GERMANY

Restructuring and developing physical potential and promoting innovation

Location
Nonnewitz

Programming period
2007 – 2013

Axis / Priority
Axis 1

Measure
M121 – Modernisation of agricultural holdings

Funding (EUR)
Total budget 150 000
EAFRD 8 500
National/Regional 25 500
Private 116 000

Project duration
2012 – 2015

Project promoter
Philipp Zimmermann

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Website
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A family farm turned into free range egg production and used RDP support to set up a mobile henhouse.

Summary

The 24-year-old farmer Phillipp Zimmermann from Nonnewitz in Zeitz took over the family farm and wanted to break new ground outside traditional factory farming. In May 2012 the Zimmermann family started egg farming with a mobile henhouse.

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For this purpose they purchased a mobile henhouse, which housed 250 hens and 2 roosters and built a new multi-purpose hall to store grain, hay and equipment with the help of an EAFRD grant.

The demand for eggs from the mobile henhouse was so large that another one was purchased in 2014.

Results

The mobile henhouses improve the welfare of laying hens with the benefit that the henhouse can be moved at any time allowing the turf to regenerate and offering fresh grazing to the birds.

High animal welfare, better hygiene, less nutrient leaching/better soil quality, high egg quality, are some of the advantages of a mobile henhouse.

Overall, the mobile henhouse provides customers with the confidence of seeing the origin of their eggs.

Lessons & Recommendations

❑ It is especially crucial to ensure there is a sufficient level of demand before expanding, making sure that all eggs produced are sold to that same market.

❑ It is important to understand that both the farming method and direct selling to customers, are very labour intensive.