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DEER FARMING AS AN ALTERNATIVE FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN POLAND

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В Польше интерес к разведению оленей в первую очередь обоснован экономическими, а также социальными причинами. Это система производства позволяет использовать земли, исключенные из сельскохозяйственного использования – слабые грунты, где интенсивное сельское хозяйство является невозможным. Одновременно, эти животные могут являться туристической достопримечательностью на агрофермах.

Introduction

Nowadays, the agriculture in Poland is subject to dynamic changes. Among others, it is due to Poland's incorporation into European structures, and due to changes that take place on the food market.

Throughout the last couple of years, both in Poland and beyond its borders, an interest in breeding alternative species of animals in agricultural production has increased noticeably. Ratite (emu and rhea), deer, rabbits, and also snails are being introduced into agricultural production. It is due to overproduction of animal raw materials (Horbańczuk i wsp., 2009; Drozd, Gruszecki, 1996). Simultaneous appearance of food problems connected to mad-cow disease (BSE) or "dioxin scandal" caused an increase of interest in "non-conventional" animal species as alternative source of protein (Horbańczuk, 2007).

This phenomenon concerns predominantly developed countries, where proper dietary habits keep on getting more significant.

This is the reason why many consumers decide to choose food that is healthy and nutritious, or so-called "niche products" more frequently. Moreover, it shall not be forgotten that one of the priorities of the Seventh Framework Programme concerning Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology is to conduct agricultural production in accordance with sustainable development regulations, taking biological diversity into consideration, which supports the idea of breeding the above-mentioned animals even more intensely (Horbańczuk et al., 2009).

Deer farming conditions

The main aim of this paper is to present deer husbandry as an alternative for agricultural production in Poland.

Among animal products, game is considered tasty, and, from the point of view of nutritional standards, safe for consumer's health, as it does not contain hormones, growth stimulants, antibiotics, and other harmful compounds (Drozd, Gruszecki, 1996).

This type of meat contains a variety of nutrients, i.e. because of natural feedstuff that the animals consume. Nowadays, one may enumerate two sources from which game is acquired. The main source are deer-shootings performed by hunters from the Polish Hunting Association. The

meat is obtained from red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), fallow deer (*Dama dama*), and roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*). The second, recently developing source in Poland, are red deer and fallow deer farms.

In Poland, the interest in deer husbandry is fuelled mainly by economical and social considerations. Deer farming allows to put into use wastelands and areas where intensive farming is not very lucrative. Simultaneously, the above-mentioned animals may become a tourist attraction at agritourism farms that recently develop ever more rapidly. What is more, deer husbandry prevents elimination of areas that are not subject to intensive farming. It allows to develop wastelands that are particularly common in piedmont areas. It induces farmers to increase cereal and hay production, which serve as fodder in winter season. According to farmers, production of such feedstuff requires little labour and financial input; consequently, owing to good health of the animals and the usage of poorer feedstuff, it allows to generate satisfactory income.

However, all products that can be obtained from deer husbandry shall be kept in mind, and these are: game, breeding material, and antlers.

In Europe, as in the whole world, production of meat is the predominant one. It is, among others, due to the fact that severing live organs of animals, such as antlers, is forbidden in countries of European Union. Antlers are highly nutritious: they contain little fat and cholesterol, and high amount of protein and iron. Moreover, they contain considerably high level of polyunsaturated fatty acids, considered by nutritionists as beneficial.

Another positive quality of meat obtained from deer is the high level of vitamins and minerals that it contains. What is more, game possesses trace amounts of compounds that are acquired by animals with consumption of natural fodder, i.e. herbs, that may have beneficial influence on human organism (Dzierżyńska-Cybulko, Fruziński 1997). Moreover, such meat is much more tender than game obtained from elk or boar (Żmijewski, Korzeniowski 2001).

Summary

Deer husbandry in Poland is, and most probably will be, of niche character; nevertheless, game will be considered a product of high quality. Poland is the largest importer of breeding material in Europe. Production of meat increases year after year.

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СВОЕВРЕМЕННОЕ ТЕХОБСЛУЖИВАНИЕ - ДОЛГОСРОЧНАЯ ЭКСПЛУАТАЦИЯ

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Введение

Качество и надежность технических средств для механизации животноводства являются одними из решающих условий обеспечения продовольственной безопасности