



Farming

duly appreciated

Farming has never been easy. However, this year, with its abnormal heat, drought and wildfires, has been a difficult test of farmers' professionalism. By virtue of their tremendous efforts, the Voronezh region has retained its leadership in the Central Federal District both in raising crops and in cattle growing.

By Yulia SALKOVA

At the celebration of achievements of farmers and processing industry workers, Aleksey Gordeyev, governor of the Voronezh region, cordially thanked all those involved with agriculture for their hard work and awarded prizes to the best ones. Eleven agricultural



workers received VAZ-2107 cars from the governor. Among the lucky ones who left the event in their newly acquired automobiles were workers from OOO EkoNivaAgro.

Valentina Gnezdilova, inseminator at the Vysokinskoye division of EkoNivaAgro, and dairymaid Galina Velichko from an animal farm in Kolybelka, modestly admitted that the award was quite a surprise for them.

'I learned I was awarded a car only on the way to the celebrations,' Valentina Gnezdilova said with glistening eyes and somewhat perplexedly. 'I still can't believe it's true! I thank the administration of the region and district and the

management of EkoNiva for this high appreciation of my efforts. I'm so enthusiastic that I might risk taking lessons at a driving school and lay hands on the controls of the new car.'

Galina Velichko noted that this is the first award in her 15 years' service on the Liski soil. A car from the governor came as a complete surprise since she is 'a simple workwoman doing her job like many others at EkoNivaAgro.' Nonetheless, she is very pleased that such a high-ranking official has appreciated the work of an ordinary dairywoman.

Summing up is a tradition on the Farmer's Day. However, this is not a demonstration of boring figures and bare facts. This is a triumph of ordinary rural people who have chosen a challenging way of life and a difficult profession.

'Despite all the difficulties of the last farming season, what happened this year should be regarded as a test sent by God,' Aleksey Gordeyev said in his celebratory speech. 'We must withstand it with credit and make sure again if we are using the right technologies and if we are pursuing the sound recruitment policy. As I visited the districts, I realized that the farmers have retained their fighting spirit and coped with problems well. I would like to thank you for all that!'

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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December. Information seminar on John Deere equipment

Location: EkoNivaSibir servicing centre, Novosibirsk city, Novosibirsk region

Organisers: OOO EkoNivaSibir Company

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December. Opening a cattle breeding complex at EkoNivaAgro

Location: Kolybelka village, Liskinsky district, Voronezh region

Organisers: OOO EkoNivaAgro Company

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January. Training EkoNiva servicing personnel at Grimme plant, Germany

Location: Grimme plant, Damme town, Germany

Organisers: Grimme Company

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21-30 January. Green Week 2011 International exhibition and fair

Location: Berlin, Germany

Organisers: Messe Berlin GmbH exhibition firm

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January. Training engineers in using John Deere seeding machines and tractors

Location: OOO EkoNiva-Ryazan servicing centre, Rybnoye town, Ryazan region

Organisers: OOO EkoNiva-Ryazan Company

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January-February. Information and training seminar 'Modern Farming Technologies'

Location: EkoNivaSibir servicing center, Novosibirsk

Organisers: OOO EkoNivaSibir Company

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January. Seminar on John Deere tractor models

Location: OOO EkoNiva-Chernozemye servicing center, Zaluzhnoye village, Liskinsky district, Voronezh region

Organisers: EkoNiva-Chernozemye Company

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1-4 February. 16th Grain-Mixed Fodder-Veterinary Science 2011 international dedicated trade and industry exhibition

Location: Moscow, Russia

Organisers: Expokhleб marketing centre

EKONIVA

OUTDOES OTHERS

In the first days of October, the Golden Autumn 2010 Annual Agricultural Exhibition took place in Moscow. Over 1,000 enterprises from 55 regions and 32 foreign countries came together. The exhibition's focus was on innovative development of the countryside.

By Anna BORDUNOVA

The pedigree stockbreeding section had a cattle show of highly productive Russian and foreign pedigree breeds. The EkoNiva farming enterprises involved with pedigree stockbreeding brought Simmental (EkoNivaAgro) and Swiss (Kaluzhskaya Niva) cows.

'On exhibition are Simmental cows named Gerda and Bertha from animal farms in Shchuchye village,' says Yekaterina Kistkina, zootechnician and selection expert of EkoNiva-APK Holding. 'Gerda is one of our best cows and during the

lactation period yielded 7,420 kg of milk with fat and albumen content of 4.22% and 3.28% respectively. Her daily milk yield exceeds 25 litres. The cow is 4.5 years old and weighs 651 kg. Bertha is only 2.5 years old and her performance is somewhat inferior to that of her "lady friend." Her milk yield is 6,800 kg, with fat and albumen content of 4.2% and 3.3%.'

In the words of Yekaterina, all the animals on the farm get proper treatment. The pedigree stud is kept free in the cowshed fitted with modern stalling

equipment (Wolf System) and Westfalia Surge milking machines. This year, the semen of young American stallions began to be used on the local cattle in order to improve milk yield, exterior, and other characteristics.

EkoNiva-Agro is a major dairy producer in the Voronezh region. Its daily milk yields are around 70 tons of milk. Since 2008, the enterprise has been a pedigree reproducer in breeding Simmental and red-spotted bull-calves

and heifers.

000 Kaluzhskaya Niva brought Swiss breed cows to the exhibition. Jelly and Colette (incidentally, these are also names of the European-selected potatoes grown on the farm) boast an outstanding milk yield. In 305 days of lactation, Jelly yields 8,000 kg of milk and Colette does 7,500 kg.

