

In January of this year during Green Week in Berlin a significant event occurred: Russian and German farmers represented by their professional unions – the Association of Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives (AKKOR) and the German Farmers Union (DBV) – signed a Memorandum on Collaboration. The next step in cooperation was a conference in Moscow, where representatives of the Farmers Unions shared practical knowledge, discussed problems which have come to a head, and exchanged experience.

By Svetlana WEBER

COLLABORATION



Farmers
of Russia and Germany
on the Future
of Farming

The experience of our German colleagues is truly enormous. Recently the Union celebrated its 60th anniversary, and it is a very influential and respected organization in Germany which unites 90 percent of those working in the agrarian industry. The Association of Russian Farmers has been functioning since 1990 and is now going through the stage of active formation.

The DBV delegation was headed by the Union's Secretary General, Dr Helmut Born. He noted that German farmers have long understood that only united can they have a political voice and seek government decisions. And of course work out their own corporative tasks - promoting the increase of farmers' income, developing rural territory, and solving issues of education and culture in the villages.

Russian farmers have not yet rallied enough to present a united front and influence the political decision-making, but that is exactly the goal which AKKOR has set for itself.

"We want to become good helpers for farmers," says the AKKOR President, Vladimir Plotnikov, "in order to show them real support and lobby for their interests in political circles. All the more so, since farming is the most dynamically developing way of life in the agrarian sector."

"But it is impossible to unite farmers without

the support of the state," opines Vladimir Plotnikov.

"We are studying the experience of Germany and seeing that there the state helps farmers organize themselves into unions in order to confer partial authority to them and effectively solve issues of agrarian policy."

Today, following the example of its western colleagues, AKKOR is striving to strengthen its protection of Russian farmers, ensure co-operation between farmers and the authorities, and seek state decisions which are necessary for the villages. Now one of the vital problems is the sale of farmers' produce. To solve it, buying co-operatives are being formed, and there is a preliminary agreement that one of the markets in Moscow will be leased out to farmers. But that is just the beginning of a huge labour. It is of no less importance to make credit resources accessible to farmers so that farming can develop.

The policy of collaboration of farmers' unions is actively supported by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of the FRG. A department head of the German ministry who attended the conference, Gunter Begeer, noted that his department will be glad of all joint undertakings and concrete dealings.

Opinion

Vladimir Plotnikov, President of AKKOR, Chairman of the Agrarian Party of Russia:



- Farmers are not just a component of the domestic economy. Farmers are the soul of Russia.

Helmut Born, Secretary General of the DBV:



- Farmers are not only entrepreneurs; they are also an influential force in society.

Friedrich Gölter, Director of the International Agrarian Contacts Association:



- Farmers of the whole world need to unite in order to feed the world and preserve nature.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September. Field Day on the technology of minimum and subsurface tillage

Location: Voronezh region, Liskinsky district, village of Zaluzhnoye

Organized by: OOO EkoNiva-Chernozemye

September. Training seminar on working with soil cultivation equipment.

Location: Ryazan region, city of Rybnoye

Organized by: OOO EkoNiva-Ryazan

September. Opening of a grain processing and storage complex

Location: Voronezh region, Liskinsky district, village of Zaluzhnoye, OOO EkoNivaAgro

Organized by: EkoNiva

16-19 September. Altayskaya Niva Exhibition

Location: Barnaul

Organized by: Altay fair

26-29 September. Regional agro-industrial exhibition and fair Kaluzhskaya osen-2008

Location: Kaluga region, village of Annenki

Organized by: The Ministry of Agriculture of the Kaluga region

October. "Farm Day"

Location: Payvino, OOO Sibirskaya Niva

Organized by: OOO EkoNiva-Sibir, OOO Sibirskaya Niva

10-14 October. 10th Russian agro-industrial exhibition Zolotaya Osen-2008

Location: Moscow, All-Russian Exhibition Centre

Organized by: The Ministry of Agriculture of Russia

10-16 November Business trip to Germany for EkoNiva's delegation to the International Specialized Exhibition on Stock Breeding, EuroTier

Location: Germany, Hannover Exhibition Centre

Organized by: DLG e.V.

19-22 November International specialized exhibition of agricultural equipment Agrosalon-2008

Location: Moscow, Moscow Exposition Centre Krokus Expo

Organized by: Soyuzagromash Development Agency

22-29 November. Business trip to Canada for EkoNiva's delegation to the Canadian Western Agribition

Location: Canada, city of Regina, Saskatchewan

AGROFORUM

Successful development of the agricultural industry is impossible without the introduction of modern agricultural equipment, scientific innovations, and promising methods of farming. Field Day, which was held in the Belgorod area, was an excellent platform for the advancement of the most promising products and technologies, the presentation of investment projects, and the seeking of new business partners.

By Svetlana WEBER



Innovative Technologies in Agriculture!

THIS IS THE MOTTO UNDER WHICH THE FIFTH EXPOSITION AND DEMONSTRATION "RUSSIAN FIELD DAY" WAS HELD.

At a press conference, Minister of Agriculture Alexey Gordeyev remarked that Field Day gives farmers the chance to choose equipment which is really better, and the task of the state is to help farmers acquire it.

"To make for more active re-equipping of the agro-industrial complex, we included measures in the Programme for Agricultural Development in 2008-2012 for increasing the accessibility of credit," remarked the minister.

Thus, this year 10-year loans with subsidized interest rate for acquiring equipment appeared.

The theme of this Field Day was resource-saving technologies. *EkoNiva* prepared an exposition in which they presented the best examples of agricultural equipment, which place agricultural production on a qualitatively new level. Traditionally,



John Deere products have attracted a lot of attention from guests. These were tractors from the 9, 8 and 6 series, equipment for fodder preparation - the new self-propelled combine from the 7050 series, and a pickup baler.

