with them and to teach them the correct approach and behavior towards animals.

Mária perceived that her father lives by farming, that it is his dream and that he put his heart into it. That the difficult moments, days or years he struggled with and still struggle are here to teach them something, and in his case it was mainly humbleness. In agriculture, it is true multiple times that if you fall in love with it, it's for life. Máriás' parents instilled this in her and her sisters and also emphasized that everything a farmer does is not only done for himself or his family, but for all people, so they should approach agriculture responsibly.

**Photos:**