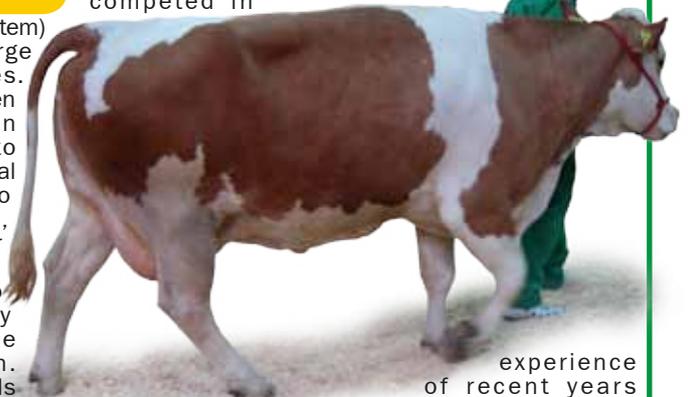
'The Swiss cows' milk features a high fat content even compared to Simmentals,' says Yekaterina Kistkina, selection expert of 000 EkoNiva-APK Holding. 'These are excellent animals imported to the farm from Austria and Switzerland. In 2009, Kaluzhskaya Niva received the status of a pedigree reproducer in breeding brown and Swiss cattle.'

Over 100 cattle from 150 Russian farms competed in

EVENTS

received a Certificate of Appreciation "For Outstanding Achievements in the Development of Pedigree and Consumer Livestock (Dairy Farming)".

'The EkoNiva animal farms seek to meet the most stringent standards of technology, maintenance and personnel management,' says Konstantin Udaltsov, deputy director general of 000 EkoNiva-APK Holding. 'The exhibition is an excellent experience for all farmers. That's where they can get the latest info about new products and trends in cattle breeding and pedigree selection, and choose modern machines and equipment for their farms. The



experience of recent years shows that only those enterprises that keep pace with progress and technology, against all odds, stand firm on the farming market.'

this sort of championship. On completion of the competition, the cows of EkoNiva were awarded two gold medals and the farms

EkoNiva Company regularly arranges familiarization trips for executives and experts of agricultural enterprises. It is always interesting to learn about the world's achievements in farming. During one such trip, an idea emerged – why not see Russia's best farms. They, too, have something to their credit. The plan was not pigeonholed. Therefore, last September, a group of farmers from different regions made a trip to familiarize themselves with the advances of agriculture in the Kaluga region.

By Svetlana WEBER

Farming tour



across Kaluga region

The trip began with a visit to the Shchapovo dairy farm. A mere nine people serve a herd of more than 1,000 milch cows. The yield is 8,300 kg. Black-spotted cows yield high quality milk. The

guests appraised the enterprise as a successful business model.

Discussion of the farming subject continued at the Angus Genetics Centre, where Aberdeen-Angus bulls are produced. Having

seen the vast pastures and animals on them, many executives of the farms conceived the idea of breeding cattle for meat.

At Kaluzhskaya Niva, the guests were treated to different

varieties of potatoes grown on the farm. In addition, the guests were introduced to the potato storage facility and the dairy farm.

'I particularly remember the visits to Lemken and Grimme factories,' says Vitaly Levashenko, director general of the 000 Provintsia Company from the Kemerovo region. 'Now that production of German equipment has begun in Russia, it will become more accessible.'

Vladimir Selikhov, head of the farm in Letyazhye, Tomsk region, voiced the common opinion of participants of the trip: 'Russia possesses the capability for growth of agriculture. The cattle breeding on the farms we have visited is not any worse than that abroad. Such trips help us to acquire new knowledge and work still more efficiently.'

Bavarian cows in Voronezh



yield high-quality and tasty milk!

Soon it will be possible to taste the Bavarian national dishes without leaving Voronezh. Moreover, foodstuff produced in the capital of Russia's black earth zone will also become available to the Bavarians. This, as well as other issues, was discussed during a visit of the Bavarian delegation to the Voronezh region.

By Svetlana WEBER

Helmut Brunner, head of the delegation and Bavarian State Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, discussed during his meetings with Aleksey Gordeyev, the region's governor, the prospects for cooperation between the state of Bavaria and the Voronezh region in farming, the food industry and bioenergy. They outlined some measures, which include supplying pedigree cattle, student exchange programmes, the days of the Voronezh region in Bavaria and presentation of Bavarian products at Voronezh fairs.

Helmut Brunner noted the fertility of soil in the region: 'Bavaria can only dream of soils with such humus content. You possess a high capability for growing agricultural products and foodstuffs.'

Familiarization with the region's agricultural production took place at the Russo-German EkoNiva Company. Guests attended a cattle breeding facility for 1,800 milch cows currently under construction at

the OOO EkoNivaAgro Company in Kolybelka village.

Then they visited an animal farm at Shchuchye village. They also saw loose housing cowsheds and a milking parlour, and they tasted local milk from German cows. In answer to the question which milk, Bavarian or that from Shchuchye, tasted better the minister answered:

'Equally tasteful, since these are Bavarian cows!' Helmut Brunner praised highly the work of Stefan Duerr, EkoNiva president in Russia, noting that his merits are beyond economic achievements.

'Stefan works in Russia like a real ambassador,' said Helmut Brunner. 'His high social activity is immensely impressive. He is taken as one of the locals; he is no stranger in this country. I'm glad that his efforts enhance the efficiency of agriculture and foster good relations between Bavaria and the Voronezh region.'

EVENTS

'Harvesting days' in Siberia

EkoNiva-Sibir Company took part in Agrosib. Siberian Farmer 2010 and Harvesting Days 2010 exhibitions.

By Anna BORDUNOVA

EkoNiva-Sibir offered demonstrations of John Deere agricultural equipment. For instance, it presented the Russian-assembled JD 8320 R tractor. The powerful machine (320 hp) interested visitors due its multirole capability and excellent efficiency.