The following soil cultivation equipment was presented: a powerful and easy-to-use turnwrest

plough (Kverneland), the Top Down stubble cultivator (Vaederstad), and the wide-swath tine weeder Pneumaticstar (Einboeck). Farmers were also interested in a machine which is still fairly new on the Russian market - a rotary mulcher from the Canadian firm Schulte.

This year the exhibition area of experimental plots was increased significantly. 750 samples were planted on an area of 60 ha. *EkoNiva* presented 20 varieties of field crops and four varieties of potatoes. There were tried varieties that have recommended themselves well, and, of course, promising new varieties. This year there is special demand for winter crop seeds. *EkoNiva* took this interest into account and presented varieties of winter wheat with high yield potential - Lars, Akteur, Samurai, and Skagen, and winter barleys Cinderella and Highlight. Exposition guests could receive qualified consultations from specialists, and also communicate directly with representatives of the selection and seed-farming company DSV.

In all, Field Day showed that Russian farmers no longer want to work the old way. There is a desire, and most importantly the opportunity, to master new technologies and achieve high economic results.

OUR PLANS

In mid-September in Kaliningrad a meeting between project directors of the German Ministry of Agriculture which are being implemented on the territory of Russia and Belarus will take place. The goal of the meeting is to unite efforts in order to find the optimal paths for development of agribusiness in Russia and develop a unified system of activity directed toward the solution of vital problems.

Invited to the meeting will be specialists from the agricultural industry, experts, and the directors of the following projects: "Improving the Protection of Consumers' Rights and Ensuring the Safety of Food Products in the RF," "Contributions to Improving the Chain for Creating Surplus Value in Milk Production in the Kaliningrad Region," "Long-Term Development of Rural Regions of the Republic of Chuvashia," and "Development of Modern Processes and Technologies in Milk and Beef Production in the RF" (details at www.agrardialog.ru).



NEWS IN BRIEF

The Governor of the Kaluga region,

Anatoly Artamonov, and his colleague, the head of the Belgorod region, Yevgeny Savchenko, visited OOO *Kaluzhskaya Niva*. The governors acquainted themselves with the work of the farm's stock-breeding complex. In 2007 reconstruction of the stock breeding



buildings for 600 head of dairy cattle was carried out, and Schwyz heifers were imported from Austria and Switzerland. In the milking area modern equipment from the company Westfalia Surge was installed. Today there are 740 head of cattle on the farm, 332 of which are a dairy herd. The yield from one cow is over 22 litres a day. The Governor of the Belgorod region, where dairy farming is also being actively developed, asked questions with an understanding of the matter and evaluated highly the work that has been done. Yevgeny Savchenko was surprised that it was possible to achieve such results with very limited investments.

CURRENT EVENTS

In 2009 the Canadian system of dairy market regulation will be introduced in Russia. This was announced to journalists by the Minister of Agriculture of the RF, Alexey Gordeyev.

By Oksana PROTONINA

Milk Fever

ALEXEY GORDEYEV CALLS FOR THE ADOPTION OF CANADIAN EXPERIENCE, AND FISCHER BOEL RECEIVED 10,000 LITRES OF SOUR MILK

"This year we will send a group of Russian specialists to Canada, where they will study in detail the state system of dairy market regulation," said the head of the Ministry of Agriculture. "In autumn at the Cabinet meeting we plan to

discuss the results of this trip, adapt the Canadian model of dairy market regulation and in 2009 put it in action in Russia."

According to Alexey Gordeyev, in Canada there is a clear understanding of the fact that

such a business as dairy production cannot be regulated purely by market relations.

To be continued on page 12



Russia has had a long history of relations with the John Deere Corporation. The first equipment of that brand had already appeared in our country in the late 19th century. In the 21st century, according to the head of the company's Moscow office, Sid Bardwell, a new stage of collaboration has begun. In 2003 an office appeared in Moscow, in 2005 a factory in Orenburg, and in 2008 construction was begun on a production centre in the Kaluga region.

By Svetlana WEBER

John Deere Has Registered in the Kaluga Region

AND HAS BEGUN CONSTRUCTION OF A PRODUCTION CENTRE

The first stone in the foundation of the new production centre on the grounds of the Vorsino industrial park was laid on 8 July. In 18 months there will be a training centre and a warehouse for spare parts and finished products where up to 200 specialists will work. This is JD's largest foreign investment project, with a cost of 80 million dollars.

"Agriculture in Russia has great perspectives," says Mark von

John Deere today:
- 51 factories in 18 countries
- 55,000 employees worldwide
- the company's net income in 2007 was 1.822 milliard US dollars



Pentz, JD's agricultural equipment production president. "In Russia there are as many sown areas as in the USA and Canada put together. Our task is to increase their productivity so that Russian farmers can reap large harvests. Russia has huge

Investments in the Agro-Industrial Complex



Left to right: Andrey Vershinin, Anatoly Artamonov, Mark von Pentz, Sid Bardwell

potential, and JD has excellent agricultural equipment. We have good opportunities to develop together."

Kaluga Governor Anatoly Artamonov also spoke of the perspectives of joint collaboration.

"We link agricultural development only to high technology and modern equipment," says the head of the region. "Kaluga farmers acquire a large amount of JD equipment. But most of all we are

attracted by the well-organized after-sale service. In our region it is carried out by *EkoNiva*, the largest dealer for the JD Corporation. We collaborate fruitfully with this company and are grateful to its president, Stefan Duerr, for his excellent work. By the way, *EkoNiva* is constantly perfecting and developing its service system, and now in the Maloyaroslavetsky district of our region it is building a new service centre."

