



## Agricultural Elite

### Supports the Idea of Modern and Strong



**Petr Stolypin National Award "Russia's Agricultural Elite" Ceremony was held for the sixth time in Moscow.**

Svetlana VEBER

In his opening speech, the RF Minister of Agriculture Alexey Gordeyev pointed out that this year the awards were given at the time when the agricultural sector was summing up the first annual results of the "Agro-Industry Development" National Priority Project.

'Life in rural areas is gradually improving. To a great extent this is due to such people as today's Stolypin Award winners, who contribute to the development of a modern and strong Russia,' said the Minister.

He also emphasized that the formation of a new Russian agricultural elite is of paramount importance for gaining a higher status for agricultural labour in Russia.

For the first time in the history of the National Stolypin Award, this year one of the winners was a foreigner. A German citizen, President of the Russian-German *EkoNiva Company* **Stefan Duerr** got the Award for the "Development of Agricultural Industry and Creation of New Jobs".

Handing over the award, a member of Stolypin Award Public Board, Alexander Fomin, remarked that **Stefan Duerr** had been successfully investing capital and effort in the development of the Russian agricultural sector for a number of years, putting his heart and soul into his work.

In his return speech, Stefan Duerr draw everybody's attention to the fact that a huge amount of work aimed at the creation of beneficial conditions for the development of agribusiness had been done in Russia in the past few years. He pointed out that the status of the Russian agricultural sector had shown considerable improvement. However, many people can't stop complaining just "by force of habit". They tend to idealize the situation in the EU countries, which, to his mind, is far from ideal.

'Today, the agricultural business environment in Russia is in no way worse that

## RUSSIA

in the EU countries.' - said Stefan Duerr.

He also emphasized the importance of the social aspect for the development of agricultural business in Russia.

'When you invest money in agricultural business you have to bear responsibility for your employees, especially in Russia.'

The list of Stolypin Award winners includes:

**Ivan Ushachev**, Vice President of the Russian Agricultural Academy, received the Award "For the Contribution in the Development of Agricultural Science".

**Boris Chernyakov**, Divisional Manager of the Institute of the USA and Canada Studies, received the Award "For the Personal Contribution in the Formation of Agricultural Policy".

**Azamat Matakayev**, Principal of Boarding-School Lyceum No1 in Karachaevo-Cherkessia, and **Alisher Kurbanov**, Principal of Borisoglebsk Agricultural College in Voronezh Region, received the Award "For the Training of Agro-Industry Personnel".

**Victor Biryukov**, Chairman of Talira JSC Board of Directors, received the Award "For the Revival of Russian Rural Traditions".

**Vladimir Zakamskov**, KLEVER Company Director General, received the Award "For the Efficient Development of the Agricultural Machinery Industry".

**Vladimir Pakhomov**, Director General of the Foundation for the Development of Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies, received the Award "For Crediting and Investment Activities in the Agricultural Sector".

**Evgeny Khokhlov**, Chairman of the Board of Soyuz Consumer Supply-Marketing Cooperative Society, received the Award "For the Contribution in the Development of Agricultural Consumer Cooperative Societies".

**Arseny Kalinkin**, Director General of Selskaya Nov Publishing House, received the Award in the category "The Most Successful Agribusiness Media Project".

**Nikolay Lavrushin**, Director of Chobotayevka, received the Award for "Stability and Development".

**Viktor Linnik**, President of the Mixator Agro-Industrial Holding, received the Award in the category "Agricultural Success of the Year".

## Announcements

**10 July 2007.** 70 years of Gossortkomissiya

**Location:** Lipetsk Region, testing station

**Organisers:** Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, Gossortkomissiya

**12 July 2007.** Field Day in the Ryazan Region.

Demonstration of technology and sowing using *Molochnii Produkt* machinery

**Organiser:** *EkoNiva-Tekhnika*

**Location:** Ryazan Region

**12 July 2007.** Field Day in the Kostroma Region

**Organiser:** *EkoNiva-Tekhnika*

**Location:** Kostroma Region, *Magriko Company*

**13 July 2007.** Field Day in *Zashchitnoe*.

Perspective kinds of foreign crops

**Organisers:** *EkoNivaSemena, Zashchitnoe*

**Location:** Kursk Region, Shchigrovsky District, *Zashchitnoe*

**20 July 2007.** Field Day in the Smolensk Region

using *Agris* machinery

**Organiser:** *EkoNiva-Tekhnika*

**Location:** Smolensk Region, Sychevka

**20 July 2007.** Field Day in the Altai. Forage

storage and forage harvesting.

**Organisers:** *EkoNivaSibir, Altaiskaya Niva*

**Location:** Barnaul, ANIISKh (Nauchny gorodok, 35)

**20 July 2007.** Field Day in the Kaluga Region.

Potato growing.

**Organisers:** *EkoNivaSemena, Kaluzhskaya Niva*

**Location:** Khokhlovka village, Peremyshlsky

District, Kaluga Region

**July 2007.** Field Day in the Tula Region

**Organiser:** *EkoNiva-Tekhnika*

**Location:** Tula Region, Kurkinsky Distict,

Otkormochnoe

**10 August 2007 ã.** Field Day in the Tomsk

Region. Preparation of quality forage in optimum time. Harvesting of cereals. Technology.

**Organiser:** *EkoNivaSibir*

**Location:** Sibirskoe Zerno, Tomsk Region

**13 - 19 August 2007.** Business trip for *EkoNiva's* clients to America. Visits to John Deere factories.

**Organiser:** *EkoNiva-Tekhnika, John Deere*.

**24 August 2007.** Open day in the service centre of the company in Zakharovo.

**Location:** Moscow Region, Odintsovsky District

**Organiser:** *EkoNiva-Tekhnika*

**August 2007.** Seminar-meeting "European technology. Vaderstad technology on the fields of the Kirov Region".

**Location:** Kirov Region.

**Organisers:** Administration of the Kirov Region,

*EkoNiva-Vyatka*.