Meanwhile, at the Harvesting Days 2010 regional feast, the farmers summed up the results of the farming year. The OOO EkoNiva-Sibir Company was awarded a gold medal and a certificate of the Harvesting Days 2010 for its significant contribution to the exhibition, a wide variety of exhibits and promotion of agricultural equipment and new technologies in the Novosibirsk region.



EkoNiva in for more milk



The construction of the farm began last April. The planned herd size is 1,800 milch cows. At the moment, the first stage of the project has been implemented. This includes a cowshed for 480 animals, a maternity barn for 100 animals, and a dairy unit with the Karusel milking parlour (GEA Pharma Technologies Rus LLC) with a production rate of 240 animals per hour.

The herd is kept loose in collective and individual stalls on a deep litter. Individual stalls are envisioned for unheated housing of calves.

The EkoNiva Company opens another cattle-breeding farm in Liskinsky district, Voronezh region.

By Yulia SALKOVA

In 2012, the farm will be fully commissioned, i.e. there will be in operation three cowsheds for milch cows, 480 animals in each, one for 300 dry cows, a maternity department for 100 animals, an outdoor site for youngsters, individual stalls for calves, and silo trenches. Already, 1,300 Holstein-Frieze heifers have been delivered from Austria, Germany, and Hungary.

The total investment in Kolybelka farm will amount to 646 million rubles. Of this money, 80% is loans from the Liski division of the Sberbank of Russia.

Next year, a group of EkoNiva companies plans to start building another modern dairy complex in the Voronezh region.

Servicing team hails newcomers!

EkoNiva Company opens a new servicing centre in Kostroma.

By Anna BORDUNOVA

Within two months, the new service centre building having a floor area of 1,200 sq m was outfitted with modern equipment for all types of work. The building accommodates four repair areas where farming machinery will undergo diagnostics, repair and monitoring. It is planned to install a gantry crane for loading and unloading heavy equipment. Also located here is a spares and consumables depot with an addressable storage system that will significantly reduce customer service time.

The Centre building is fully heated. The convenient offices have a conference hall for training. The servicing centre is located as close to farms as possible. Here one will be able to purchase spares for all types of equipment and obtain required advice.

'The development of the servicing center

network is one of EkoNiva's important jobs,' says Denis Povalikhin, OOO EkoNiva-Kostroma executive director. 'We seek to turn servicing into a highly professional and efficient business and to become leaders in servicing and spare parts supply.'

The farms of the Yaroslavl, Ivanovo, and Kostroma regions will be able to enlist services rendered by the centre. Already, the first John Deere tractor from the Krasny Mayak farming complex, Rostov district, Yaroslavl region, is there for a diagnostic inspection.



The hard summer of 2010

**GAINING
EXPERIENCE**


The last summer's extreme weather in Russia and partially in Ukraine is, of course, beyond compare. However, other European countries' weather, for instance, that in Germany, was also very difficult indeed. At first, the late and cold spring delayed work in the field. Then a droughty summer was followed by a rainy autumn with poor conditions for harvesting.

By Thomas BOTTNER,
Europlant Pflanzenzucht GmbH



shows the demand for potatoes

The adverse weather left no chance for a rich potato harvest. The free market prices of consumer potatoes have soared above 200 Euros a ton and keep growing. The prices are expected to grow still higher in spring.

A very low harvest has been gathered this year in 27 countries of the EU and Eastern Europe. At the moment, a lot of potatoes are flowing into the countries of Middle-Eastern

and South Eastern Europe. In the future, demand in those countries will remain just as high, which will prompt the producers to raise prices.

Despite the unfavourable conditions, quality and quantity checks showed that the potatoes look much better than expected. This will be a joy for our customers and partners.

Due to late harvesting, some batches of the harvest will not be delivered in autumn. This

year, the potato growers will face a serious problem of increased supplies at storage facilities.

The demand for potatoes on the global market remains high despite the high prices. Therefore, we advise our permanent customers to order seeding potatoes for the 2011 season in good time.

Along with famous and widely spread varieties from the Europlant Company in Russia, such as Vineta, Bellarosa, Collette and Jelly, we can also offer new varieties. Due to its high resistance to scab and storability, Roxana, a medium-early variety, was readily accepted not only in Russia, but also in Poland and Belarus. Red Fantasy will be an addition to the varieties with red-skinned tubers. Since 2011, Europlant has offered this variety also in Russia. It is highly resistant to Phytophthora fungi and can be planted without watering. It has a yellow, sweet pulp.

The Bellaprima variety that doesn't boil to pulp is ideal for salads and supplements the spectrum of early varieties. The Eurostarch variety is particularly interesting to the starch production industry and consumers due to its steady high starch content and resistance to scab.

Europrima will soon be imported into Russia. This variety is suited for growing early potatoes and making chips. 2010 will be the first testing year for Omega and Rumba in Russia. Rumba is well suited for growing even in drought-prone areas. Like Rumba, Omega is used for making chips and potato mash. Omega is highly resistant in storage.

Be assured that this year we shall do whatever we can to meet your needs!

Chocolate-frosted potato cake?

Dear readers, we offer you a unique recipe from German cuisine based on a specially selected variety of potato. This will fully reproduce the original dish and render its real taste. Treat yourself to an exquisite potato cake made from Vineta potatoes supplied by Europlant.

With Europlant everything is possible!

INGREDIENTS:

- 375 g of Vineta potatoes
- 4 eggs
- 300 g of sugar, a little salt
- 1 packet of vanilla sugar
- 100 g of ground hazel-nuts
- 150 g of semolina
- Leavening agent (on the tip of the knife)
- 200 g of bitter chocolate
- 50 g of crushed hazel-nuts
- Fat and semolina for greasing and sprinkling on the mould

COOKING

Boil and peel potatoes. Grate potatoes on a coarse grater. Mix and stir yolks, sugar, salt, and vanilla to obtain foam. Add grated potato to the mixture and stir for



another 5 minutes. Add ground nuts, semolina and leavening agent. Gradually add the mass to potato mash, continuing to stir while adding. Whisk the egg-white to thicken the mass and pour carefully into paste.