The Governor expressed hope that soon a factory for producing tractors will be built on the production centre's territory. The leadership of JD confirmed that such intentions are among their plans, but that will be the next stage in implementation of the project in Vorsino. For their part, the regional administration promised comprehensive support so that production can begin as soon as possible, and the business can be successful.

LEARNING BY EXPERIENCE

Summer of 2008 saw more Field Days and seminars on issues of plant-cultivation development than usual. All companies strove to show off their new equipment, technology and varieties. *EkoNiva* also demonstrated its new items on Russian Field Day in Belgorod, and Field Day in Kursk, Tula and Kirov.

By Villi DREVS, Doctor of Agronomy, plant-cultivation consultant.

New Varieties with New Possibilities

Samurai at a demonstration test in the Kursk region.



Winter barley Cinderella in the Tambov region at the Izberdey company on a 100 ha field gave a record harvest of 7,000 kg/ha.

Along with new equipment - new, powerful rotor combines, John Deere tractors from the 500 to 900 series, self-propelled sprayers, JCB loaders and other equipment - agronomists paid special attention to the demonstration plots with new varieties of winter and spring crops.

Like last year, we demonstrated success in winter barley technology. The variety **Cinderella** for the second year has been undergoing state testing, and for the second year it has continued to surprise Russian agronomists with high yields.

This year *EkoNiva* presented a new variety of winter

barley, **Highlight**, from the German firm DSV. This variety of six-row fodder barley is most notable for its stronger ear and higher mass per 1,000 seeds.

What is different about cultivation winter barley as compared to winter wheat?

The early sowing period is a result of the need for good autumn bushing out of barley. Along with the main stem, before winter there should be no less than 3-4 side shoots. For this the sum of effective temperatures in the autumn period should be 4500 °C. In the conditions of the

Chernozemye, the sowing period from 1 through 3 September turned out to be ideal.

Good predecessors for winter barley are complete or sown fallow, leguminous plants, and rapeseed.

Because of the early sowing period, special attention must be paid to fighting pests and vectors of viral diseases (cicadas) in the autumn period.

A main food crop is winter wheat, represented, along with the already familiar varieties Lars (entered in the Register of Russia since 2004) and Akteur (undergoing State testing), by the new variety **Samurai**.

straw, strong ear and resistance to falling.

Samurai is a high-yield variety and has an exceptionally high starch content, which promotes its use for bio-ethanol production and fodder purposes.

After harsh winter conditions in 2008, the harvested acreage of winter rapeseed was significantly reduced. For this reason the search for new winter-resistant varieties of this crop remains a pertinent topic at *EkoNiva*.

Of winter rapeseed varieties, along with **Lirajet** and **Libea**, which are offered

by *EkoNiva*, the company promoted the entry of the new variety **Livius** into the Register of Russia in 2008.

Livius is a mid-early variety with a high yield combined with high oil content. Like hybrids, it is notable for its fast growth in

the beginning stage of development. **Livius** is a short-stemmed variety and therefore is very resistant to falling and bursting.

Winter rapeseed on the fields of EkoNiva-Agro in the Voronezh region continues to hold a place of honour.

Samurai amazed all of the Field Day visitors with its short

falling and bursting.



TECHNICAL INSPECTION

The Austrian company Einboeck was founded by Leopold Einboeck in 1934 as a smithy. In the middle of the 50s it went on to produce agricultural equipment.

By Nikolai BASHKIROV

Einboeck: Soil Tillage with Success and Pleasure



hemispherical discs with various levelling rollers. The instrument's swath width is from 2.5 to 10 m.

The wide-swath tine weeders Aerostar, Pneumaticstar and Grass-Manager are tried and true aggregates for mechanically fighting weeds on fields, combing meadows and repairing pastures. These machines are towed spring-tine harrows. Pneumaticstar and Grass-Manager are fitted with equipment for simultaneous undersowing of small-seeded crops. Aerostar can also be additionally fitted with equipment for undersowing grasses. The swath width is 1.5-24 m. Recently production started on the Jumbo tine weeder with a hopper enlarged to up to 1,500 litres, allowing it to be used for the application of mineral fertilizers.

The Vibrostar, Plainer and Extrem cultivators are meant for secondary tillage of medium and medium-heavy soils. They have recommended themselves especially well in the secondary soil tillage for planting sugar beets and

width between rows and a parallelogram-shaped suspension for cultivation between rows of hoed crops are represented by the ERS, EMS and EGR models. The swath width for beets is from 5 to 18 rows, for maize and sunflowers from 2 to 12 rows, and for vegetable crops from 2 to 12 rows.

In all, every Einboeck machine is characterized by reliability, both of individual parts and of the whole construction, and by simplicity of use and service. All of this is ensured by long experience, modern production technologies and the use of high-quality raw materials. A flexible, individual approach to the customer is another important characteristic of Einboeck's work.

EkoNiva has been the exclusive dealer for Einboeck on the territory of Central Russia and Siberia for many years. The quality and suitability of the soil cultivation instruments for Russian conditions of exploitation have already been

The first models from the postwar years were cultivators, potato-planting machines and harrows. Thanks to the recruitment of young people for production training and the expanding of workshop space, the number of employees in the enterprise grew steadily. In the late 60s and early 70s the company's model line was increased to include, among other things, pre-sowing combinations and cultivators for inter-row cultivation. In the 80s the tined weeder, now famous throughout Europe and far beyond, was included in the array of offerings.

The enterprise is located in the town of Dorf an der Pram, 60 km west of Linz, on a territory with an area of 20,000 m², of which about 8,000 m² is devoted to production, storage and office facilities. Today the staff includes 65 employees, who work on producing both soil treatment equipment and industrial parts.