**August 2007.** Field Day "Minimal and plough-free tillage technology"

**Location:** Zaluzhnoe, Liskinsky District, Voronezh Region.

**Organisers:** *EkoNiva-Chernozemye*.

***EkoNiva's* area under crop has increased nearly threefold this year, which comes near to 60 thousand hectares. The largest increase happened in *EkoNivaAgro* from 7,500 to 27,000 thousand hectares.**

Svetlana VEBER

## ***EkoNiva* increases its area under crop**

# threefold

A considerable part of the new area is planned to be for spring crops. In comparison with last year, fodder fields greatly increased, especially in *EkoNivaAgro* (Voronezh Region), *Kaluzhskaya Niva*, and in *Zashchitnoe* (Kursk Region). This is linked to the participation of companies in the realisation of the national project regarding livestock breeding.

Regarding cereals and leguminous plants, the area under crop has greatly increased in the following seed kinds: the barley varieties Danuta, Annabell and Margaret; the spring wheat Trizo; and the pea variety Phoenix. Last year's



experience will be taken into account, when the seeds could not be used as they could not

meet market demands.

*EkoNiva* continues working intensively regarding the production of potatoes. *Kaluzhskaya Niva* plans to grow 2.5-3 thousand tonnes of category RS-1 potatoes, a German variety. Among recommended stable crops are Vineta, Colette and Rosalind, however there is a new kind with a practically never-ending harvest – Jelly.

*EkoNiva* usually carries out tests on new seed varieties, which are not included in the State Register. This year the following new seed varieties will be tried: the spring barley varieties Madeleine and Jenuva,

summer wheat Fiorina, rape-seed Ability, pea variety Rocket, oat variety Ivory, and vetch variety Berninova.

*EkoNiva* is using spring and winter rapeseed for the first time this year, and also its first own forage crops. Special equipment for these seeds has already been acquired and we'll jump into the harvesting of these crops.

The area of seed production is also expanding. Whereas in previous years the main producers of seeds were from the Voronezh and Kursk Regions, this year it is planned that the most growth will be seen in *Severnaya Niva* (Orenburg Region) and *Sibirskaya Niva* (Novosibirsk Region).

### **Agricultural production**



## **High Technologies from John Deere**

**"John Deere Field Day 2007" was held in Krasnodar on 3 – 17 June. Over 400 participants, who represented corporate clients and Russian dealers of the John Deere Corporation, attended this major event.**

Yulia SALKOVA

As usual, *John Deere* amazed everybody with its scale. Over 60 state-of-the-art agricultural machines were gathered together on 300 hectares. They included STS, WTS and CTS series of grain combine harvesters and a whole range of tractors from 115 to 500hp, equipped with a high-precision agricultural



PHOTO: Tatyana LYSAYA

AMS system. Besides all this, the participants were offered reviews of the latest forage harvesting, seeding and tilling machines. A maneuverable high-speed self-propelled hay mower, the JD 4895 WINDROWER attracted

everybody's attention. In addition to hay mowing, it can be used for mowing cereal crops and legumes in subsequent pickup harvesting. The JD 4720 self-propelled sprayer surprised the public with its high working speed and maximum spray-bar stability during operation.

As usual, the Field Day was not just a static exposition. The participants could "try" each new machine in practice.

The *EkoNiva Group of Companies* also took part in the work of the seminar. Being an active promoter of *John Deere* products in the Russian market, the *EkoNiva Group of Companies* has already started to supply the most advanced agricultural machinery presented at "John Deere Field Day 2007" to its corporate clients.



**Visit**

# Vaederstad Receives Visitors from Russia

«*EkoNiva* keeps up the tradition of arranging business trips for its customers. In the middle of June a group of agricultural producers from Russia went to Sweden to gain a firsthand acquaintance with the *Vaederstad Company* – one of the major international manufacturers of agricultural machinery and farm equipment. The trip started with a tour of Stockholm, Sweden's capital. Then the visitors were taken to the city of Vadstena. It lies in the immediate vicinity of *Vaederstad*, a small township, which accommodates the agricultural machinery and farm equipment manufacturing department of the *Vaederstad Company*.



At the factory, the visitors watched the assembly process and saw the entire product line of tilling and seeding machines. They were also shown recent developments, which have not yet been launched into the Russian market.

Crister Stark, the company's owner and Managing Director, met the Russian visitors, answered their questions and listened to

their requests. Special attention was paid to the importance of the

Russian agricultural market for the *Vaederstad Company*.

The itinerary also included a visit to the Svalev seed farming company and to a number of cereal-growing farms, all of which use minimal or zero growing techniques. The visitors were given an opportunity to observe *Vaederstad* machinery in operation and form their own opinion of its advantages. Next year, *EkoNiva* is planning to organize a similar trip to the *Vaederstad Company* manufacturing facilities again.

**Lawmaking**

# Undivided Land Share Registration Procedure Will Be Simplified



On 22 May, the Duma Committee of Agriculture held Round Table Discussions "On the Registration of the Undivided Land Share in the Farming Land, Transactions Carried out with Land Plots in Shared Ownership, and Mortgaging of Such Land Property".

Olga ROMANOVA, Round Table participant

The Round Table attracted a broad range of participants, including State Duma and regional legislative assemblies deputies, representatives of the Council of the Federation, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Finance, Federal Real Estate Cadastre Agency, Federal Registration Service, executive agencies of the 64 constituent entities of the Russian Federation, agricultural establishments, research institutes, consulting and legal companies.

The participants discussed the problems faced by undivided land share owners and agricultural establishments when they want to register their ownership. They also discussed legislative proposals, which aim at the introduction of changes aimed at simplifying the procedure for the registration of undivided land share transactions, and tried to work out constructive proposals for simplification of land-survey, cadastral accounting and farmland ownership registration procedures.

