

## Technical tour to Hortobágy and around Debrecen

Date: 8 April

Transfer will be provided

07.45 Meeting in the lobby of Hotel Lycium

08.00 Departure

Approx at 18.00 arrival back to the hotel.

Lunch will be included.



### Program

#### Route:

Debrecen – Balmazújváros – Hortobágy – Debrecen (Bánk) – Debrecen

08:00-08:40 Debrecen – Balmazújváros

08:40-09:10 Visit the goat farm of family Zsupos

**Mr. Tibor Zsupos**

**Mrs. Zsupos, Katalin Lajter**

Balmazújváros

Báthory u. 46.

We have started to deal with goat breeding and keeping with my wife since 2008. Me and my wife are looking after the goats as part time jobs. Our goats are kept in our back yard in indoors condition as we have got any pasture being live almost in the middle of this country town. /Besides of them we have also got some pigs, and poultries to meet our needs and consumption./

In this year we have got 32 milking does, consist of some Saanen, Alpine, and Hungarian native goats as well as with some heads of Nubian crosses. Beside the „kids” milk our annual milk production is 13-15 000 milk. A part of this milk is processed in our kitchen and sold for people near next door, and the other part of milk is sold as small producer and is being bought up as fresh raw milk by an other form with milk processing unit (Nárcisz Birtok, Debrecen).

According to our future plan we would like to increase the number of goats and the milk production, but in order to realise this imagination we should get a larger place somewhere out of the town.

Now, we have only 7 hectares of arable land for producing feeds (like alfalfa, corn, wheat) for our animals.

For our future security the best solution would be if a bigger buying up goat milk processing company would start / or re-start – as up to 2011 there was one company in near distance, but that was closed. It might be re-opened by next year.

09:10-09:45 Balmazújváros – Hortobágy

09:45-11:15 Visit Hortobágy

**Hortobágy** is a saliferous, grassy desert of 115 km<sup>2</sup>. The famous romantic, wind-swept plain of the Hortobágy ranges from the Tisza river to the edge of the Hajdúság region, where via the smaller region called Hajdúhát it borders Debrecen.

The landscape was primarily shaped by the waters, mainly by the huge floods of the river Tisza. The memories of the ancient tide area are preserved in the vast marshes, revitalized by now through artificial water supplies. The alluviums of the river Tisza rich in salt took a main part in initiating the solonetz soils covered by short grass pasture lands.

In order to protect its natural values, flora and fauna, Hortobágy was declared a nature reserve area on 01 January, 1973. This was the first National Park of Hungary. The Hortobágy National Park was qualified as a biosphere-reserve by the UN in 1979.

Establishing the National Park it was possible to preserve the most valuable and varied elements from each and every stage of development.

On the protected areas of the Hortobágy National Park efficient organic management is operated by the Hortobágy Public Utility Company for Gene Conservation.

The most characteristic and natural utilization of the sodic desert pastures (sodium salts rise to the surface) is attained in Hortobágy by keeping the Hungarian grey cattle herd. Further ancient Hungarian domestic animals: the spiral horned Racka sheep, the Nonius horse, the Mangalica pig, Water buffalo, and ancient poultry breeds.

11:15-12:15 Hortobágy – Debrecen (Bánk)

12:15-12:45 Visit Senki Szigete – Island of Nobody

**Ms. Éva Tünde Fehér**

**Mr. Tamás Vass**

Debrecen – Bánk

Diószegi út 0628/92. hrsz

We have moved to our present house and place in 2004, and since then we have been planning to deal with animals, especially goats. Unfortunately, our life situation and venture at that time could give us a chance to improve our theoretical knowledge and practically, after 8 years of time we were able to start to realise our dreams. The main reason was we preferred the animals to people. /It is the background while we are also breeding cats./

We bought our first group of Saanen goats in August 2012, followed by the first Alpine goat group in September. Since then we have been continuously increasing the size of our herd buying animals from other breeders and keeping back some of our female kids for breeding purpose in 2013 and 2014.

At present we have got 185 goats, from which 80-85 heads are belonging to Saanen and 100-105 heads to Alpine breed. The final herd size is still increasing as the kidding has not finished yet. We are still waiting for about 40-50 progenies.

We have a plan to increase the size of our goat herd as much as our land size would allow us – unfortunately, there is no possibility to buy others land nearby,

as no land on market at present. So, we could be thinking in only intensive animal keeping and breeding, but even so we got some limitation. We think that 200 adult breeding does could be our upper limit along with their progenies. Now, we have 104 breeding adult does and this year 40 female kids born to introduce them into breeding. As it seems we will reach this limit already this year. Perhaps we will still buy some heads of new goats as well.

