

FINAL REPORT

AGROKOMPLEX

45th International Agriculture and Food Exhibition

XIII. NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF FARM ANIMALS

August 16 – 19, 2018
NITRA



The International Agricultural and Food Exhibition Agrokomplex is one of the most traditional and comprehensive exhibitions of its kind in Slovakia and its organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic and agrokomplex NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTER, State Enterprise, in Nitra. The exhibition was held from August 16 to August 19, 2018.



TOPICAL EXHIBITIONS DURING THE FAIR

NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF FARM ANIMALS

The National Exhibition of Farm Animals has been the biggest exhibition of animal production in Slovakia for several years. Specialized breeding associations prepared attractive farming animal demonstrations, program shows, presentation of backyard breeding and professional advice. The National Stud Farm in Topoľčianky had a presentation in the accompanying program. The visitors could see the demonstrations of dressage and absolute harmony between the horse and the rider. The Sunday afternoon was again dedicated to draft horse driving competitions. For the sixth time Agrokomplex together with NPPC - VÚŽV Nitra held a successful thematic show titled "Innovating the Slovak Countryside - Farmhouse at the Researchers", which was yet again one of the most attractive and visited exposures at the Agrokomplex exhibition. This event was possible thanks to the financial contribution from the technical assistance within the Rural Development Programme of the Slovak Republic 2014 - 2020.



On an area of 450 m² in Hall Z1, the visitors could see young calves, chicks of water poultry, rabbits, pigs and sheep, especially our national and indigenous breeds, with the possibility of direct contact with the animals. The aim of the project was to boost children's interest in farming and single animal husbandry, and motivate them to study at secondary schools of agriculture. The 320 young livestock were a major attraction at the Farmer's Court. In Hall Z1, which was specially outfitted with straw for animal housing, the children could play with young rabbits, goslings, ducklings, quail or chicken. Various types of eggs ranging from quail to ostrich were on display. This year's specialty were the Pinzgauer calves and PC applications aimed at testing children's knowledge about the calves (including the importance of milk for a healthy nutrition) and exhibition rabbits (in the Young Researcher Corner).



Statistical data

Number of exhibitors
650

Exhibition area
(External, internal)
55,726 m²

Number of visitors
114,960

Number of accredited journalists
231

Visitor structure

Expert
visitors.....33 %
Lay visitors 67 %

Visitor residence

Bratislava Region..... 8 %
Nitra Region19 %
Žilina Region.....10 %
Prešov Region 6 %
Trnava Region.....19 %
Trenčín Region.....15 %
Banská Bystrica Region.....12 %
Košice Region 7 %
Abroad 4 %

Visitor satisfaction with the exhibition

Yes91 %
Don't not know 9 %

Exhibitor Satisfaction with success rate at the exhibition

satisfied.....77 %
Don't know23 %

Participation of exhibitors next year

Absolutely YES47 %
Likely40 %
Don't know13 %



GENERAL INFORMATION

Organizer

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
agrokomplex NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTER, state enterprise

Co-organizers

Cooperative Union SR
Coop Product Slovakia
NPPC– National Agricultural and Food Center
Research Institute of Animal Production
Associations of Livestock and Small Farmers
ÚKSUP

Partners

Representation of the European Commission in the Slovak Republic
Agroinštitút
Breeding Inspection of the Slovak Republic
Breeding services SR, š. p.
SPPK
Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra

Main media partners

RTVS, Rádio Slovensko, Zelená vlna, Rádio Regina, Farmárska revu

Ceremonial opening of the exhibition

16. 8. 2018 with the participation of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic Mr. Peter Pellegrini and Vice-Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Béla Bugár

Other interesting competitions, animations and quizzes were prepared for children in the Farmhouse at the Researchers. This is one of the ways the NPPC - VÚŽV Nitra staff plan to involve the youngest generation and build their relationship to agriculture, livestock farming, domestic production and domestic food.