The discussion touched upon the German experience in the solving of similar problems. A lawyer from the Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Land Relations and Land Tenure of Maklenburg-Vorpommern

Bundesland, Mr. Andreas Lemkoestr, told the participants about the introduction of lands located in the territory of the former German Democratic Republic into the transfer of agricultural lands. 'I'm, glad to say that government authorities are concerned about the problems faced by agricultural producers and try to take measures to speed up the undivided land share ownership registration procedure.'

The Round Table approved proposals for:

- the introduction of maximum surveying rates for farm-land ;
- the simplification of the lot boundary coordination procedure;
- a reduction of the amount charged in state duty for the state registration of the undivided land share ownership in the farming land, from 500 to 50 roubles;
- regulation of the procedure for the voluntary abandonment of undivided land share ownership, etc

The Chairman of the Duma Committee of Agriculture, Gennady Kulik, suggested that the Round Table participants should present written proposals for the introduction of alterations in the existing laws so that he, in his turn, could submit them for the consideration of the State Duma as soon as possible.

## From Personal Experience

The new crops are still growing in the fields, but many farmers are already concerned about winter crops, trying to choose the best types of crops and breeds.

# Advanced

# Winter Varieties

**Says Wilhelm Dreves, Ph.D. in Agronomy, EkoNiva consultant:**

- Naturally, much attention is paid to winter wheat. EkoNiva offers Lars Winter Wheat for your consideration.

Winter-resistant intensive Lars Wheat is a European breed produced by Saaten Union Company (Germany). It was entered in the Russian State Register in 2004 and has already become widely spread. It is the most winter-hardy variety of wheat offered by Western European seed growers.

It would not be quite correct to refer to Lars simply as a high-yielding wheat variety. By Russian standards, it is also a high-technology variety. The yield increase, as compared to Russian wheat varieties, will be received only if the producers provide the required density control strictly, which demands for strict compliance with the prescribed agro-engineering measures. What do we mean by "Density Control"?

First of all, we must proceed from the end result – to receive a good harvest we need a density of 550-600 productive spikes per m<sup>2</sup>. The achievement of this target number needs deliberate efforts from the part of the agronomist, who should ensure the carrying-out of the full scope of measures, including calculation of the seeding rate, extra-nutrition of the plants with nitrogen fertilizers and use of crop protecting agents, which are all carried out for the sake of the ultimate result – production of the target amount of spikes for harvesting.

Winter wheat seeding rate is calculated according to the breed type and the sowing period. Lars Wheat is a compensatory breed, which means that it has an increased tillering capacity under favourable conditions. That is why, if Lars Wheat is sowed early enough (5-15 September in the Chernozemye Region) its tillering index is equal to 2. In this case, the seeding rate amounts to 270-330 seeds per square metre (2.7

– 3.3 mln/hectare).

If sowing is put off till 25-30 September, the seeding rate



increases to 400 fertile seeds per 1 hectare.

Such sparse crops facilitate the control of the density formation in spring. If the number of plants after the melting of the seasonal snow cover does not exceed 250-300 per m<sup>2</sup> and if they are not sufficiently tillered, it is necessary to stimulate tillering with the earliest possible ammonium nitrate fertilizing. The nitrogen fertilizer dose should amount to 70 kg per hectare (200 kg of ammonium nitrate).

If the tillage complies with the required standard, first fertilizers can be introduced much later, but before the shooting stage.

Fertilizers should be introduced evenly over the whole vegetation period, to avoid a considerable reduction in productivity and in the number of spikelets in a spike.

Crop protecting agents provide reliable protection from weeds (the absence of weeds reduces competition for water and nutrients), diseases (protection of leaves and spikes from mold) and pests.

Growth regulator (CCC) reduces the risk of the winter wheat lodging and increases the share of reproductive parts (spikes) in the overall harvest structure.

This purposeful control of the Lars Wheat density permits to



### Lars Winter Wheat Harvesting in Zashchitnoe, Kursk Region

1. Lirajet and Libea seeding rate should vary between 60-80 fertile seeds per m<sup>2</sup>. Depending on the thousand-kernel weight, it will amount to 2.5-3.6 kg per hectare.

2. In the majority of Russian regions winter rape is sown quite early from 5 to 15 August. It is very important that the plants should have grown 6-8 well developed leaves and an 8-10 mm diameter of the root collar before frosts.

3. It is necessary to provide due treatment of the plants with the Folicure mold inhibitor in autumn (when the rape plants have grown 4-5 leaves). Folicure protects the plants against mold. However, its main functions include inhibition of the plant's upward growth, enhancement of its root system development and in hardening the plants, which enables them to survive over the cold season.

4. In spring, it is necessary to provide timely introduction of nitrogen fertilizers. Unlike wheat, rape consumes nutrients for spike formation from the very start of the vegetation period.

100 kg of rapeseed demands not 3 but 6 kg of nitrogen. That is why the total amount of ammonium nitrate per hectare may increase to 400 kg or more.

5. Rape attracts a great variety of pests. Special attention should be paid to flea-beetles at the sprouting stage (the seeds are treated with the Cruiser® insecticide) and the rape-blossom weevil at the budding and blossoming stage.

When you purchase winter rape seeds you receive full technological support (covering the whole period from sowing to harvesting) from EkoNiva Company consultants.

**Well Developed Rape Plants before the Onset of Cold Weather is a Guarantee of their Successful Over-wintering.**

receive a considerable yield increase, as compared to Russian wheat breeds. Thus, in 2006, the yield from the EkoNiva farm holding in Kursk Region (Zashchitnoe) exceeded the average yield value by 1,600 kg per hectare.

However, if a farm holding buys the new Lars Wheat and sticks to the traditional seed rate and crop production technology, it is unlikely to receive any yield increase. When you purchase the new breed you must also acquire the new European crop production technique.

Winter rape is another important winter crop.

EkoNiva offers 2 line varieties of rape, Lirajet and Libea, provided by the DSV Company (Germany).