Today Einboeck is a modern, dynamically developing enterprise which turns out a wide array of high-quality, dependable tillage instruments for small and large farms engaging in plant cultivation. The main products

are stubble cultivators, tined weeders, cultivators for the preparation of seedbeds, and cultivators for inter-row cultivation of hoed crops.

The Twister short disc harrow and the Tornado wing share cultivator is meant for intensive surface cultivation of stubble; excellent soil mixing can be achieved with them. The cultivator

Alexey Fedchenko, Deputy Director of ZAO Agrofirma Rylskaya (Kursk region):

"In the spring of this year we acquired two Vibrostar cultivators and six ERS cultivators from Einboeck, and we are very pleased with this equipment. On the farm we conducted secondary tillage for planting maize and beets using the Vibrostar cultivator for the first time, and everyone noticed the excellent quality of its work. And the cultivators for inter-row cultivation didn't let us down either. In my view, Einboeck equipment is the optimal combination of price and quality."

is also used for secondary tillage, when mixing manure or plant matter into the soil. The machines are equipped with levelling parts in the shape of tines or concave

maize. Vibrostar is fitted with 4 rows of S-shaped claws and levelling rollers; swath width varies from 3.5 to 12.1 m.

Cultivators with a changeable

proven on the fields of many agricultural producers.

Soil cultivation with success and pleasure is Einboeck's main slogan!



ROSSELKHOZBANK NEWS



According to totals from the second quarter of this year, OAO Rosselkhozbank was in fourth place among the largest banks of the country in asset

volume.

During the second quarter the amount of Rosselkhozbank's assets increased by 31.79%. In the first half of 2008 Rosselkhozbank continued to substantially increase credit and financial support to the agro-industrial complex. In particular, according to data from 1 July, the volume of the bank's credit portfolio was 360.2 milliard roubles, having increased by 67.6 milliard roubles as compared to 1 January 2008. In all, 138 milliard roubles' worth of credit was given during the first half of the year, which is 20% more than in the corresponding period of last year. The corporate credit portfolio reached 311 milliard roubles by 1 July. The credit portfolio for individuals has grown by 17% since the beginning of the year and on 1 July was equal to 51.7 milliard roubles. Rosselkhozbank has the second largest network of branches in the country. The bank has 77 branches and 1,303 additional offices.

Rosselkhozbank allocated 40 milliard for credit and financial support of the harvest campaign.

In particular, right before the harvest campaign Rosselkhozbank directed 20 milliard rubles toward financing the harvest. Another 20 milliard roubles was allocated for financing projects for the acquisition of agricultural equipment.

Sergey Smirnov has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the Rosselkhozbank Board.

Mr Smirnov graduated from the K.A. Timiryazev Moscow Agricultural Academy. He is a Candidate of Economics. From 1991-1997 he was Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Board of Directors of a regional branch of Rosselkhozbank, and then of Agroprombank. From 1997-2000 he served as Vice President and Senior Deputy Chairman of the Most-Bank Board. From 2000-2001 he was Deputy Director General of NTV-Plus. From 2005 until his appointment he served as the Director of the bank's Moscow regional branch.

The need for credit funds in the agrarian sector of the economy is constantly growing. Specialists estimate that today over 2 trillion roubles are needed.

A significant financial influx is needed, primarily for the introduction of high technology into the industry which will help to substantially raise its competitiveness.

HARVESTING

Riding High with Vyacheslav Dudka

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TULA REGION SAT BEHIND THE WHEEL OF A JOHN DEERE COMBINE



And not only did he sit in the combine driver's seat, he also worked for an hour, as one is supposed to during the harvest labours, at harvesting spring barley. This unusual event happened at OOO Znamenskoye in the Tula region.

Having exchanged the governor's seat for the combine driver's seat, Vyacheslav Dudka remarked that working on such a machine is riding high.

It's not surprising that the head of the Tula region felt completely comfortable in the cabin of the John Deere S690 combine. After all, this model of combine allows one not only to perform harvest work on a high level, but also not to forget, so to speak, about the human factor. In other words, thanks to the air conditioner, the combine driver feels fine in any weather.

By the way, the Governor of the Tula region turned out to be a very capable learner - obviously his excellent knowledge of technical equipment helped, after all, Vyacheslav Dudka is a Candidate of Technical Sciences and a professor - and he noted with pleasure that the harvest this year is excellent. The average yield on the plot where the Governor worked was over 5,200 kg per hectare.

LIVE AND LEARN

In the Kirov region the only Innovation Centre for training and retraining of agricultural specialists in the region has been created. It was organized on the base of the Nolinsk Technical School of Agricultural Mechanization, which in 2007 was the winner of a competition among specialized secondary schools for the introduction of innovative educational programmes.



Giving innovation!

Students of the technical school receive a varied education. In the course of five years the best students practice abroad at farms in Germany, Sweden, and England.

Study and training at the Centre are also unique. First of all, because the Centre has an excellent resource and technical base: no specialized learning institution in the region can boast of having so much modern agricultural equipment. The number of students at the Centre is growing every day: here specialists from agricultural enterprises not only from the Kirov region, but from neighbouring regions and republics undergo training.

EkoNiva actively supports the Centre's activities. EkoNiva-Vyatka furnished 90 million roubles' worth of equipment for the successful work of the Centre. Also, specialists from the company conduct the training of students.

Graduates of the Nolinsk Technical School have no problem in finding employment. After all, each of them, while undergoing training on modern equipment at the Innovation Centre, learns several additional working professions which are very much in demand in modern agricultural production not only in Russia, but also in Western European countries.

AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX OF THE REGIONS



The harvest campaign in the Kursk region got started on the fields of one of EkoNiva's enterprises during the regional Field Day. Following the lead of the governor, who released a symbolic ear of grain made of balloons into the sky, the first combine harvester went out into the field. The harvest promises to be good.