The previous year was mainly the year of buying up goats (in May, August and November), and the level of milk production was rather waving. For that year we could get an estimation about produced some 8 000 litres over 200 days period. Today, beside the kids, we are milking 50-60 litres a day, and a part of the kids are reared artificially (on milk and replacement), and the daily milk production will intensively increased after weaning.

Our own land is rather limited, altogether 20 000 square meter, covering the barn and yards for the animals, the dairy and our family house as well. We are trying to offer comfortable yards for our animal, because the grazing on this size of land and with this number of animals is pointless imagination. That means, the last year grazing land is and will be yard with fences only.

Having no land to produce corps we should buy all necessary feeds. We are buying for instance sugar beet pellet from Austria, alfalfa pellet in feed shop nearby, some amount of pumpkin from a well trusted producer some km-s away from our farm.

Basically it is a family venture, beside of my husband and myself, my mother and my brother, as well as my cousin are taking part in looking after goats and helping me in milk processing. I must say, except the milking, every works are done by hands, no other machinery available on the farm. Some 300-400 litres of milk is carried to the goats by hand from the house every day, as the self drinkers are not yet available for the animals – perhaps in the future.

Concerning market and production security we have got space to be improved. We are aiming to improve the level of breeding works (including milk yield). The market demands are waving in this part of the country. Bigger part of our consumers need fresh milk, farm yoghurt, drinking milk with various flavourings, and smaller part of our clients looking for cheeses. Our aim is to produce goat milk products for those children and adults who tolerate goat milk which are payable in the everyday consumption. It is, as it could be told based on our last year experiences, the based in our market security and profitability.

Concerning the real profitability, we are still living the investment part of our activity, and a lot of works are waiting for us yet. The buying of breeding stocks needed and needs a serious money investment even today. When we reach the expected herd size, and managed to solve mechanization, as well as the selling of slaughter kids and the milk products will arise to the imagined level we think the 74-75% of selling price will cover the costs (including feeds, medicines, wages, overheads). The next 5-10% are intended to turn to further investment, and the left 10-15% profit would replace the investments.

But yet, these are only plans and sometimes the biology could make us jokes and surprises. Anyway, we are sure to do this in our future life. Alter all, we have been waiting and wishing for it for 8 years to get this. It is a kind of compulsiveness and if we would concern only the profit we would have given up our dreams in halfway.

- 12:45-13:15 Debrecen (Bánk) – Debrecen
- 13:15-17:00 Visit Mircz Nárcisz Milk Manufactory
- 13:15-14:30 Lunch

In the afternoon:

IV. Hungarian National Competition on Goat and Sheep Milk Products

### **Mircz Nárcisz Milk Manufactory**

Debrecen

Nagy Mihály kert 57/B

At the beginning of my active life between 1991 and 2007 I was working as entrepreneur (in one of radio channels, and in building industry). Then was a turnout: I wanted to make a better and more healthy life for my family in harmony and near to the nature what a kind of town life could be able to offer. I like the challenges and I tried to find a target in which new goods could be produced only with a big number of added values.

At present we have 78 milking goats, 30 % Saanen, 40% Fawn (German / Alpine), and 30% of their crosses. Last year we sold some heads in order to fresh the genetic values of our goat population and now we are on the way to increase the population close to 200 heads. /Apart of them we have goat some 40 heads of Hungarian Simmental cows kept on other farm and their milk are processed in our dairy./

Our annual milk yield is about 500 litres / doe at present, and according to our plan beside the increasing herd size the level milk production will be improved as well, as the target of our goat keeping is the milk production (and milk manufacturing). So, the individual heads having less milk yield than the average will be selected out.

Now we have got only 3.5 hectares own land to serve our goats. Beside the increase of the herd size we are intending to buy more lands nearby. Most part of our feeds are and will be produced on rented lands.

We have two people who are looking after the goats and an other tree labours are working in milk manufacturing.

The market security and selling the products are requested great tasks, providing the fact that near 95% of our products are sold directly to the consumers (from the farm, within different events and festivals). As the result of our efforts made over the last years our acceptance is very reasonable in Debrecen and in Budapest. Our selling's on local and capital city markets are slowly but gradually increasing offering us steady monetary sources and background to keep up our property and enlarge it step by step.

Based on our calculations the material costs are giving the 30% of our selling prices, the other 30% are covering the manufacturing costs (salaries, overheads, etc.), the market costs (covering local space renting, transportation, installation, labour) needs about 20%, and as the consequence of all of these the remaining 20% could be taken as profit to be used for the future.