It's no secret that cultivation of winter rape in Russia is connected with the risk of frost injury.

Rapeseed producers have to find a way to reduce the risk and increase frost-resistance of the plants.

In solving this issue they should take into consideration the following important factors of plant density control:



The 1550 CWS combine harvester (Brazil) guarantees high quality performance with minimum losses and maximum fuel economy. The harvester can be used for harvesting grain, leguminous plants and oil-seed crops.



**TECHNICAL INSPECTION**

- The 1550 CWS combine harvester guarantees perfect production capacity and high grain quality irrespective of the crop and the working conditions.
- Engine volume – 8.1 litres; engine power – 225 hp.
- This combine harvester equipped with a high inertia threshing drum shows a more stable operation combined with the maximum production capacity and reduced fuel consumption.
- An eight-blade fan provides an increased air flow and allows the attainment of a high cleaning capacity.
- The 1550 CWS combine harvester has perfect cabin design and convenient controls.
- The harvester provides a low cutting height, even when working at a high moving speed.

## 1550 CWS Series Combine Harvesters

### JOHN DEERE LEGENDARY QUALITY AND RELIABILITY!

These combine harvesters are equipped with a high-capacity single-drum threshing mechanism. The eight-beater thresher-drum, 610 mm in diameter and weighing 340 kg, has a sufficient rotating mass for quality threshing. Its big diameter and elongated concave increase the threshed mass path in the

threshing space. It helps to extract the grain from the spike and separate it from the trash. The drum revolutions can be adjusted within the range of 150-420/400-110 rpm. The extracted grain and the trash heap get to the separation grate and onwards to the harvester cleaning system, which consists of a high-capacity blade-type fan (550-

1,250 rpm), air control shutters and a two-stage sieve-boot. The sieve-boot actuates adjustable louver sieves for rough and fine grain cleaning. Rough trash is separated with the help of oscillating straw rakes. Removable grids on the straw racks increase the harvester conveyance capacity when it is used for harvesting heavy-

threshed crops. The grain extraction intensity of the harvester can be increased by the installation of optional drum-type finger agitators above the straw racks. The combine harvester straw chopper can have one of two types of rotor: with smooth blades for low-yield and dry crops; with saw-like blades for high-yield and weeded crops.

**9880i STS Model (Germany) is the most powerful harvester, which successfully combines high production capacity with minimum grain damage. This combine harvester is equipped with an axial-rotor threshing-separating unit, which provides an integrated threshing and separation process.**



- Engine volume – 8.1 litres with a maximum power output of 465 hp
- Grain tank capacity – 11,000 litres
- Fuel tank capacity – 950 litres
- High production capacity
- Perfect grain quality
- Easily adjusted
- Efficient bulk conveying
- "Grain against grain" threshing

## 9880i STS Model Combine Harvester

### ADVANCED ROTOR TECHNOLOGY FOR THRESHING

The feeder / beater moves the bulk received from the harvester cutter head to the axial-rotor threshing-separating unit, which takes it in, divided into three streams, to provide a more constant feed. The axial-rotor threshing-separating unit is one longitudinal rotor with a stationary rotor hood, with a threshing concave and a separating grid in the bottom part. The rotor is a hollow cylinder with the fan propeller at the entrance, embossed

drum bars in the front part and six rows of fingers in the separation section. Interacting with the concave, the separating grid and the guiding ribs on the rotor hood inner surface, the rotor threshes, separates and conveys the corn in the axial direction. The rotor fingers are inclined with regard to the bearing surface. This position allows for a more intense combing and fluffing of the raw material, and facilitates the process of grain extraction. The rotor

circumferential velocity can be adjusted with a speed changer within the range of 210-550/380-1,000 rpm. This device permits the harvesting of a variety of crops.

STS system peculiarities: the rotor is offset with regard to the hood centre. That is why the opening between the rotor and the hood is bigger in the upper part. The hood diameter gradually increases from the threshing to the separation sections. It permits the bulk material to move freely in the

upper part and prevents its "bundling" when the harvester is cutting damp or weeded crops.

The combine harvester is equipped with a standard dual-speed Extra Fine shredder, which combines two operations: it shreds the straw received from the rotor and the chaff received from the cleaning system.

The described combine harvesters are equipped with a Dyna-Flo II™ cleaning system, which consists of a 12-blade fan (550-1,200 rpm), louver sieves for preliminary cleaning, rough cleaning with a mesh size of 22mm, and fine cleaning at 10 mm. The cleaning system conveyance capacity can be increased by the installation of optional louver sieves for rough cleaning (32 mm) and louver sieves for fine cleaning (22 mm).

### Today's Special Guest

We were going to meet Gennady Kulik, the Chairman of the RF State Duma Agricultural Committee, to discuss his recent visit to Germany, where he went to discuss the issues of bioenergy and ecological farming as the head of the Duma delegation. However, in the course of the interview we covered a wider range of problems, which was not surprising in view of the fact that our meeting took place just before the adoption of the "Russian National Programme of Agricultural Sector Development for the years 2008-2012". Gennady Vasilievich told us about the forthcoming changes in the Russian agribusiness industry in the light of the German experience.

Svetlana VEBER



Russia's agricultural sector is going through a period of a dynamic growth. Yet, we have a very long way to go. A lot depends on our joint effort, on the government, on the President and on the policy, which we will choose with regard to the Russian village to make the development of the Russian agricultural sector irreversible.

## Gennady Kulik:

"THE FUTURE OF RUSSIA'S AGRICULTURE DEPENDS ON THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE"

### On the Eastern Germany reformatory activities

Eastern Germany faced the same task of transition from socialism to the market economy, which our country is solving today. However, the German way was remarkable for its systematic approach. The start of the reform process had been preceded by the adoption of the necessary laws and creation of the conditions, which made the reforms less painful and more efficient.