By Oksana PROTONINA and Svetlana WEBER

EkoNiva started up the harvest campaign in the Kursk region

2.5 MILLION TONS OF GRAIN ARE GOING INTO KURSK GRAIN BINS

A seminar where issues of the upcoming harvest were discussed was conducted in the Shchigry area. The guests were received by OOO AgroTsentrKursk and OOO Zashchitnoye, one of EkoNiva's farms. Seminar participants also visited the farm of Vyacheslav Motin and the Shchigry Grain Products Plant, which belongs to the company Russky Dom.

The heads of all the districts of the region, directors of agricultural enterprises, bank and investment

company representatives, and agrarian industry specialists took part in the seminar. And also the assistant to the Authorized Representative of the President in the Central Federal District, Alexandr Gromov, and representatives of the regional authorities, Governor Alexandr Mikhailov and Regional Government Chairman Alexandr Zubarev.

The first working site was AgroTsentrKursk, a partner of EkoNiva. Here a new service centre was opened. Guests visited a repair shop, where pre-sale preparation of equipment and service are carried out, and visited a storehouse for agricultural equipment and seed. On the demonstration grounds, the latest models of agricultural equipment which AgroTsentrKursk offers to farmers were shown. These were Kverneland feed-preparation equipment, Einboeck soil cultivation equipment, and JCB loaders.

The next stop was OOO Zashchitnoye, a professional seed-farming enterprise. The beginning of the harvest labours on the farm

was blessed by Archimandrite Zinovy, the senior priest of the Holy Trinity Church in the town of Shchigry; he conducted a service for the abundance of earthly fruits. The equipment went out into the field, and the seminar participants were able to watch how, immediately after the combine harvester,

surface cultivation of the soil was performed on the field using a Carrier stubble cultivator, in order to stimulate weed growth and conserve moisture in the soil for the sowing of the next crop.

Guests of Zashchitnoye also got acquainted with new approaches in grain management.

Instead of large soviet-type elevators, which have become morally and physically obsolete, EkoNiva offers advanced North American technology for storing grain in mini-elevators, which include acceptance and preliminary cleaning of grain without traditional dump pits, dryers with buffer silos and grain storage containers. As executive director of OOO EkoNiva-Semena Yuri Vasyukov noted, this allows the grain never to lie on the ground. Such technology provides high storage quality and gives the farm independence: there is no need to



resistant to falling, and gives a high yield. Winter barley varieties Cinderella and Highlife are in no way inferior. Cinderella has highly recommended itself on the fields of the Chernozemye and Central regions; last year the yield was up to 9,000 kilograms per hectare. Highlife is still a novelty of which many had heard, and they were able to see it

ship the grain away from the farm and pay large amounts of money for storage. And that means that the grain can be sold when it is truly profitable. On the territory of Zashchitnoye construction of such an elevator capable of accepting up to 100 tons of grain from the field per

on the demonstration field at Zashchitnoye. This is a fodder variety of barley which ripens early and has a great yield potential. The collection of feed crops - five experimental plots were devoted to them - left no one who raises livestock indifferent.

The Governor of the Kursk region, Alexandr Mikhailov, called upon the seminar participants to arm themselves with EkoNiva's experience. He noted that this company actively introduces modern agricultural technology and new varieties into the agricultural production of Russia, and the Kursk region in particular, supplies advanced agricultural equipment and is beginning to develop dairy farming. At Zashchitnoye reconstruction of livestock buildings for 400 head is underway, and construction of a complex for 1,200 head using technology for free-stall housing of livestock is being planned. And literally a few days after the seminar the first foreign cows arrived at the farm - 400 head of Simmentals.

"Russia cannot live without dairy farming," noted the president of the EkoNiva Group of Companies, Stefan Duerr, in his speech. "Perhaps now this industry is not very profitable, but I am sure that in the near future the situation will change."

hour and storing up to 10,000 tons of grain is being finished. This year in the region a harvest of no less than 2.5 million tonnes of grain is planned, so mini-elevators would come in handy.

Guests of the seminar visited the farm's demonstration fields, where tests of new field crop varieties of Russian and European selection are conducted. New varieties of winter wheat, winter barley and feed crops were represented here. Much interest was aroused by the winter wheat variety Samurai; it was amazing in its literally samurai-like hardness. It has a strong ear, is very



LAWMAKING

Before leaving on holiday, the deputies of the State Duma who serve in the Agrarian Committee summed up their work during the spring session. As Committee leader Valentin Denisov announced to journalists at a press conference, the Duma agrarians got four laws passed – an amendment to the Law on Agricultural Development touching on the strengthening of the insurance business in the agro-industrial complex, an amendment to the Law on the Financial Improvement of Agricultural Enterprises, and two laws on technical regulations: the first on milk and its derivatives, the second on oil and fat production. But the deputies still have a lot of work ahead of them.



Agrarian deputies: going on holiday with a sense of fulfilled duty

THE AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL 49.5 MILLIARD ROUBLES

“During the autumn session, the State Duma Committee for Agrarian Issues plans to get technical regulations passed on juice and on tobacco products, and also introduce a technical regulation on confectionary products for a first reading,” noted Valentin Denisov. “Such regulations should become a ‘technological constitution,’ which won’t allow producers to deviate from the legalized norms in accordance with the demands presented for food products. Once people joked that the Russian consumer ‘eats what’s written’; the markings and labels now established must not deceive buyers and should raise consumer

culture among the population.”

Valentin Denisov also touched on issues of legislative activity in the regions.