Take a detachable mould, 26 cm in diameter, grease it and sprinkle with semolina. Fill the mould smoothly with paste. Cook for 50-60 minutes at 200°C in an oven adjusted to medium intensity.

Let the mould cool down after baking. Take the cake out of the mould. Use a water bath to melt bitter chocolate. Pour the chocolate mass on a fully cooled cake and sprinkle crushed hazel-nuts. Enjoy your meal!

Bellarosa

Roxana

NEW
Bellaprima

NEW
Vineta

Collette

Omega

Rosalind

Eurostarch

NEW
Red Fantasy

NEW

TECHNICAL INSPECTION

LEMKEN equipment,

Maintaining a very close contact with customers, the LEMKEN Company designs up-to-date equipment for them. For quite a few years, it has sold soil tillers, seeders and plant protection systems on the Russian market.

By Anna BORDUNOVA

convincing quality

What lies ahead for the plough?

The emergence of resource-saving technologies has changed the attitude to field treatment. Wishing to preserve the natural soil structure, many farmers abandon the plough.

LEMKEN experts believe that there is no point in giving up the plough altogether. In any case, once in five years it is necessary to give a deep treatment to the field, using soil upturn. This is particularly true for small farms which cannot always afford costly chemicals and fertilizers. They can't do without the plough because no other technique works better for weed removal than deep upturn ploughing. Besides, the plough successfully destroys the in-soil causative agents and stimulates

decomposition of organic remnants. Therefore, the plough is a must-have tool and it's too early to retire it.

The LEMKEN Company has manufactured a new hybrid plough, Tanzanite. This combines the elements of attached and semi-attached systems. Russian farmers familiarized themselves with this model at the Agrosalon 2010 Exhibition in Moscow.

The hybrid plough is special in that it is linked to the tractor by a hydraulic cylinder. Thus the load on the tractor rear axle is increased. This essentially reduces skidding and cuts down fuel consumption. It becomes possible to use lighter tractors for pulling more powerful ploughs. Thanks to the constant pressure in the upper arm, the tractor rear

axle may remain loaded all the time.

Electronic systems adjust the plough elevation angle, the ploughing depth and grip width. The Hydromatic anti-overload hydraulic system ensures uninterrupted operation even on a difficult stony terrain. The DuraMaxx innovative operating elements system with a bolt-free fastening increases the machine's stability on slopes and turns of hilly fields.

Basic component package

- T120 powerful hydraulic turning device
- Square pipe frame
- Frame height 85 cm
- Electronic switching and changing of elevation angle
- Hydraulic upper arm
- Electronic thrust control
- 2 dual action turning cylinders
- Cat. III suspension shaft
- Tool box with tools
- Safety mechanism with shear bolt
- 400/55-17.5 hydraulic supporting wheel
- Housing shape as per option B, C or D
- Separate shares with overlaying
- Single-piece shares with edges for stony soils, optionally
- Share blades with overlaying. Collapsible prop

Specifications **Tanzanite 8 (frame 140 x 140 x 10 mm)**

Number of bodies	6	6+1
Grip width (cm)	150-330	175-385
Weight (kg)	2.317	2.596
kWt/hp	103/140-151/205	103/140-169/230

System-Compactor



System-Compactor is an ideal tool for preparing a well loosened, smoothly tilled and double-compacted seed bed for cereal crops, sugar beetroots and rape.

Two rows of duck foot shovels make it possible to apply pre-seeding treatment in a single passage, thus preserving most fully the moisture in soil, loosening it, weeding the field, and creating a moist layer at the depth of seed embedding.

Various combinations of operating elements and rollers ensure optimum crushing and compacting of soil. Parallelogramic

attachment of operating sections ensures precise and smooth tilling depth. In case of changed soil conditions, the distance between rollers and soil is hydraulically adjusted by the cutting bar. The front cutting bars level out the upper soil layer.

The flat position of ploughshares increases the tool's penetration into the soil, which provides the greatest possible pressure on crushing rollers. Thanks to such an arrangement, the levelling and crushing proceed in the best way.

OPINION

Valery Kiyashchenko,
OOO Zarechye Company director,
Tikhoretsky district, Krasnodar Territory

'We have used the System-Compactor on our farm since 2008. As maintenance and workmanship of the machine go, we have nothing to complain of. It did a fine tilling job during this droughty year. I can safely say that LEMKEN machines are second to none in the world.'

Gennady Kildyushkin,
OOO Komsomolets Company manager,
Konstantinovka village,
Romodanovsky district, the Republic of Mordovia

'We have been using the System-Compactor on our farm for 3 years now. It does an excellent levelling and compacting job on soil. The machine has not once needed repair. This is very good for the farm's budget. We are very pleased with its operation.'

HOW PROFESSIONALS DO IT

AGROSALON 2010



wagers on innovations

The 3rd International Specialised Agricultural Exhibition, Agrosalon 2010, draws over 250 exhibitors from 21 countries, presenting their best examples of farm machinery, including some 300 newly developed models. Nineteen models were awarded gold and silver medals of Agrosalon's new products contest.

By Svetlana WEBER and Anna BORDUNOVA

EkoNiva participated in the exhibition for the second time. Gennady Nepomnyashchy, head of the Company's Sales Department, noted that, despite the difficult farming year, the market for agricultural machinery is reviving. Producers have markedly expanded their product range and are prepared to meet demands of even the most fastidious farmers.