When breaking the old foundations and trying to create something new, it is essential that the new structure should be formed in a favourable environment, which would provide the necessary conditions for its survival and further development. Reformation of the German agricultural sector was backed up with appropriate economic measures. The state volunteered to carry 1/3 of the total expenses. This system provided opportunities for rapid growth. Today, Eastern Germany has even surpassed its Western counterpart with regard to many economic indicators.

### On the mixed nature of the agricultural sector structure

In Eastern Germany, farmers were guaranteed a free choice of agricultural organization. Five percent of the farmers decided in favour of individual farmsteads. The rest reformed the former collective farms into farmers' cooperatives. Today, we can observe the same trend in Russia.

The results of the current agricultural census have shown that Russia has a mixed agricultural sector: major



agricultural enterprises can be found side by side with the fast developing individual farmsteads. We did not follow the advice of the liberals who insisted on complete liquidation of big agricultural complexes. On the other hand, we did not support the idea of going back to the Soviet past when everything was controlled by the state. It was a very important decision, but Russia took four times as long as Germany to come to the same conclusion.

### On land relations and the role of local authorities

In Germany, we have learnt a lot of useful things concerning land issues. Now we're going to introduce legislative changes to make the undivided land share registration procedure as simple as possible.

In Germany, all land reforms were initiated and controlled by the local authorities. In Russia, the events took a different turn. To start a land registration procedure, we first have to call a public meeting. The law says that the meeting can be called by an initiative group. That's where all sorts of 'front-men' get in. It's my firm belief that the

process should be organized by the local authorities. The new law will vest them with the necessary powers.

### On the Agriculture Development Programme

This programme will formalize all those



measures which have already been tested in practice and proven to work. They include the easy-term-crediting system. We won't begrudge funds to provide as many agricultural producers as possible with an opportunity of receiving credits.

### On the future of the Russian village

The social development of the village will become the core of this programme. Housing construction and the provision of water and gas supply are on our list of priorities. This year's budget allocates 5 billion roubles for the social development of the village. Next year this amount will be trebled and then doubled in the year that follows. Reformation of social conditions is the key issue, which determines the future of Russia's agriculture, and the fate of the

Russian village at large.

### On the support of critical industries

We want to support those industries whose products are in short supply and are being displaced by imported goods. One of such industries is the processing of oil-bearing crops. On the one hand we can process rapeseed into bio-fuel. On the other hand, in doing so, we will receive oilseed meal, which is indispensable in the production of compound animal feed stuff and ensures high results in livestock farming.

### On technical retooling

Recently, we have been seriously concerned with the problem of the technical retooling of agricultural production. Obviously, it is necessary to buy whole agricultural machinery complexes instead of separate machines. In this case, we have a far better chance of achieving high economic results and raising competitiveness of the Russian agricultural sector.

### On finance

Recently we have considerably increased funds allocated for the development of the Russian agricultural sector. Three years ago, the national budget allocated a mere 7 billion roubles for these purposes. This year, this budget item has been increased to 62 billion roubles; next year, it will grow to 76 billion with a further growth of up to 100 billion roubles in 2009, and 120 billion roubles in 2010. It is not a seasonal campaign but a long-term policy carefully chosen by the Russian President on the basis of a serious analysis of the current situation, which includes vigorous measures aimed at the development of the country's agricultural sector.





# All over the world

Society

An old part used was on the site of the Our Lady of Vladimir Cathedral. It was completely covered with trees. When work on constructing the cathedral began, old women, 80 years of age, came to clear away the branches. They got the task underway, threw the rubbish into a machine and were happy.

– Thank goodness we waited until there was a temple in the park – they told Ioann Zavgorodny, the dean of the current cathedral.

Yulia SALKOVA

## A GOOD DEED – THE LISKI TEMPLE

According to the old people in the town, the cathedral was meant to be built before the revolution, but Soviet authorities “postponed” building work until the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

At the beginning of the new millennium in Liski (Voronezh region) there was only one temple – the Pokrovsky temple – which was very old and battered. The parishioners asked the Metropolitan Sergey of Voronezh and Borisoglebsk to build another. God clearly had his hand in it – the area of land for the cathedral was chosen in 2001. This is when the story of the Our Lady of Vladimir Cathedral began.

Architects from Voronezh planned the project for the construction of the cathedral free of charge in 2003. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of July that year, the celebration day of the Our Lady of Vladimir’s Icon, the Metropolitan Sergey of Voronezh and Borisoglebsk carried out the religious procession, blessed the cross and placed a stone where the temple was to be

built. People gave generously; the inhabitants of the Liskinsky District and Voronezh Regions; many contributions came from other regions also. Stefan Duerr, president of EkoNiva, who also works in the Liskinsky District, donated metal for the domes in January 2007. The construction of the temple has grown from the foundations to these very domes in three years. They have recently put crosses inside and the belfry with seven bells has been blessed.

Delicate, spiralling above, proud, once again surrounded by trees stands the Our Lady of Vladimir Cathedral in the very centre of the city, to the joy of the Orthodox followers in Liski. When will the building be finished? The dean of the cathedral, the archpriest Ioann Zavgorodny answered this question:

– Cathedrals have long been built from donations. This is God’s kindness. With His help, we will have everything ready by 2009.



Stefan Duerr and the archpriest Ioann Zavgorodny

We were all trying to achieve something bigger on this land, than what we could actually get out of it. And in this fuss we didn’t see the beautiful things. The church had been built, the domes gilded, the temple raised. And all the same there are people among us who can build, see and build beautiful things even in a state of turmoil.

## The Icon of Our Lady of Vladimir

Days: 21 May, 23 June, 26 August.