“We are troubled by the low rate of passage of legislative initiatives from the regions by the State Duma,” remarked the Committee head. “At the seminar on developing an effective mechanism for cooperation between federal and regional legislators on issues of the legal protection of the legislative process with regard to state support and development of the agro-industrial complex, conducted for the first time at the initiative of the Committee, we talked about the weak legal preparation of legislative initiatives

from the regions. Also, for the first time, the Committee for Agrarian Issues introduced the practice of field meetings on vital problems. We discussed the issues of grain production and price formation on baked goods, legislative provision for the development of sheep farming and elite seed farming, and the problems of quality and safety of food products and effective state control with experts, scientists, and representatives of industrial unions and non-government organizations. Such a practice should continue, and the first field meeting on purebred stock breeding is already planned for autumn.

In answer to the issue of Dmitry Medvedev’s initiative to hold a grain summit, Valentin Denisov remarked that that is a most important

suggestion: “With each year Russia is increasing its participation in the world market. Of course, our voice in this organization should carry a lot of weight. It will be an organization where agreements are made as to how much grain to grow and at what price to sell it. When they say that Russia has a food crisis, I don’t believe it, and I suggest that others don’t either. We have sufficient resources and our own products, first of all, the grain which we will harvest this year. Many hope that Russia will be a leading player on the world market when the food crisis is over.”

At the end of the press conference, Valentin Denisov reminded us that in June of 2008 the State Duma passed an amendment to the federal budget, according to which an additional 49.5 milliard roubles will be allocated for the development of the agro-industrial complex. And a priority for the Committee’s work will be the further legislative provision for successful implementation of the State Program for Agricultural Development for 2008-2012.

Based on materials from the press service of the State Duma Committee for Agrarian Issues

Subsidies for Buying Seed Will Help Agricultural Producers

According to the head of the Plant Cultivation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of Russia, Pyotr Chekmarev, Russian farmers are already reaping the fruits of the latest innovation. As part of implementation of the State Programme for Agricultural Development, the allocation of subsidies for buying seed is provided for.

By Oksana PROTONINA



Primarily we are talking about the acquisition of elite and therefore expensive varieties of agricultural crops, which often the average farmer cannot afford.

“We subsidize up to 30 percent of the seed cost, and thus reduce part of the expenses of agricultural producers,” explains Pyotr Chekmarev. “But prices are rising, and the amount entered in the budget for these needs is not enough to completely fulfil all

subsidy obligations. Therefore preference will be given, first of all, to those crops which are in the worst state. Smaller subsidies will be allocated for profitable crops, but as practice has shown, the situation will not worsen as a result of that. That’s not the issue. We need to acknowledge that Russian seed-farming still falls short of world standards. Of course, seed quality is better than even two or three years ago, but now 20 percent of seeds sown are in poor condition, and that means a substantial shortfall in the harvest. We definitely need to work out the mechanism of subsidization to make support of domestic seed-farming as substantial as possible.”

Pyotr Chekmarev also noted that at the present time, the Ministry of Agriculture of the RF, in conjunction with the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, is developing a seed-farming program. This will stimulate development in the industry; after all, the programme provides for the improvement of the resource and technical base. Primarily that means the acquisition of the newest machines and equipment for seed-farming.

“We have promising varieties we can work on, and intellectual potential in the person of seed-farmers and breeders; we lack only modern material and technological equipment,” opines Pyotr Chekmarev, “and we are going to work on solving that problem.”



Focus ON US!

PHOTO EXHIBITION

Please, send your photos marked **FOCUS ON US!** to:
305004 Kursk ul. Radishcheva, 79-a
OOO 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. We will be expecting your photos until October 2008. The photos will compete in one of the following categories:

The best photos will be published in EkoNiva-News and awarded prizes. They will also be included in the exposition of the most striking works to be exhibited in Moscow in October.

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)



I never would have asked my neighbour to plough my garden here, if I had known how to drive a tractor from John Deere.
(Kaluga. John Deere production centre)



Why not sing and celebrate beneath the shining sun? Stefan's here, and the governor, and everybody's having fun.
(Field Day in the Kursk region)



It's not a new circus, it's a mini-elevator for drying grain without loss
(Construction of a mini-elevator at OOO Zashchitnoye, Kursk region)



That I look like a dinosaur is what they say about me. So what? Now feed preparation can't be done without me.
(Kverneland Field Day, Voronezh region, Liskinsky district)

We liked the tractor driver we met on Field Day, and we made friends with him right away
(Russian Field Day, Belgorod region)



REGIONAL NEWS

On 18 July at ZAO Otkormochnoye in the Tula region the regional Field Day was celebrated, of which EkoNiva was the initiator and an active participant. The main theme of the day was soil tillage using the newest soil-conserving techniques.

beer-brewing barley seed is produced. And so soil-conserving technologies using suitable equipment are a priority here. And the equipment supplied to the farm by *EkoNiva* meets all modern demands.

On the demonstration ground *EkoNiva-Tula* presented 13 pieces of equipment, including combine harvesters, tractors and a self-propelled sprayer from John Deere; a Kverneland universal plough; JBC telescopic loaders; an Annaburger trailer loader; and other new items. By the way, over half of the equipment presented is already running at *Otkormochnoye*.

As Deputy Governor Alexandr Tkachenko noted, with the arrival of *EkoNiva* in the Tula area, talk about introducing new technology in agricultural production has turned into real action. There is equipment which allows cultivation of the land according to gentle European methods, and new seeds which yield a good harvest. And most importantly, farmers are not afraid of this know-how, and *Otkormochnoye* is an example. This year alone the farm has bought over 70 million roubles' worth of equipment from *EkoNiva*, adding three new combine harvesters, a tractor and a self-propelled sprayer from John Deere, which are equipped with Autotrack automatic satellite navigation; a Carrier cultivator and a Rapid sower to its equipment fleet.