"This year farmers place still more emphasis on high technology machines that minimize risks and increase productivity. A major factor in the choice of equipment is the option to receive high quality servicing," says Gennady Nepomnyashchy.

The John Deere Company, whose dealer is EkoNiva, presented a major display. The guests of the Agrosalon exhibition saw a presentation of the company's new products on the Russian market.

These

are the W650 grain combine harvester, series-8 8320RT caterpillar tractor with an enlarged and updated cabin, and the 8R(8295) wheeled tractor. Also on show was an essentially new model of the sixth series 6130D medium capacity (130 hp) tractor.

"One of the fortes of John Deere is the diversity of its product range. In addition to wheeled tractors, the company offers RT series caterpillar tractors. They feature a superior off-road capability and remarkable adhesion to soil," says Dmitry Kostev, OOO EkoNiva-Tekhnika sales department manager.

According to Dmitry, the 8320RT tractor has no

counterparts in the world. Due to an air suspension, it ensures a smooth and fast movement. The tractors are fitted with a very long wheelbase (2,515 mm), which provides greater thrust, higher efficiency and better economy.



360 degree illumination which makes it possible to perform many functions with less effort."

The establishment of the John Deere plant in Russia has made it easier to purchase machinery of this brand. At present, the series-8 JD tractors are considered Russian-assembled machines and are due for subsidies. And John Deere has more good news – next year production will start in Domodedovo of the series-9 tractor, W540 combine harvester and grain combine harvester header.

At the EkoNiva show, visitors to the exhibition could not only choose the equipment they needed, but also discuss the options for acquiring it using various financial schemes. Furthermore, they could familiarize themselves with highly productive varieties of crops.

"It is worth noting how keenly interested our customers are in potato seeds," says deputy director of OOO EkoNiva-Semena Natalia Bychkova. We present highly productive varieties of potatoes that are also easily adaptable to streamlined production. These very diverse varieties are supplied by the Europlan Company. The Vineta variety features a capability that is

particularly useful in the current season - its drought resistance. Colette and Jelly are highly productive varieties grown in Europe and Russia. Potato growers place great hopes on them. Next year, EkoNiva will significantly diversify its potato variety range: in addition to the Kaluzhskaya Niva Company, in 2010 a major potato production project was launched at OOO Zashchitnoye (Kursk region).

The demand for grain crops (spring-sown varieties) has also grown considerably. In this regard, EkoNiva offers Annabel, Margret and Danuta barleys, Ivory spring-sown oats and Trizo wheat. Also presented were Rocket and Phoenix varieties of peas and Belgorodskaya 48 soya.

The visitors and participants of the exhibition noted that Agrosalon is the global site where heads of farms and enterprises can buy high quality agricultural machines.

The John Deere 8R tractor became the show's winner. It was awarded the silver medal of the independent professional competition of innovative technologies.

"This tractor meets the strictest standards. It features a completely new steering control system. It is designed so that the forces required for turning the wheel and the steering wheel gear ratio automatically adapt to the tractor's actual speed," says Dmitry Kostev.

The updated cabin of the tractor of this series is fitted with an improved CommandCenter dashboard, a display, and outside



How to store the tractor

OVERWINTERING

correctly

How will your John Deere tractor pass winter? Here are a few tips for how to prepare the John Deere tractor for wintering so it won't fail you in the middle of the farming season.

By Yulia SALKOVA

- After washing and dab painting, put the tractor in a hangar for storage.
- The tractor must be put on props so that its wheels do not touch the floor. The pressure in front and rear wheels must not exceed 1-3 bars. If the pressure is higher, the rubber will crack under low temperatures while at pressure below 1 bar the wheels may come off the rim.
- Make sure the tank is fully filled in order to avoid condensate formation.
- All lubrication points must be well lubricated, and filters must be replaced. The oil in the gearbox, drive axle and hydraulic systems must also be replaced.
- Make sure all the systems operate properly (illumination system, hydraulics,

- braking system, steering arrangement, parking system), and see that the engine runs smoothly at all RPM.
- The battery must be dismantled and dispatched for special storage.
- It is necessary to apply an anticorrosion coating on all surfaces of the tractor except plastic components.
- To protect the dashboard



- against the sunlight the cabin window must be covered, for instance, with cardboard sheets.

- The air conditioner in the tractor must be switched on once a month during storage.

On 1 November 2010, a new wording of the Russian Federation Arbitration Procedure Code comes into force.

By Yelena KOROVINA, legal adviser, RATUM Law Group

Amendments to the Arbitration Code

LEGAL NAVIGATOR

A procedure has changed whereby the Arbitration Court should advise persons involved in a case about each succeeding session. Now, all persons involved in the suit must independently seek to obtain information about the case's progress.

The court of arbitration shall notify all persons involved in a case about the time and place of the court session or about fulfilment of a separate procedural action by sending a copy of a judicial act only in the event of accepting a complaint or an application for instituting a case. Information on the case's progress must be placed by the court of arbitration on an official site no later than 15 days before the beginning of the court session or completion of a separate procedural action.

The arbitration code is supplemented with new provisions enabling persons involved in a case to present documents to the court of arbitration not only in written but also in electronic form by filling in a form on the court of arbitration's official site. This applies to claims, their

reviews, documents attached to the claim, statements and requests, appeals and cassation complaints. However, the issue of document signing remains open to consideration since the claim must be signed by the plaintiff or his representative.

It has become possible to participate in the court session using video conference technology. This is used only if the participants of the suit declare their intention to do so and if the court of arbitration has technical facilities to provide such communication. This enables persons involved in a case to reduce costs and time. However, this option will work fully only when arbitration courts are supplied with the adequate technical facilities.