The Icon of Our Lady of Vladimir was painted by the Evangelist Luka. The son of Yuri Dolgorukii, the saint Andrei Bogolyubskii, brought the icon to Vladimir in 1155 and put it in its very own dedicated Uspenskii Cathedral. The icon was first brought to Moscow in 1395. The Our Lady Icon strengthened bonds between Byzantium and Rus – Kiev, Vladimir and Moscow. The Our Lady of Vladimir Icon’s celebration day is held a few times a year. The most important celebration takes place on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, held in honour of date that the Vladimir Icon was brought to Moscow from Vladimir. Many important events have happened during the Our Lady of Vladimir’s Icon existence: the election and placement of Bishop Ion, the Autocephalous Metropolitan of the Russian Church (1448), Bishop Iov, the first Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia (1589), the holy Patriarch Tikhon (1917).

## Perspectives

**EkoNiva is very successfully implementing a programme to increase the amount of children its employees have. People who know the employees well are saying that the company is currently experiencing a baby boom..**

Svetlana VEBER

It is interesting that even those who did not plan to have a child, are striving to do so, and

## EkoNiva’s baby boom

have decided to raise children. And that’s the epidemic, in the good sense of the word, that we’re experiencing.

Consequently, women are becoming wiser and are doing so practically without a break from work. Two, three children (in some cases even more) are becoming normal and not an exception. An interesting point is that the more successful a worker’s career is, the more often they have children. Last year there were 34 births in the company. And if we take children up to 12 into account, then there are 328 in

the whole company. And that’s not the end of the story! It’s a constant process in EkoNiva. Moreover, the managers are understanding and supportive in this situation. And don’t forget



Petr Grezdilov’s family, a driver for EkoNiva: Sasha – 8, Katya – 1 year 10 months, Masha – 1 month and his wife Victoria.



Katyushka, 5 years old. The daughter of Natalya Nazarova, and economist in the orders department of EkoNiva-Tekhnika

## Warning – Competition!

### *EkoNiva* invites

Graduates and young specialists in agriculture to participate!

Studying is soon going to come to an end for many of you. Some have already got a job. You are full of ideas, have a lot of knowledge, and experience in working for Russian and foreign agricultural companies. You think about your future and the future of the Russian agricultural sector.



*EkoNiva-Tekhnika* is inviting graduates in agricultural subjects and young specialists in the agricultural sector to compete in a competition for the best jobs in the agricultural sector in the following areas:

1. Development of the agricultural technology market in Russian. Tendencies and perspectives.
2. The after-sales service of agricultural products. Main functions, organisation of work, the role of service in the company relating to agriculture.
3. Modern agricultural technology relating to plant cultivation.

Send your work (not theoretical reports, but your practical observations of the mentioned topics) in written format, no longer than 3 pages of A4 by 31 August 2007 to 107023, Moscow, ul. Kul'eva, 3, *EkoNiva-Tekhnika*, FAO Elena Kondrashova, with "Konkursnaya rabota - Competition work" marked on the envelope. You can also send your work by email to: Elena.kondrashova@ekoniva.com. We also ask you to give contact details and include a short CV.

The winner of each area will be given a prize of 1,000 Euros.

The winners and creators of interesting projects will be invited by *EkoNiva* to continue discussions and collaboration.

We wish you every success and look forward to collaborating with you!

Yours faithfully, Stefan Duerr  
President of the *EkoNiva* Group of Companies



## A Break-Through

# in Fodder Storage

Representatives of the regional livestock businesses top management were invited to watch the operation of *John Deere* machinery: JD 7300 Forage Harvester, JD 8420 Tractor with a Fliegl Gigant Trailer and JD 740 Sprayer aggregated to a JD 6920 SE Tractor, equipped with the AMS satellite navigation system. They were also shown Kverneland grass and straw choppers. After that, they visited a new *EkoNivaAgro* livestock farm to see the most advanced cattle rearing techniques.

"This Field Day is a real break-through," says Alexander Nuzhny, Deputy Director of *Vostok-Agro*.



"This set of machinery allows us to store forage in full compliance with the national (GOST) standards. The amount of green crops on the *EkoNivaAgro* fields is amazing! I should say, this year, they are likely to get 12 tons of dried forage grass per hectare, which is absolutely incredible considering the dry

### Strategy

On 1 June, *EkoNiva-Chernozemye*, with the support of Voronezh Agricultural Policy Regional Administration, held a Field Day "Forage Harvesting Machinery and Practices" for participants in the "Accelerated Development of Livestock Farming" national project from Voronezh Region.

Julia SALKOVA

weather conditions.'

In addition to expert advice on the new aspects of forage harvesting and fodder storage techniques, the participants of the seminar could share their own experiences.

"This meeting is a perfect opportunity to learn about the importance and the new methods of forage harvesting and fodder storage. Besides, the participants were given a lot of useful tips on milk production techniques," remarked Alexander Manuilov, Deputy Head of Voronezh Agricultural Policy Regional Administration.

### News in Brief

**Stefan Duerr**, President of *EkoNiva-Agro Group of Companies*, received a letter of gratitude for investments in the Voronezh Region agricultural sector from Voronezh Governor Vladimir Kulakov. One of *EkoNivaAgro* farming holdings has been successfully working in the Liskinsky District of the Voronezh Region for five years, developing crop and seed production and promoting the most advanced foreign crop varieties. Last year, the farming holding joined the "Agro-Industry Development" National Priority Project. Today, the holding is promoting advanced dairy stock farming methods.



### **Ratum Legal and Consulting Group**

(*EkoNiva's* partner) once again became a winner in the «Golden Mercury» National Prize regional round. This time the Group won first prize in the category «Best Small Business in the Sphere of Legal Services». The Company provides legal and consulting services to customers who work in the agricultural sector. *Ratum's* range of services covers legal land relations, agricultural holding restructuring procedure and investment projects development and appraisal. The company has exclusive experience in the protection of breeders' rights and royalty recovery.



***EkoNiva-Tekhnika*** service centre opened in the Smolensk Region (in the town of Sychevka). The centre has storage facilities, a repair workshop, a metalworking shop, a study-room and office premises. The total floor area of the service centre amounts to 2 hectares.



