

# Newsletter 2011

2011.12.31

IVA-FARM NEWSLETTER 4

*Dear Friends and Supporters of IVA-Farm,*

The last year 2011 runs to its end and we're looking forward into the new one. We wish you all a happy and successful 2012 and would like to thank all our volunteers, students and helpers for the incredible help with building up our IVA-Farm and all our supporters for the donations for the acquisition of land and water basin and buildings.

The year 2011 stood fully in the sign of people. The most important happening was the birth of our daughter Karla Rubina Kegels on March 18. 2011. For Serbian conditions this home birth supported by the help of Boudewijn and

midwife Divna Miljković from Belgrade was in the far surroundings an unthinkable enterprise. But it went without pro-

**Karla  
Rubina  
alias  
The  
Guso**



blems and Karla Rubina is a healthy and strong girl with a decisive own will and an unusual seriousness.



## Special thanks

In the period around the birth were some misunderstandings and discussions with helpers at the farm, which turned normal again in the second half of the year.



Christin Laschke, that came specially for the birth from Germany, and Tobias Ganswindt that helped a longer time after the birth with the new bought **Buša** cows.

We especially thank Hannah Schaffran that attended the Education for Biodynamic Agriculture in Germany and learned for one year on our farm, also

Our great thanks also goes to Cyriel Kegels and Wim Rikken for their big effort building the new hay stock on the pig stable.

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- Adopt a cow and help building a new stable for the Bušas.
- 1000m<sup>3</sup> more water for the garden
- Projects for wind and sun energy and own water supplies
- 3 new landparcels: 2ha more

## Drought asks for own water supplies

The agricultural year 2011 was for us the driest until now. With almost 7 months no rain and continues hot sun and drying winds until the end of the year we had to accept very low yields and drying out of most of the cultures.

Now it became clear to us how much water we really need. The 500m<sup>3</sup> collected rainwater was used by the end of May and even the house water from the public system functioned only at night so we could fill the house well to use it during the day. A real crisis. And so it became more and more clear how necessary it is to create an own



water supply system with an alternative energy concept for IVA-Farm.

For the animal food we had unfortunately only one grass cut. Therefore we will have to buy hay and straw next year January. The hay production was of course far below our expectations. On top of that Boudewijn had serious back problems and had to avoid almost all heavy works and so we had to be inventive finding helpers with the hay loading. As a compensation nature paid us with a very good rye harvest, the best until now. In that way minimal our daily bread was saved.

**A dry rye harvest**

## First cows on IVA-Farm: Buša

In March the first cows eventually entered the farm and moved into an improvised living place in a box in the pig stable that we turned into a fixing place for the cows. They were actually still young ones that looked quite emaciated. We decided for cows of the old cattle race Buša and these were of the brown and the black line. Their colours can vary between black, brown/red and gray and in Montenegro is the rare specie of the 'tiger Buša' to find. Those lovely but really human cautious animals

called Spasenja, Zlatulja and Zlatan (the half year younger bull) were taken care of by Tobias and Hannah that nursed them well and took them daily on the line to make them used to human contact. They really grew decently and developed well until their shiny colours. With the growth of the cows and the herd as a whole in the future it will be necessary to build a separate cow stable with fenced meadow. They are in planning state and we are searching for donations for this project.

*"The first Busha cows came to live in an improvised place between the mangulitza pigs"*



**Spasenja, Zlatulja and Zlatan**



**Manure piles March 2011**

## Manure for sure

With the entrance of the cows on the plot the shit situation got more relaxed. With goats, sheep, Mangulitza pigs and poultry together bigger piles of manure and compost are growing. A sufficient amount of manure we will obtain as soon as we reach our ai-

med amount of 12 cows with offspring. In the mean time we have our own equipment to work with bigger amounts of manure: a manure crane for loading and moving piles and a manure spreader trailer to fertilize the land.

## Mangulitzas and the smoking place

The Mangulitzza pigs gave last year birth to an unexpected number of 19 piglets – a record! But selling was unfortunately difficult and due to a lack of space we had to slaughter 9 in November to sell the meat in chunks from the freezer. The rest meat we will process in winter and make sausage and smoked meat in our new build smoking place.



Smoking place in prepare



## Colourful offspring in the goat stable



Newborn goat

In the goat stable a whole load of young female goats was born that, firmly grown in the mean time, gives a nice colourful offspring. With this increase our number of milking goats grew until 10 pieces which will give us in 2012 more goat milk for cheese production and further processing.

*“The number of milking goats increased drastically”*

## A great help !

Since September we have a new capable helper on the farm – Pepi, a joyful Rastafarian Dalmatian that stays with us until Spring. Thanks to his help we managed to finish many bigger and smaller jobs once started. Like plastering the goat and pig stable, building the meat smokehouse behind the furuna



Pepi from Dalmatia

(Serbian clay oven), an overall cleaning up of the yard and much more. He also helped in October with the hay stock that now, as an optically beautifully shaped building decorates the image of the farm.



New hay loft on the new pig stable

## IVA-FARM

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## Plans for 2012

For the year 2012 a big number of plans is on stock. In the beginning of the year we work on a project for energy and water winning for IVA-Farm. We need a ca. 100m deep pipe to drill until we probably find continuous water, enough for our production. For that we will have to install a pump and an electricity generator (wind turbine/solar panel combination). With that we solve our two main problems: increasing use of electricity and lack of water that can be used in organic certified agriculture.

Furthermore we also work on the conception and the cost planning as well as the hunt for funds for a decent cow stable.

In February we want to make a concrete feeding place for the Mangulitza pigs in their outdoor enclosure and to repair the fence.

Already in January are the first sowings for vegetable young plants: lettuce, tomato, celery and leek.

In the stable a lot of births can be expected from the goats and also the young ones from the beginning of 2011 will give birth this year. From March on we have still to sow some ploughed fields with vetches and clover grass. Also the vetches seeds are in the mean time from own production. On the agricultural fields the horn manure preparation has to be sprayed which is technically not so easy since the parcels are really far located from each other and we will have to stir the preparations direct at the field.

Next to the usual spring works in the field garden the fundament for the new cow stable has to be prepared. Initially we will lay a fundament for a smaller stable, which we will extend later when more cows and the financial means are provided.

Since we were only a short period of 2011 on the market of Belgrade due to the record dryness we will have to worry about our customer circle again in order to retrieve an adequate customer base.

In the course of the year we planned a travel in



**Winter morning in the backyard of IVA-Farm**

June to Ljubljana with the aim to establish contact with the Swiss College for Biodynamic Agriculture that could be

come our partner college for our Serbian Biodynamic Education.