From Words to Action

Among the guests invited to the event were the Deputy Governor of the Tula region, Alexandr Tkachenko, representatives of banks and investment companies, and directors of agricultural enterprises. On Field Day over 200 people arrived at *Otkormochnoye*.

Such a wide-scale representation of farmers is not by chance; after all, *Otkormochnoye* is one of the leading farms of the region and a pioneer in buying modern agricultural equipment and machinery.

"We have been collaborating with *EkoNiva* for over six years," says Farm Director

Alexandr Kochnev. "It is a very reliable company, the equipment is excellent, and the service is on a high level. In addition, knowledgeable consultants work here who can help not only to master the new equipment, but also to introduce modern agricultural technologies."

Otkormochnoye has always been famous for its stock-breeding base, and now it has 1,000 head of cattle, of which 350 is a dairy herd.

One of the highest-priorities of the farm's work is plant-cultivation and seed-farming. On sown areas of about 6.5 thousand hectares, beer-brewing barley and wheat are grown, and

We Can Already Look into the Future Today

"The technology of the future is already on the field today." This is the motto under which Field Day, organized by *OOO EkoNiva-Vyatka*, was held at the base of the enterprise *ABSOLYUT-AGRO* in the Kirovo-Chepetsky district. The festival gathered agricultural producers not only from the Kirov region, but also from neighbouring regions – the Perm Territory, Udmurtia, and the Republic of Mari El.

As part of Field Day a demonstration of modern soil-cultivating, sowing and harvesting equipment from the John Deere and Vaederstad companies was held. Demonstration crops of varieties of German selection were also presented: spring wheat varieties Triso and Fiorina, spring barley varieties Danuta, Margret, Annabel, and Jenuva, and pea varieties Phoenix and Rocket. The varieties were presented by *EkoNiva* consultant Villi Drevs.

"One is glad to see the change in the consciousness and attitudes of Vyatka farmers," says Villi Drevs. "While three years ago no one even wanted to hear about German technology and varieties, today in Vyatka there is an increased interest in new things. Farmers have been convinced by their own experience that without the introduction of advanced methods in agriculture there is no future."

Investment in Agroproduction



The Governor of the Novosibirsk region, Viktor Tolokonsky, paid a working visit to the Maslyaninsky district of his region, where he visited *OOO Sibirskaya Niva*.

By Yekaterina MOREVA

The farm was not chosen by chance. This year large investment projects began to be implemented here.

At *Sibirskaya Niva*, construction of a new stock-breeding complex for 1,200 head of dairy cattle with technology for free-stall housing of cattle is underway. The goal of the project is the establishment of high-profit production of milk, meat, and in the future, purebred cattle. The modern complex will include three cow barns with 454 places each (Wolf System), a carousel-type milking area (Westfalia Surge), a birthing department, and cold housing hutches for calves.

The total cost of the project is 384 million roubles. *EkoNiva* plans to invest 100 million of its own money in construction; the rest is money borrowed from Rosselkhozbank.

It is expected that the first part of the livestock complex will be set in operation this year. Simmental heifers will be imported from Germany.

The second construction site is meant for the building of an elevator according to Canadian technology with the capability for storing 32,000 tons of grain.

The Governor thanked *EkoNiva* for introducing advanced technologies, making agricultural production on a higher level possible. He also noted that recruitment and training of personnel to work at the livestock complex and the elevator is the foundation of culture in the village. New technologies demand new knowledge, and manual labour becomes a thing of the past; thanks to modern technology, it becomes possible to work productively toward results.



OUR PEOPLE

Each person has his own formula for success. One person thinks that the main thing is career growth; another can't imagine his life without family well-being. But one who can boast of both is doubly fortunate. And even more so if he has good and true friends who will help out in difficult moments and rejoice in his success.

By Oksana PROTONINA



LEGAL PILOT

The President Has Introduced Changes into the Law on Agricultural Development

On 11 June the President of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev, signed amendments to Article 12 of the Federal Law of the RF No. 264-FZ of 29.12.2006 "On Agricultural Development". The given amendments have already come into legal force.

By Vladimir MEDVEDEV, Leading Legal Consultant of the Ratum Law and Consulting Group

In Part 2 of Article 12 it is specified that "agricultural commodity producers are to be granted subsidies from budgetary funds in the sum of no less than fifty percent of the insurance premium (insurance payments) paid according to the insurance agreement."

In Part 3 of Article 12 it is specified that "subsidies to the budgets of constituent entities of the Russian Federation at the expense of the federal budget are to be granted for compensating agricultural commodity producers for part of expenses for insurance agreements concluded with insurance organizations, within the limits of budgetary allocations provided for by the Federal Law "On the Federal Budget" for these purposes for the next fiscal year and planning period."

Thus, one can draw the conclusion that the state has removed the ceiling on the granting of subsidies for insurance from budgetary funds (earlier the figure was exclusively 50 percent). Now an agricultural producer can receive a subsidy even greater than 50 percent of the insurance premium paid on an insurance agreement. But on the other hand, based on Part 3 of Article 12 it is clear that subsidies to constituent entities of the federation will be granted within the limits defined by the federal budget for the fiscal year and planning period, and this means that, as before, there will be a limited quantity of them.

But still, one wants to believe that the state will increase the line in the budget for the fiscal year touching on the granting of subsidies to agricultural commodity producers for expenses on insurance agreements, and many farmers will be able to receive budgetary subsidies in an amount over 50 percent.

Mikhail Muravenko:

"The Main Thing in Working is a Good Attitude toward People"

Mikhail Muravenko, the Director of the *EkoNiva-Vladimir* service centre, considers himself a truly fortunate man. Work couldn't be better, and his family is truly a blessing. He has been working in the company a little over four years. That's not a long period, but in that time he has earned the reputation of a high-class professional and a sympathetic person with an excellent sense of humour.