Also, the appeal of a decision taken by an arbitration court of the first instance has been

revised. Starting 1 November 2010, a decision of the arbitration court of the first instance, except for decisions of the Russian Federation Supreme Court of Arbitration, may be appealed at an appeals instance provided that it had been considered by the appeals instance arbitration court or the appeals instance arbitration court refused to renew the lapsed deadline for submitting an appeals complaint. In other words, a cassation appeal becomes possible only when all possibilities for an appeals complaint have been used up. This innovation makes it impossible to simultaneously submit an appeal and a cassation complaint for one juridical act.

Also, there were changes in the procedure of involving arbitration jurors for consideration of a case. This became possible only if a

case is particularly complicated or if specialised knowledge is needed for carrying on the case. Now the Russian Federation Arbitration Procedure Code has a provision that restricts the timeframe for submitting an application concerning costs, i.e. six months from the day on which the court's last decision took effect, which decision terminated the consideration of the case on its merits.

Thus, the changes in the Arbitration Procedure Code will make the arbitration court's decision-making more efficient, without incurring court costs and lost time. This process will also be more convenient both for the litigating parties and the court. However, these provisions may apply only if and when extra normative legal acts are adopted.



THE ISSUES
TO PONDERSeed
and planting stock
certification

Before the Federal Law **On Technical Regulation** was passed in 2003, voluntary certification in Russia was not widely used because of legal restrictions in the area of mandatory certification (covering over 80% of products).

The development of voluntary certification systems must civilize the relations between operators on Russia's agricultural market, improve the quality of goods on sale, and oust irresponsible producers. Eventually, this must enhance the competitiveness of Russian-made goods.

By Aleksandr MALKO, FGU Rosselkhoztsentr director

In view of the above, FGU Rosselkhoztsentr (Russian centre for agricultural services) has developed a System of voluntary certification registered by the Federal Agency for Technical Regulation and Metrology on 22 December 2009.

The main items of certification in this system are: seeds and planting stock of agricultural plants, grain and its processed products; other agricultural products, cattle breeding, the food industry, etc.

The Rosselkhoztsentr voluntary certification system offers the following advantages:

- it is based on the long experience over many years of the accredited certification agencies and test laboratories in the System of mandatory certification governed by the Russian GOST state standards and the Seed Certification System;

- availability of the required tools, highly skilled managers and intellectual personnel, complete independence of producers of goods and providers of services, and issuance of Certificates and System Signs only to those producers whose goods (services) really meet quality requirements;

- traditionally close contacts with producers of goods and



the widest network of subsidiaries in the country's farming, which makes it possible to recognize the issued documents throughout the Russian Federation

without extra studies and expert examinations;

- the wide range of free and paid services in plant growing;

- the possibility for consumers to check the existence of issued certifications in the register.

The System is open, i.e. its membership is accessible to interested legal entities and private entrepreneurs who meet the relevant standards. It is not a substitute for mandatory confirmation of compliance with certification as established by Russian Federation legislation.

The complete introduction of the System will substantially expand activities of FGU Rosselkhoztsentr in certification of goods and services on Russia's agricultural market and will, eventually, improve their quality. It is a promising idea to provide various subsidies at the level of constituent parts of the Russian Federation if an authentic document is available concerning the quality of goods and services, i.e. a certificate from FGU Rosselkhoztsentr.



Roads, shopping centres and ATMs



At a seminar held in the Ulyanovsk region, parliamentarians discussed legislative aspects of supporting the sustainable development of rural territories.

are exotic
for the countryside

According to the Russian Ministry of Agriculture, around a third of villages with a population of up to 100 million have no facilities for stationary or mobile services in the area of

commerce and public amenities. Around a third of villages still have no hard surface road access.

'Rural economy can be characterized as a single-profile

industry, given that farming is still the main use of labour in the countryside,' says Valentin Denisov, Chairman of the State Duma's Committee on Agriculture. 'However, the living

standard of the rural population remains still very low. The supply of social infrastructure amenities is also inadequate. At the same time, employment in villages is only some 67%.'

The participants of the seminar addressed the Russian Federation Ministry of Regional Development, State Duma and the administration of the Sberbank of Russia and Rosselkhozbank with a proposal to develop a program to build affordable housing in the countryside and to provide banking services for the rural population. It also envisioned the respective amendments to the Federal Law *On the Development of Agriculture*.

Summing up the seminar, Valentin Denisov, pointed out that the solution to this problem calls for formulating regional and municipal programs of development of rural territories based on evaluation of their development capability and extra legislative and normative acts concerning the promotion of the regions' agriculture.



Focus ON US!

PHOTO EXHIBITION

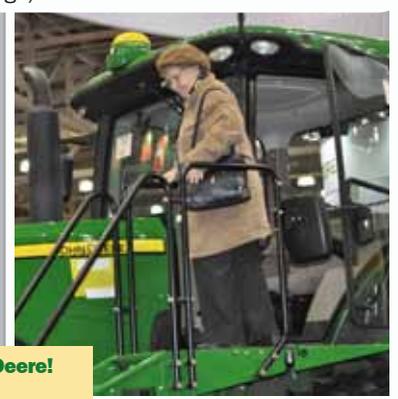
Please, send your photos marked FOCUS ON US! to:

305004 Kursk ul. Radishcheva, 79-a 000
EkoNiva-Media or e-mail them to: vesti@ekoniva.com
Please, feel free to contact us on the telephone:
+7 (4712) 39 26 60

EkoNiva continues a 'FOCUS ON US!' photo competition. We invite the participation of anyone who thinks that the best moments from the life of a village and of the peasants are moments worth capturing as history. The photos will compete in one of the following categories:

1. **Russian Field...** (You can send photographs featuring fieldworks or pictures of beautiful landscapes featuring fields)
2. **Field Machinery of the XXI Century!** (We are expecting photographs of state-of-the-art agricultural machinery and equipment required for implementation of advanced agricultural techniques)
3. **The Renaissance of Livestock Breeding.** (Send us pictures of livestock farms)
4. **Farmers of Russia – we expect portraits of your neighbours, friends and relatives...** and any other persons who work on the land
5. **My Native Village and My Home** (Send us photos featuring the most interesting moments in the life of your native village)

The best photos will be published in EkoNiva-News and awarded prizes. Moreover, most interesting and attractive pictures will be demonstrated at the exposition.



