

## **Organic farm Marcin and Ewelina Świniarscy**

### **87- 404 PŁONNE 69a**

Marcin Świniarski has agricultural education, but - as he admits – he has learnt most during daily activities on the farm. He has, moreover, a very good teacher - his father, Roman, who has obtained the organic certificate for his farm in 1993.

### **Characteristics of the holding**

The farm has 27 ha. Major crops include vegetables (zucchini, carrots, cabbage, celery, onion, raspberry, tomato), but there are also cereals (needed to crop rotation), as emmer and naked oat. Soil is the 3rd and 4th class (as for vegetables it is a good soil, permeable).

The farm is well equipped with machines, has its own irrigation system and cold store. One of the best recent purchases is 4-row machine for weeding, which has improved radically the process of cultivation and vegetable weeding.

Currently the owners do not raise any animals. Fertilization is based primarily on the cow manure and basalt meal.

Years of experience have caused that the farm is using varieties which are profitable at the given cultivation method and microclimate (for example in the case of the cucumber it is a cultivar Karaoke and in the case of raspberries – cultivar Polka).

In the case of large customers and contracting crops, varieties are typically enforced - you have to adjust. In 2015 emmer (old species of wheat) has been cultivated for the second time in the farm, and for the first time strawberries have been grown.

Farmer makes experiments with self-repeating cultivar Albion. It should be suitable for organic farming and long yielding cultivar.

Sale of farm crops is carried out in two ways. The first is the contract cooperation with big customers such as Bonduelle, BioFood, Ökohof, the second is sale of vegetables under own brand to the organic shops.

Cooperation with organic shops has been basically initiated by traders, who at the beginning were coming to Płonne to buy vegetables. Over time, the owner decided to deal with this business more professionally. Once a week vegetable transport is sent to the big nearby towns Bydgoszcz and Toruń; perhaps soon also to Warsaw.

