

# Newsletter 2014



## IVA-Farm Jalovik



*Dear Friends of IVA-Farm,*

**H**ere we send you our *Newsletter 2014* and wish you all a beneficial year 2015.

The last two years we weren't able to send a newsletter around, especially because other actions occupied our time. In the winter of 2012 we made a booklet for the weekend seminars education that we started in 2013. It was the absence of snow at the end of that year that gave us time to finish the complex roof construction of the new cow stable. Now we finally have time to report again about the chronicles of IVA-Farm.



First participants of the weekend seminar education 2013

We would be delighted to receive a reaction,

*the IVA-Farm team:*

*Viviènne Scheidler & Boudewijn Kegels + Karla Rubina, Mathieu Cornuau, Ivana Tomić, Predrag Đurić, Maja Bogdanović*

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## Flood in Springtime

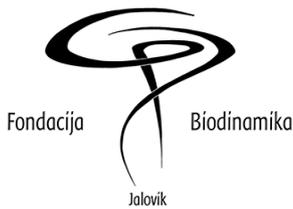
**S**pring 2014 promised us a very dry year. In March we were looking at empty water basins for the vegetable irrigation after a dry and almost snow-free winter. It was already warm enough to start harvesting from the open fields and at the end of April all sowings and plantings were finished. A faster season we've never had.

And then in mid-May a cyclone storm surprises Serbia and us with 250mm rain in 17 hours, that made the whole city Obrenovac, ca 35km away from us, and many villages disappear in the floods. For four days we were in the centre of the cyclone and completely disconnected from the outside world, all roads became impassable. Water



The whole city Obrenovac is flooded by the Sava river

masses were everywhere: water came through the roof, water filled up the pig stable where the cows are still staying. The following heat wave caused real damage in the vegetable gardens and on the fields. Harvest yields were really unpretentious, like at the conventionally working neighbours.



Predrag Đurić

## Future work of Fondacija Biodinamika

Anyway our deeds were successful in another sense. We started more intensively to work on the aims of Fondacija Biodinamika. We successfully registered some fields on the name of the foundation.

Our twice monthly seminars on almost all subjects of biodynamic agriculture were very well visited, although most participants preferred the more general themes above the professional specific subjects.

Like in 2013, also in 2014 the seminar year group came up with at least one person that became an important community member. In 2013 it was Predrag Đurić that became foundation member and driver of the IVA-Farm orders for the Solidaric FoodCircle. He placed his first beehives at IVA-Farm and started with ideas of a child-care centre. 2014 brought us Ivana Tomić that studies fruticulture in Belgrade and after a six months practical training intern at IVA-Farm took over the fruit growing.



Ivana Tomić

## Honey... ..and that Biodynamic!

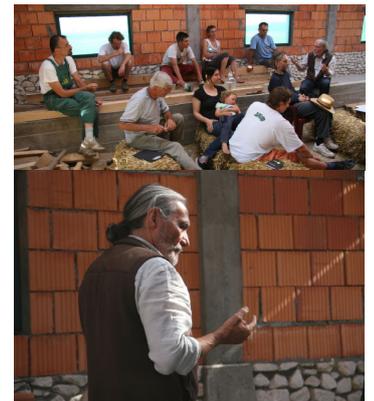
“As a result Predrag Dejan and Vivienne organised a Serbian beekeeper seminar September 2014”

Highpoint of the seminar cycle was the 4-day BD beekeeper introduction seminar from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of July, for which we invited Michael Weiler, BD apicultural adviser in Germany. Main aim of the seminar was to educate Predrag Đurić and Dejan Živković (experienced professional beekeeper in Serbia) for future beekeeper seminars of the foundation. The seminar was extremely successful. At IVA-Farm took a two-day introduction course place and subsequently the participants travelled together

with sir Michael Weiler for two days through the south and south-east of Serbia to different beehive locations of organic beekeepers interested in BD beekeeping.

As a result Predrag, Dejan and Vivienne organised a Serbian beekeeper seminar in September as a first try for self-organised beekeeper seminars on IVA-Farm. This seminar was as well positively received by many participants.

We also could enjoy a first, though very modest try of honey from the farm's and surrounding fields.



Michael Weiler explaining

Biodynamic Beekeeping to Serbian participants



Maja Bogdanović

with Kaspar, first born lamb of 2015

## Start of the Practical Education in Biodynamic Agriculture on IVA-Farm

One of the participants of the beekeeper seminar was the 22-year old Maja Bogdanović that terminated her law studies and was immediately interested in education possibilities in the field of BD agriculture. She came short after the seminar still in September for a test week and decided for a two year practical education in BD agriculture that IVA-Farm has on offer since September 2014.

*“In October 2014 I started with my free education at IVA-Farm. In these three months I've learned more than in 22 years of my life, even though I've been studying for the past 15 years. From milking goats to ploughing, IVA-Farm managed to erase all of my fears and lead me into the world of anthropology and biodynamic agriculture, into far reaching practical knowledge. On this little 'island' in the middle of the conventional sea, I've grasped the basics of vegetable production, compost, herbs, animal care, preparations etc., and as time passes by, more and more I realise how important it is to take care of nature and ourselves, and for that IVA-Farm helps me selflessly.”*

— Maja Bogdanović

## Fruit Production

October 2014 a more serious fruit production started with the Serbian name 'Dol Jezgro' ('Valley of the Core') on the base of an old Serbian folk wisdom:

*"The hazelnut is the tree of knowledge. Such a magic plant can fulfil all our wishes, with it you can defeat the devil, enchant humans into animals and even bring dead ones alive. Lightening doesn't strike the hazelnut and therefore the shepherds bedeck themselves with its leaves when there is thunder and lightening going on, or they put them under their belts or flee under a hazelnut. Those that put a piece of a snake that lived under a hazelnut in their mouth understands the language of the animals and those that eat and digest the heart of such a snake will hear the herbs speaking which healing forces they carry"*

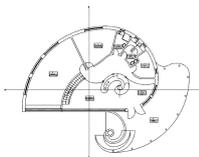
— Veselin Čajkanović



Fruittrees in the IVA-Farm Garden



Foundation Stone Meditation—Sylvester 2014



Matičnjak will have the form of a nautilus

## 'Matičnjak'

Predrag and Vesna Đurić came with their project to build up a remedial education centre for the return to nature of city preschool children. The centre is called 'Matičnjak' – 'Matičnjak' meaning lemon balm in Serbian, but it is also the place in the honeycomb where the

new queen bee ('matica') is born. It will be build on 5000m<sup>2</sup> in the middle of the IVA-Farm-Garden. There a children mini farm will be constructed where the small ones imitate in small what the big ones do in big in the agriculture of IVA-Farm. Sylvester 2014 we used as a moment to place

the foundation stone and speak the Foundation Stone Meditation of Rudolf Steiner. We are excited about the cooperation and are urgently searching for supporters that can financially add to the construction of the child centre or help finding contacts to possibilities of financing.

## The Čardak

Thanks to the financial support of Vivienne's mother Christa we could acquire an old brick and wood building, locally known as *čardak*, that we disassembled in the village Rumska and are currently reconstructing at IVA-Farm. It will

bring us three new spaces. On ground level come a space for milk-processing and another one for honey-processing and beekeeper accessories. On top comes a big room (4x10m) for volunteers and students, that, if necessary, can be used for biodynamic seminars.



The construction of *The Čardak* started



The Čardak as we found it in Rumska

## Buša cows

Amongst the buša cows a delightful growth was noticeable. They are still accommodated in the pig stable, but this winter we try to finish the building of the first part of the new cow stable and than they can finally move.

The bull Zlatan and the cow Spasenija are still at the farm. Additionally we raised two young cows. One, Spasenija's, is called Filipa and was named by Ulla Meißner from Germany. The cow Claudia that we bought February 2013 in a village east of Belgrade died in July due to unknown reasons. But Claudia gave birth to Eudilia that was baptised by Lisa Rohm, Clara and Juli from Austria with a wreath of mountain meadow flowers that she was allowed to eat with joy and with an invitation to visit the Austrian mountains. Our current year's favourite calf that got its dark colour from its mother Spasenija was lovingly named Suleika by its godfathers Dorothee Glashoff and Ulfert Bewig from Hof Vorberg, Germany. The next godfather to name a calf will be Francis Raymakers from the Netherlands.



Suleika the day of birth...

—meanwhile she became dark brown

#	name	birth	godfather / remarks	status
1	Spasenija	2010.03.25	bought 2011 from name giver Predrag Petrović	alive
2	Zlatulja	2010.04.24	-,-	butchered 2012.12.20
3	Zlatan ♂	2010.09.20	-,-	alive
4	Todor ♂	2012.07.01	Elise Ewald	butchered 2012.12.20
5	Yoshua ♂	2012.09.14	Stefan Ortmayr	butchered 2012.12.20
6	Claudia	2011.02.17	Claudia Schwartz / 2013 bought 2years, pregnant	died 2013.07.14
7	Eudilia	2013.04.24	Lisa Rohm, Clara und Juli	alive
8	Filipa	2013.05.30	Ulla Meißner	alive
9	Suleika	2014.07.20	Dorothee Glashoff & Ulfert Bewig	alive



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“Zdrava hrana – Prava hrana”



## A Big Loss of Goats...



In the goat stable were all kind of troubles. Because of several bacterial diarrhoeas we lost more than 20 little goats and a few bigger ones. We presume that the cause of the bacteria lays in the drinking water since we ourselves had problems related to the water from the public system.

For a laboratory research in Šabac we had to offer two young goats. The analysis showed a bacterial infection with Escherichia Coli. In November a similar bacterial contamination of the tap water caused us heavy diarrhoeas. The contamination, from faecal origin, was kept silent for over ten days.



Vojislav Samolov making measurements for the future well drilling

## Artesian Well

That once more brought up the question about the drilling of an own artesian well. For that we had in spring a geoelectrical probe test: water can be found on depths between 100 and 160m. For the well drilling, that will cost up to €16.000, however, still lacks any decent funding.

## Agriculture and the Grandpa of the Farm

Despite the huge rainfalls in 2014 and therefore really bad agricultural paths on which we were sliding a lot and muddy fields in which we often got stuck, we managed between the rain periods to work our fields at the right time and to spray biodynamic Preparation 500 HornManure. In that way we reached the gratifying result that no water is staying in our fields and Vetches, Rye and Clover germinated excellently.

This year we could rent another 5 plots of land with a 10 year contract which brings our total workable surface on 13½ha. With all these steep fields on the slope and difficult paths that access the plots that we need to reach with heavy trailers loaded with manure or to leave with big amounts of hay we slowly start to need a new and stronger tractor. We still work all fields including the garden with the IMT 533 from 1976, smallest of the Serbian agricultural tractors, that with its age of 38+ years became a real grandfather.



Never before was the first young plant bed of the season already made in December!



Old IMT 533 tractor needs a strong, new grandson

