

Notes from DFA-ERFA arable farming group visit at Agritechnica, Hannover and farm visit at Agrargenossenschaft e.G. Hamersleben, Magdeburg.

16 managers from Slovakia, Poland, Czech Repl. and Romania met in Germany, nov. 2025.

Agritechnica:

Amazing to see the size of the show-area. Around 40 ha.

And surprising to see how many companies wanting to do business with farmers – you would think there is a lot of money in farming !

We had a few appointments with companies, Horsch and Claas. The rest of the day was available for own exploration.



The group at the entrance.



A view of the Claas show – lots of people

A lot of companies are offering technology for **precision farming**. One of the new things will be **position specific cultivation**. From soil-type, data from yield, position, moisture etc, etc, the cultivator can offer different aggressive/passive work in future. On the go.



“New” brands on the market from China. Here Zoomlion. NOT just small machines, like we normally see. Will be interesting to see in the coming years, if this can challenge the western “top-brands”

The term "AI" was everywhere. But in reality we did not see any company with a meaningful solution, to implement. It is the new "buzz word", that everybody needs to get into the products.



Here a company claims to increase the effect of precision farming with AI.

I saw no proof.

One good example of AI, not being very relevant:

This product offers sensors to measure the leaching of nitrate, claiming to reduce loss.

I think they did not really understand the way modern fertilizer application is done.



The number of sprayers are amazing!

Brands and products we never heard of. And solutions that are VERY specialized for the markets. Foto here,



shows a sprayer with VERY tight placed nozzles – to make position specific spraying. I doubt it is relevant.

After Agritechnica, we were so lucky to visit :

Agrargenossenschaft e.G. Hamersleben, Magdeburg.

This is a classic “old-school farm” originally from the old east block.



The farm administration building, and the meeting room/office.

Ca 700 milking cows, ca 1740 ha arable land on “Magdeburger Börde”, some of the best land you can imagine. But only 550 mm rain a year.

With ca 55 Euro Cent pr kilo milk, it is obvious, that it’s a profitable time for this kind of farms.

Manager told us, that the biggest specific problem in these years in Magdeburg area, is the fight for the land. Industry is buying land, at prices “in the sky”. It is nearly impossible to buy land for a farmer.

We had a very fine meeting with 2 managers of the farm, and the manager from the “Magdeburg Getreide” feed stuff was as well at the meeting, telling us of the challenges of the grain business.



Impressing 700 cows in open stables.



We were lucky to visit a day of the lifting of sugar beets. Excellent conditions, 85 tons of beets. After lifting, they were cultivating directly with a TopDown, and seeding wheat. Looked like an excellent job !

The farm is producing bread wheat – and very strangely, the farm is struggling with contamination of “Ergot” (Mutterkorn in German, Meldrøjer in Danish) in wheat. This is VERY rarely seen in wheat – normally only a problem for Rye, in other countries.

One interesting thing for us, after coming direct from Agratechnica, was to see a more than 20 years old “TopDown” in action. This cultivator was never welded / repaired in the frame on the farm, in the 20 years. The manager told us, that the weight of this specific model is ca 4.5 ton MORE, than the same model produced today. 😊



The 20 year old Väderstad – still running with no welding repair. Interesting after seeing all the modern equipment at Agritechnica.

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