Kids and adults alike enjoy a breathtaking ride on John Deere!
John Deere fascinates all ages!

**The sleigh is fast,
The fields are vast.
And EkoNiva flies full blast.**



All roads are open to children from Zashchitnoye village

**I enjoy my work immensely, always doing it intensely.
With a mask upon my face, I will look a divine grace.**



Harvesting potatoes at Zashchitnoye



Toe nail care is OK. Time for milking now!
Where are my smart boyfriends, tell me, dear cow!
At the OOO Zashchitnoye Company's cattle breeding facility

Cows at Zashchitnoye yield superior milk



The problems of cattle breeding in the Kursk area came under discussion by the industry's experts at a seminar that took place in the Kursk region under the auspices of the Agricultural Academy.

By Anna BORDUNOVA

In the first nine months of this year, the region produced over 83,000 tons of meat, 2.1% more than during the same period last year.

'We have increased the meat production in 17 districts,' says Aleksei Zolotaryov, deputy chair of the region's administration. 'As dairy production goes, excellent results were obtained at the farms of Belovsky, Glushkovsky, Rylsky, and Shchigrovsky districts.'

The leading farm in the Shchigrovsky district is OOO Zashchitnoye, one of the EkoNiva agricultural enterprises. Aleksei Bibikov, the farm director, shared the results obtained with the seminar participants and talked about his plans.

'In the first nine months of this year, the milk production on our farm grew by 870 tons, exceeding now 2,000 tons,' says Aleksei Bibikov. 'Our farm is working hard to improve milk quality. Since the beginning of this year, we have been

producing only premium quality milk, Unimilk. We have made this progress due to the latest technologies of animal care and the efforts of our skilled specialists.'

In 2009, under the Agricultural Complex Development national project, a cattle breeding facility in Zashchitnoye was rebuilt and modernized for raising 500 milch cows. The farm's livestock totals 910 animals. The dairy livestock is 400 cows. The animals are kept free in a cowshed fitted with modern WestfaliaSurge milking machines.

The farm is a pedigree reproducer for breeding Simmental cows. Soon it will receive the status of pedigree reproducer for breeding Hereford cattle.

Next year, OOO Zashchitnoye plans to start building a new cattle breeding facility for 1,800 milch cows. The facility will pioneer new methods of embryo production.

REGIONAL NEWS

John Deere means efficiency

This is the conclusion drawn by participants of a seminar held in the Kirov region under the auspices of OOO EkoNiva-Vyatka Company. The focus of the event was on introduction of new technologies into agricultural production.

By Liudmila ZYKOVA

At a session, Sergey Zykov, OOO EkoNiva-Vyatka director, told the participants of the seminar about the use of John Deere equipment in agriculture.

'It is not the first year we are using the John Deere agricultural equipment,' says Sergey Zykov. 'The tractors and combine harvesters proved themselves to be reliable tools, featuring high quality and superior efficiency. I would like to note that starting this year, the series-8 JD tractors and W650 push-button combines are being assembled in Russia.'

Those present could see for themselves the Russian-

assembled series-8 JD tractors. Sergey Mosunov, OOO EkoNiva-Vyatka servicing department head, briefed the participants of the event on the specifics of the new tractors' control systems.

'The machines meet the most stringent standards. They feature a completely new concept of the steering system. Such devices assure greater efficiency and economy.'

The participants of the seminar visited a spare parts depot where they familiarized themselves with the recipient-addressed storage system. They found the reception accorded by the EkoNiva specialists both businesslike and friendly.



A vernissage for farmers



The 16th International Agricultural Exhibition, Altaiskaya Niva 2010 (Altai Cornfield 2010) took place in Barnaul, traditionally summing up the results of the farming season.

By Anna BORDUNOVA

More than 300 Russian and foreign companies came together to demonstrate the latest achievements in cattle breeding, plant growing and agricultural equipment, as well as to meet partners and establish new business contacts.

One of OOO Sibirskaya Niva's specialties is seed production for grains and bean crops. At the company's display area, visitors to the exhibition could familiarize themselves with advanced varieties of field crops.

According to Yekaterina

Milykh, Sibirskaya Niva deputy director for plant growing, demand for spring crops has soared.

Under these circumstances, Sibirskaya Niva offered Margret barley, a spring variety of Ivory oats, and Trizo wheat. Also on display were Lars winter wheat, Valdai rye and Rocket peas.

'We are pleased to hear the appreciation of our crops by Altai farmers, our permanent customers,' says Yekaterina Milykh. 'Among the leaders is Trizo wheat, which demonstrated excellent performance on the fields, yielding 4 tons per hectare.'

OUR PEOPLE

EkoNiva is a large family in every sense of the word. Company employees are parents and children, married couples, brothers and sisters. For instance, three brothers, Sergey, Yevgeny and Denis Yakovenko, work for the OOO Kaluzhskaya Niva Company.

By Yulia SALKOVA



One for all, all for one!

