

## Notes from Study tour, Poland, May 27-29th, 2024

The plan was to visit two excellent managed farms, VERY different in structure, but both very well run, and profitable. Good Valley and Jasna-Pol.

### May 28<sup>th</sup>: Good Valley farms



**Lukazc, Good Valley**, received us very well, in their conference room, the morning of May 28<sup>th</sup>. The Good Valley farm is mainly on light soil, and are receiving slurry from own pork production, and biogas units. Mainly corn, wheat, rye and rape-seed.

The presentation and introduction to Good Valley farms was excellent. As there was a lot of questions and comments from the group, we left the office, after 2 hours.

Lukasz introduced us to some excellent test's with fertilizer in maize. Placing of DAP, CAN, K50, Mg, in different doses. Extremely interesting, to ask the plants what they want !



The soil in many of Good Valley fields are challenging, as the content of sand particles are high.

Digging up maize-plants showed us the roots- but still no clear difference of the plots of fertilizers. The fields are receiving a substantial amount of slurry on a yearly basis – and the response of maize, for

adding nutrients in fertilizers, seems to be low. At least at this stage of the corn.



At least so far, we see NO difference om maize plants in plots. Lukasz will share the yield data with the group, as soon as he has them. VERY interesting work: We ask the plants what they like !





Going through the different treatments of fertilizers, and discussing the elements of the production. A VERY good debate !

In general the Corn varieties are around FAO 240 – a surprise for the

group, who are all growing higher FAO's. But this is the best experience on Good Valley. Soils are often running out of water/rain in the season – the lower FAO is an advantage.

An other surprise: The chopping of the corn is a challenge for the Jaguar, as there is so much sand particles in the corn-plants, that it can damage the machine.



Digging deep in soil, revealed the challenges; There are as well no clay in the deeper profile as well in top soil.

Already now, in late may, we find very little water in sub-soil.



### **Test with MIN-till.**

Interesting aspect, to keep moisture in profile, and cultivate as little as possible. Can we save some water, if we cultivate as little as possible in corn ?





Discussing the machines.

How to find a strong cultivator, to loosen soil in 20-25 cm, with big capacity ?

**If you have common-rail engines problems:**

*Change of diesel – company can help this problem !*



Maistro, 24 rows, max 10 km/hour. Capacity about 100 ha per shift.



Slurry application, real time.



Discussing effect, capacity and methods of slurry application.

And the “water”-irrigation-effect of the slurry in the corn-rows.



**Rape seed fields.** We opened the stems, and found attack of the *Ceuthorrhynchus* (bladribbe-snude bille), as we see it in all European fields.

Which product to go with, and WHEN ? !

We saw a clear difference on plant development, between 25 and 35 plants pr sq meter. As usual the few plants pr sq m is looking very good. We will see the yield later from Lukazc. !

## May 29<sup>th</sup>. Jasna Farm

A quite different farm, on strong clay soil, with NO slurry. Crop rotation is as well different, sugar beets, grass seed, along with “standard” crops, wheat, rapeseed, barley.

**Marcin** gave us an excellent introduction of the farm, and a good overview in a presentation in the nearby meeting place.

The farm is located near Elblong on a plateau, with a very good position of fields, nearby the farm.



Rape seed field, that is seeded direct, with Mzuri machine. Row distance is a lot wider than normal rape seed – seeders. And the plants / sq meter lower. Last year : 4.7 t / ha.

This system was an eye-opener for many.





Winter wheat,  
flowering.

VERY strong crops on  
Jasna farm, clean for  
fungus.

The challenge on farm is  
grass weed, fx Poa,  
Apera Spica, Bromus,  
etc. VERY important  
when growing grass  
seed for the top

marked. The fields looks very clean for these grasses – but it's a ongoing struggle. And the rotation with sugarbeets and winterrape is important in this issue.



Red fescue for grass  
seed production next  
year, is seeded under  
the wheat. This limits  
the possible herbicides  
a lot.

Fields are clean for  
fungus. Worst danger is  
rust, mildew and

septoria. Normally 2-3 sprays in spring is enough against fungus. And none in autumn.



Sugar beets growing  
fine. Soil is totally  
diffent, very strong clay.  
We found wet soil just 8-  
10 cm in profile.

The potential in beets is  
big, as there are good  
factories in the area.



Barley, has been in trouble, since it was seeded later than planned, and hoped for. The weather has been favorable, rain and not too warm – giving a good growth now. BUT roots are still struggling in the strong clay soil.



Quite big interest in the Mzuri machine, mainly for seeding winterrape and covercrops on Jasna-Pol.

Also quite expensive

machine, and not very flexible. But doing a terrific job in winterrape seed crops on Jasna.

### **The Group:**

I was impressed by the VERY good mood in the group, AND by the very motivated questions and comments. The participants are pretty different, from 4-5 countries, coming with very different background. And with different challenges in their own jobs/farms. BUT are working VERY good in the group.

It seems to me, that there is a very fine atmosphere and dynamic in this group, and I am looking forward to work with the participants in the future, if this in the pipeline.

*Ole Schou, VKST, June 2024*