Mikhail thinks that professionalism and a knowledgeable attitude toward work are the foundation for anyone who strives to accomplish something in his profession. But he got his sense of humour by heredity. Mikhail Muravenko is a hereditary Don Cossack. He was born in the Cossack village of Mishkinskaya in the Rostov region, which is no less famous than the birthplace of Sholokhov, Vyoshenskaya. According to legend, the village of Mishkinskaya was founded on 1 April, so from olden times it has been the birthplace of excellent humorists!

"When I came to work at *EkoNiva-Tekhnika*," remembers Mikhail, "I had to organize the repair services in Kirov and Volgda, and now I work at *EkoNiva-Vladimir*."

Now Mikhail has seven service engineers working under him; after all, *EkoNiva-Vladimir* supplies equipment to the Moscow, Vladimir, Ivanovo and Nizhny Novgorod regions. Mikhail is certain that one of the main criteria for work is a concrete approach to each client.

"We don't just supply equipment; we also offer repair services," shares Mikhail Muravenko. "And the level of our work should be high; otherwise next time the client might go to another

company. For that reason we are, as they say, on call whenever the client demands it, at any time of the day or night. We go to the farm to give emergency service, and we also hold training seminars for farm specialists so that they can fix small problems themselves."

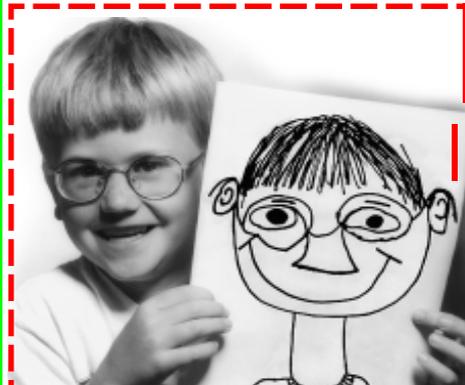
Mikhail is certain that the main thing in a director's work is his attitude toward people.

"I'm in a good mood and work goes well when the people I work with feel comfortable and good. With beginning engineers I go to the farms, change into work clothes and we work on solving problems together. I set an example for them, and I don't forget the fine points of the profession."

There's a lot of work, and it's often necessary to work without holidays. But when there is free time, they relax as a team – they have a picnic with shashlyk.

In addition, a Muravenko dynasty has already formed at *EkoNiva-Vladimir*; Mikhail's daughter Irina works as a dispatcher-coordinator of the repair service. And there are also two granddaughters growing up in the family, Oksana and Annushka. And each year it's Grandpa who takes them to the seaside – such is the family tradition.

Thus it happened that in Mikhail's family he is surrounded only by women – besides sons-in-law, of course. He and his wife, Liudmila, have been together for many years, and they also raised another daughter, Natalia. Such is Mikhail Muravenko: happy husband, father and grandfather, excellent service engineer, and Don Cossack, who knows how to work well and relax with flair.



NEW CONTEST

In the Family Circle

Dear readers! This year has been declared the Year of the Family in Russia, and we could not ignore this event. Our newspaper invites everyone to take part in the children's drawing contest - "In the Family Circle". Send your children's drawings, showing something that relates to your family life. These may be portraits

of family members, sketches on some family events and holidays, impressions from enjoying rest together. There are always many topics for a little artist! Results of the contest will be announced in December. The best artists will receive prizes and of course their work will appear on the pages of our newspaper.

Please send the drawings to following address: *EkoNiva-Media LLC, 79-a Radishchev St., Kursk, 305004, Russia marked In the Family Circle Contest, or by E-mail: vesti@ekoniva.com. Contact phone number: +7 (4712) 39-26-60.*



In Russia on the average 32 million tons of milk are produced per year. However, milk consumption per capita is extremely low: 240 kg a year. In Europe and the USA this figure is equal to 400 kg a year.

Milk Fever

ALEXEY GORDEYEV CALLS FOR THE ADOPTION OF CANADIAN EXPERIENCE, AND FISCHER BOEL RECEIVED 10,000 LITRES OF SOUR MILK

Konstantin Udaltsov, Director of Menedzher Moloko:

"In many Western countries there are well-organized systems of price regulation on agricultural products; they work especially well in the USA and Canada. Therefore it is not surprising that we're going to adopt Canadian experience. It would be wonderful if it were to take root on Russian soil. Our producers are in a difficult situation; dairy production is becoming more and more unprofitable. But now this problem is going to be worked out on the level of the President and the Government, which inspires optimism. All the more so since recently a National Union of Dairy Farmers was created, which is intended to regulate relations between producers and processors."



From the page 3

"Besides that," said the head of the Ministry of Agriculture, "on the government level there is such a concept as the indicative fair price of milk. Each year before the beginning of each season, dairy producers and processors publicly agree on the level of purchase prices for milk and confirm these arrangements with a contract," said Alexey Gordeyev. He also stated that in Canada the state can intervene and buy dry milk.

Meanwhile, the situation in the dairy market is tense, and not only in Russia, but

in several European countries. While dairy producers in the Ryazan and Rostov regions were sounding the alarm - in Ryazan



in August farmers received 4.5 rubles per litre of milk, while work in Rostov dairy plants was frozen - Lithuanian dairy producers were holding a protest.

About that time the postal office of the EU received around 10,000 litres of sour milk, addressed to Eurocommissioner of Agriculture Fischer Boel.

Russian farmers. Russian stock-breeders are forced to butcher their cows.

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Address of the editorial office: 305004
Kursk, ul. Radishcheva, 79-a,
tel. +7 (4712) 39 26 60
www.ekoniva.com,
e-mail: vesti@ekoniva.com

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