**PHOTO EXHIBITION**

# FOCUS on John Deere

**Best photos will be published in EkoNiva-News journal and rewarded with cash bonuses and valuable prizes.**

**EkoNiva and John Deere companies continue the Focus on John Deere**

*Photo Contest.*

The contest finishes in October 2007 and has the following nominations:

- Sowing with John Deere
- Harvesting with John Deere
- I work for John Deere
- John Deere: unusual angle

Please, send your pictures marked with "For the Focus on John Deere Photo Contest" to the following address:

OOO EkoNiva-Tekhnika,  
d. Zakharovo,  
Odintsovsky Rayon,  
Moscow Region  
143022, Russia, or  
via e-mail to:  
vesti@ekoniva.com.

**John Deere: unusual angle**



*Love for John Deere starts with toys*



*"Yo heave ho!" EkoNiva-Siberia ships machinery to one of its customers*



*A rarity specimen. At John Deere's Plant in Zweibruecken (Germany)*

**Sowing with John Deere**



*"Oh, my homeland is a spacious country!" Sowing season at Sibirskaya Niva*

**I work for John Deere**



*"You can operate this combine harvester in a business suit". Gennady Nepomnyashy, EkoNiva-Tekhnika's Deputy Director*

**REGIONAL NEWS**

## Agricultural RAPESody

Recently, Russian agricultural producers have been showing growing interest for the production of rapeseed. However, in the Kursk Region, this plant is still a "newcomer" and is just being integrated into the traditional crop structure. Not surprisingly, the Regional Administration decided to address *EkoNiva* with a request for holding a seminar on the spring and winter rape production technology for the regional agricultural sector specialists, since the company has considerable experience in the cultivation of this crop. The seminar was held on the premises of *Zashchitnoe* (Kursk Region, Shchigrovsky District).

Svetlana VEBER

For the first time, *EkoNiva* specialists sowed spring rape in the Kursk Region in 2001. The crop occupied an area of 176 hectares and yielded 1,700kg of seed per hectare. Today, *Zashchitnoe* produces both spring and winter rape varieties.

According to the Deputy Chairman of the Regional Agricultural Committee, Vyacheslav Bychkov, the Regional Government is planning to build an oil-extraction facility with an infrastructure for the production of biodiesel fuel. In this connection, agricultural producers were set the task of expanding the rape crop areas to 60-70 thousand hectares and to increase rape production to 100-130 tons. The solution of this issue calls for repeatedly big harvests.

During the seminar, the *EkoNiva* consultant Wilhelm Drevs, Ph.D. in Agronomy, shared the secrets of rape production with the regional agricultural specialists. He

described every element of rape production technology in the smallest detail, laying emphasis on the cultivation of the winter rape variety, which is not widely spread in our part of the world.

The participants of the seminar asked *EkoNiva* experts a lot of questions about advanced rape crop varieties. They were recommended to pay attention to Lirajet, a reliable winter-resistant and high-yielding winter variety, and Licolly, the only spring rape variety on the Russian market that does not react to late sowing by a reduction in yield.

On the conclusion of the theoretical part, the participants of the seminar were taken to the demonstration field, where they examined winter rape crops. AgroSentrKursk specialists demonstrated advanced agricultural rape cultivation vehicles and equipment provided by the world's leading producers.

The visitors appreciated the information they received in *Zashchitnoe*.

Says Sudzhansky District Chief Agronomist Ivan Trofimenko: «One can't underestimate the value of this innovative seminar. There is little information on rape production; that is why we appreciated the opportunity of gaining new knowledge. As for the conclusions we have drawn for ourselves, I can say that we have decided to promote rape production in our district».



***EkoNiva-Vyatka*** specialists held a training session on John Deere vehicles and equipment, for engineering staff of the Kirov Region innovative farm businesses. The session was held on *Plemsovkhoz Oktyabrsky* (Kumensky District, Kirov Region) premises. It was devoted to the issues of correct operation of John Deere machinery in the natural conditions prevailing in the Kirov Region; John Deere vehicles and equipment design principles; and the system of parallel driving.



## Sowing demonstrations in the branches of Niva in Tyumen and Siberia

*EkoNivaSibir* and *Vaederstad* demonstrated sowing techniques about no-till technology in two regions at once: in Tyumen at the agro-company *KRiMM* and in Novosibirsk at the experienced *Sibirskaya Niva*.

Elena SHRAMKO

*KRiMM*'s area under crop is 38,000 hectares. The company also bought four sowing complexes from Seed Hawk this season. The main problems were ploughing, precisely individual strengthening of frame-ploughs, which would till the land. Andres Liung spoke, sales director for *Vaederstad* spoke about the advantages of having the machinery.

According to Yuri Krivoruchkin, the deputy president of the agro-firm, Seed Hawk began sowing peas and rapeseed on stubble at the end of April. The productivity stood at 120-130 in a 24-hour period. Such a result can be explained by the fact that the tractors were running on ordinary wheels. Pea shoots grew to 4-4.5 cm by the 7th of May, with only a few managing "to break the shell". Many sprouts

were hindered by the cold weather – rain for weeks and a temperature lower than 5 degrees.

Participants in the meeting took great interest in Seed Hawk, working with a John Deere 8420 tractor on rapeseed. Pierre Lungdal, a *Vaederstad* specialist, answered questions about the productivity of the complex, loading of seeds and control of ploughs, among others.

To sum up the meeting, Andrey Gildinberg, the deputy president of the agriculture and industry complex department, spoke about the agricultural producers who gave support from regional authorities. The speech not only concentrated on the 30% compensation for already acquired technology, but also about the necessity of opening a service centre. *EkoNivaSibir* was presented with the possibility of opening a warehouse for extra and high-



wearing materials on *KRiMM*'s base. This step could be the first stage in connecting Seed Hawk's sowing complexes with the subsidised machinery from the regional budget.

