

Notes from DFA-ERFA Crop manager group visit at DSA, Velky Meder, Slovakia, November 2023.



15 participants from Slovakia, Poland, Czech Repl. and Romania met at **Dan-Slovakia Agro (DSA)**, Velky Meder, in south Slovakia, late November 2023.

Manager Henrik Laursen started the day with us in the meeting room at the farm, introducing us to the operation. Of the ca 11.000 ha farmed land, a part of it, about 800 ha is managed as a “test-area”. An area for introduction of new technics and practices. Among other issues, the **NO-TILL system**, with the Horsch Avatar seeding machine caught a lot of interest.

After the introduction, we saw the Avatar on the farm, and discussed the features of the machine. Discussing the capacity, the performance in real-time field conditions, eg. with a lot of chopped straw, etc. The group then went to see the results in fields – good - and honesty less good results. From those bad results - we learned a lot!

As **cover crops** will be a big part of the rotation in future, we discussed and saw examples of mixtures, seeded NO-TILL. And we saw fields with winter-barley and canola seed with different seeding times. **Very** interesting!

And how to handle an increasing mice problem, as we see in more countries? The less soil disturbance – the bigger population of mice – all things being equal. This problem is for sure something to take seriously in future. Even in countries with no tradition for mice-attack.

We saw the slurry system, and discussed how to handle this in future, on a farm with aprox. 300.000-ton slurry, and discussed the injector systems. And how to implement this in a system with a NO-TILL – eg. the Avatar.

The next day we had group seminar in the meeting room in the Hotel. We addressed the specific problems of the coming **development in EU “Farm to Fork”**: The demand for CO2-declaration (fields/crops/products), the demand for reducing use of pesticides and fertilizer, etc.

We tried to make perspective from what we saw at DSA, and to put it into context at the farms of the participants. What to “take home, any ideas to develop on, at your own farm”? How will the rule’s, that are probably coming from EU, affect the farm work and structure in the near future, on your farm?

It was agreed to form a group in fx “Whatsapp”, to join up for experiences of machines & fieldwork.

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