How come the brothers are all at Kaluzhskaya Niva? It was, most likely, the magic of musketeers' friendship which brings people together and makes them one. First, the middle brother, Yevgeny, got a job with Kaluzhskaya Niva through an employment agency, after which he won over his younger brother Denis and then the older one, Sergey. Yevgeny and Denis are both machine operators, but each works in his line. Yevgeny introduces fertilizers, sprinkles fields and harvests grain crops. Denis is involved with fodder harvesting and storing. Sergey is a mechanic on an animal farm. He is responsible for all of the support equipment. Tatiana Kuzmina, Kaluzhskaya Niva director, praises the brothers highly: 'They are hardworking kids, reliable and good-mannered. They really know their job.'

effort is being made to fix their everyday problems. And this matters above all else.

Kaluzhskaya Niva participates in the state-sponsored program 'Accessible housing for young families.' Thanks to this, Yevgeny and Denis, as well as twelve other company employees have acquired houses of their own.

'We do our best to help our workers resolve all everyday problems,' says Tatiana Kuzmina. 'We help purchase housing under the state-sponsored programme or by using our own money. It is important that a worker should have a warm and cosy home to go to without worrying about where to live tomorrow and how to feed his family. If a man is not an idler and works hard, we invariably help him. Then his head is free for work.'

The brothers love their work not only because it pays well. They say that here, at Kaluzhskaya Niva, ordinary workers are treated with respect and their opinion is duly considered. Every

Yevgeny and Denis each have a son and a daughter. Sergey's daughter is already 17. Maybe their children also will stay in the home village of Khokhlovka and become young specialists of Kaluzhskaya Niva.

On 5 November, the team of EkoNiva won second place in a regatta held in Gelendzhik at a rally of dealers of GEA Pharma Technologies Rus LLC, a global manufacturer of cattle-breeding equipment.



Silver for EkoNivaAgro

The EkoNivaAgro (Kolybelka village) team became silver prize winner of the Voronezh region's I.Ye. Prosyanoi football tournament held under the auspices of trade unions.

By Yulia SALKOVA

Already in the sixth minute, Sergei Yarodsky, EkoNivaAgro striker, dealt a crushing blow to the opponent, the Kolos team of Novomelovatka village, Kalacheyevsky district. The 1-0 score remained practically unchanged till the end of the game. Goalie Roman Blinov skilfully sealed the goal. The opponent's full court pressure brought no results. It was only a few minutes before the end of the second half that our defences fell. The score was evened. The chief referee added two 15-minute halves, which didn't change the game. But each team needed only victory! The after-game penalty shoot-out decided the issue. The final score, 4 to 2, was, alas, not in our favour.

It's hard to say what



footballers

thwarted our favourite EkoNivaAgro team from winning the championship and seizing the cup. The guys demonstrated high class both in defence and in attack. Probably, good fortune just wasn't lenient on them. The players criticize themselves, saying they haven't yet fully mastered penalty kicking!

The team participated in the regional championship for the third year. Last year, the Kolybelka footballers won first place. This time they were second

to the EkoNivaAgro team and their goalie was 'the best goalkeeper of the tournament.'

Says Yevgeny Lyubenko, the playing coach of the team:

'In 2009 we won the championship. In all fairness, it was a surprise! This time we were inferior in technique or, maybe, we just didn't prepare ourselves psychologically. Anyway, we'll keep working towards winning the cup. No sweet victory comes without a bitter taste of defeat.'

Rosselkhozbank:

FINANCIAL NEWS

Rosselkhozbank (Russian Agricultural Bank) has decided to increase the maximum sum of loans to private individuals. The decision seeks to increase the loan support to owners of smallholdings and to the rural population, which is one of the Bank's priority activities.


РоссельхозБанк

up to 700 thousand rubles per head

The maximum loan granted to an owner of a smallholding for a period of up to 5 years for purposes not covered by the terms of a state subsidised interest rate has grown from 300 thousand to 700 thousand rubles. Similarly, the maximum loan granted to an owner for a period of up to 5 years for work not related to farming

with subsidised interest rate has increased to 700 thousand rubles. Such loans are granted in particular for developing rural tourism, folk craft industries, rural commerce, everyday and social servicing of farmers, stocking and processing of wild fruits, berries, and herbs. The Bank has decided to double (up to 300 thousand

rubles) the maximum loan for installation of gas supply facilities in the countryside.

Also, the maximum loan for consumer purposes under the Retirement Loan programme has grown from 60 thousand to 100 thousand rubles.

Based on materials supplied by AgroNews

Rosselkhozbank lowers agricultural

In order to provide funding for the agro-industrial complex and enhance the financial stability of agricultural producers, OAO Rosselkhozbank has lowered its interest rates on loans granted to legal entities for seasonal field work, for purchase of farm equipment and for a number of other long-term loan programmes.

loan interest rates

The interest rate on seasonal field work loans granted for a period of up to 90 days is now 9% per annum; on loans for a period of 91 to 180 days, it is 10% per annum;

and on loans for 181 days to 1 year, 11% per annum. The reduction of interest rate on loans for seasonal field work now amounts to 3 percentage points. Previously, such loans

were granted at a rate of 12% per annum.

In addition, the long-term loan rates have been reduced by one percentage point. For instance, the interest rate

has been reduced to 13% per annum on loans for: purchase of agricultural machines, additional funding of investments to build cattle breeding facilities and residential buildings for people working in the countryside, and for agricultural consumer cooperatives.

Pursuant to a decision of the Rosselkhozbank Board of Directors, the interest rates on loans in the form of overdraft have been reduced by 4.25 percentage points to 7.75% per annum. This will rapidly replenish the companies' current assets and enhance their financial and economic stability. Easy access to loans for agricultural producers is intended to foster the development of the country's agro-industrial complex and support farming enterprises and organisations struck in 2010 by a disastrous drought. The newly reduced loan interest rates will help the agro-industrial complex prepare for spring work in 2011 and start implementing new long-term projects.

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