*Sibirskaya Niva* has increased the area under crop to 9,000 hectares as opposed to 3,000 last year. This was all due to the characteristics of Rapid and Seed Hawk sowing complexes and Kerrier and Top Down cultivators.

Thanks to the participation of P.Ya. Bayfort, *Virt* (Altaysky Territory), N.A. Gubinsky, the taiga in Novosibirsk, A.G. Chernykh, *KFKh Pecherin* in the Kemerovo Region, a lively discussion was held – the exchange of ideas and techniques. Top Down machinery worked on 6,000 hectares of land in *Virt* last year and Nikolay Aleksandrovich Gubinsky reduced the waste of cereals to 2,500 roubles thanks to the sowing complex Rapid.



Our people

## How to make a spaceship from tins

**Sergey is called a Decembrist among his friends. The only difference is that those Decembrists were banished, but he went from Moscow to the Orenburg Region on his own will.**

Julia SALKOVA

Sergey Ovcharenko joined *EkoNiva* as an engineer in 2001. Stefan Duerr, the director of the company, sent Sergey to the village of Zhmakino in the Orenburg Region after a year and told him "go and see if you can work there". This is where *Severnaya Niva* was created. Sergey went to work for the new business, but then ended up becoming the director.

Why did he leave Moscow for a far away place? His answer is that he does not like large cities, and his hometown is very important for him – Kinel in the Samara Region. Some could say that the reason for his "change" is that the post was very desirable. But who would he manage? The only colleague was his partner Olga, who is now the chief accountant of the company.

"The problem we had when we moved was that we didn't really have anything"



Sergey said "no office, workers, you have to forget about buying a



place, but rent instead. It was spring and we needed to sow seeds, even though it was difficult".

How Sergey managed to carry out the sowing is a mystery. His friends and colleagues, after all his unique decisions, say the following about him: a real Russian guy with wit, which only the inquisitive Slav mind has. Now the company will use Sergey's ability to make spaceships from tins.

*Severnaya Niva* is five years old. It is a

young developing company that has 17 employees. The agricultural fields of the company total 11 hectares - winter and summer wheat, barley, peas and triticales are grown on this land.

*Severnaya Niva* won first place for productivity among businesses in the northern areas of the Orenburg Region in 2006.

"My objective is to get to the very core of *Severnaya Niva's* production" says Sergey. "The company is growing, despite significant recurring problems. It is important to keep on wanting to solve them. This is what I want to do."

It is possible that Sergey Ovcharenko really has a Decembrist core. This explains his stability, which he has proved during the initial stages of *Severnaya Niva*. And his natural know-how to make a positive out of a negative deserves respect. As a real Decembrist's wife, she is always happy. They have one son – Nikita, who is 2.5 years old. As there is no nursery in the village, he "goes to work" with his Mum and Dad. Sergey is making worthwhile changes.

Our Customers

## Sergey Krasnoshtanov:

**«People should help each other»**

**We are opening a new column – "Our Customers". In this column we will tell you about *EkoNiva* partners. Today we would like to introduce *Khoper* (Voronezh Region, Novokhopersky District).**

Yulia SALKOVA

*Khoper* was set up in 1995. It specializes in the production of cereals and sunflower seed. *Khoper* has been constantly growing both with regard to the amount of its land property and workforce. Today this farming establishment combines several farm businesses with a total area of 26 thousand hectares. Some of them are located outside Voronezh Region.

In 2005, *Khoper* established cooperation with the *EkoNiva-Chernozemye Company*. In less than 2 years, the *Khoper* has purchased two John Deere 8330 and one John Deere 8420 tractors, two Optima sowing machines,



one Rapid 600 C sowing machine and a Rau spraying machine. This June, *Khoper* will receive two John Deere 9660 i STSe rotor combine harvesters.

Sergey Krasnoshtanov, *Khoper* Head, is pleased with the new machinery. He says:

"We have 186 domestic and foreign agricultural machinery units. All machines bought from *EkoNiva-Chernozemye* are absolutely reliable. Besides, the company provides high quality customer service and expert advice. I can't say that the machines supplied by the *EkoNiva Company* are cheap.

Similar machines can be bought at a lower price. Nevertheless we give preference to *EkoNiva-Chernozemye* because this company always keeps its promises and fulfills our requirements'.

This is what the head of *Khoper* says about the prospects of our further cooperation:

"We will remain partners. *EkoNiva-Chernozemye* supplies high quality equipment. We have increased our cultivated lands, now we have to develop our technical capabilities. This task cannot be solved without buying new advanced machinery".

Sergey Krasnoshtanov did not say much about his own achievements, but we could see that his farm business enjoyed the highest level of order and discipline. When I asked him about his priorities, he said without hesitation:

"People should help each other, especially brothers".

Sergey knows what he's talking about. His elder brother Vladimir is Director of Novokhopersky Oil Extracting Plant JSC. One brother produces raw material and the other processes it. They always cling together and both believe that they wouldn't have achieved high results on their own. Both brothers help to improve life in their native city. Sergey and Vladimir have a lot in common. Each of them has three children and both are very proud of them.

*EkoNiva-Agro* runs a state-of-the-art dairy-stock farm set-up within the framework of the "Agro-Industry Development" National Priority Project. Construction work started on 1 June 2006 in the village of Shchuchye (Liskinsky District, Voronezh Region). Now, a year later, we want to show you the results.



# EkoNiva

**A good beginning is half the battle ... 15 June 2006.**

## National Project



**"The young generation": 265 Simmental calves were born in the new complex.**

**Milking parlour with 2x24 milking stations (Westfalia Surge).**



**The complex today: a cattle-house for 460 cows, maternity unit, fattening unit. Commissioning is scheduled for 6 November 2007.**



**In Russia no worse than in Germany: 460 German Simmentals with Russian "citizenship status".**

**Ideal milk-storing conditions: Cooler tanks for 12,000 l of milk each.**



**EKONIVA**  
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