COOPEXPO

The organizers of this exhibition – Cooperative Union of the Slovak Republic, COOP Jednota Slovakia and the member cooperative associations in COOP Product Slovakia – presented their own products (painting and pottery production, apparel cooperatives, production of Christmas tree ornaments, demonstrations of skill of people with disabilities from sheltered workshops). The presentation of secondary vocational schools included examples from the following fields: confectioner, cook, hairdresser, cosmetician, woodcarver etc. The expert demonstrations of associations and schools were accompanied by contests, fashion shows and musical and dance performances.



FOOD PRODUCTION, FARMERS, FORESTRIES, FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS with a discussion forum

This year, Hall M1 hosted the presentations of food and the holders of the "SK Quality Award", Slovak producers of food, the program "I want to supply SPPK", as well as small farmers with product tasting and sale. An attractive program was prepared by Lesy SR, TANAP and the National Forestry Center in Hall M2, accompanied by research institutes and schools. The Slovak Fishing Association offered the visitors the largest aquarium with freshwater fish in Europe and an interesting interactive program for children.

FESTIVAL OF NATIONAL SPECIALTIES

Hall M4 was dedicated to the Festival of National Specialties. Focus was on our national specialty – the Spišské Frankfurters.

"TRAVELING THE SLOVAK COUNTRYSIDE"

For the sixth time in a row, the successful project within the Rural Development Programme was held at Agrokomplex, this year with a focus on an interactive presentation titled "Innovating the Countryside". The event was possible thanks to the financial contribution from the technical assistance of the Rural Development Programme of the Slovak Republic 2014 – 2020. The exposure was focused on the presentation of the individual measures, and the visitors had the opportunity to learn about the spending of the funds and present the proposals and actions of the programming period 2014– 2020.

In 2018, the exhibition was extended by the presentation of the National Rural Development Network and local action groups. The educational path offered unique experiences not only for adults but also for children, providing an overview of rural development at the entrance to Hall F. While passing the exhibition hall, the children had to solve interesting tasks with the help of adults, learning about the Slovak countryside, and after completing the tasks they were given a small gift. The visitors could engage their senses, learn about their country and experience the Slovak countryside in an interactive, and to some, in a very new way.



EXPOSITION OF SLOVAK ASSOCIATION OF GARDENERS

Nationwide competitions	FRUIT OF THE YEAR – 5th year VEGETABLE OF THE YEAR – 4th year
Expert advice	Cultivation and pruning of fruit plants Vegetable growing, nutrition, fertilizing Summer cutting of fruit trees

EXPOSURE “SMALL FIELDS” HELD BY AGROKOMPLEX

- Cultivation of pepper, tomatoes and other vegetables
- Cultivation of medicinal plants
- Sample gardens, flower beds, rock gardens
- Cultivation of inulin plants (SPU)
- New varieties of Slovak corn
- Demonstration of cut hedges.

The demonstrations also included the attractive 5th year of vegetable growing presentation in cooperation with ÚKSUP Nové Zámky, which took place on the small sample fields.

SLOVAK AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM AND ITS ATTRACTIVE PROGRAM

Even the Slovak Agricultural Museum, which belongs to the Agrokomplex Exhibition Center, prepared a very interesting program. It included the well-known Traktorparáda and oil-pressing demonstrations. The visitors could enjoy the traditional melt coffee in the historic General Store. The open air museum buildings (Mill Čakov, Mill Franková, Oil Press, General Store, and Roman Catholic Folk School) were open to the public. The ride on the popular historic field railway is an inseparable part of the exhibition.

EXPERT PROGRAM IN THE SLOVAK AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

- Evaluation within the national competition for the best honey, mead, pollen and honey cake
- Lecture: Global challenges and threats in the beekeeping industry
Ing. Róbert Chlebo, Phd.
- Honey, mead and pollen tasting
- Presentation of folk art carving
- Woodcarving fair.

CULTURAL SIDE EVENTS

The Festival of National Specialties in Hall M4 was accompanied by an all-day cultural program with brass bands, folklore ensembles, country bands and many other performances, which contributed to this year's Agrokomplex. The exhibition also included other inseparable activities: The motorbike track in Area P4, air-rifle shooting range in Area S2, falconer show in historical clothing and many other attractions.

CONTEST RESULTS

Several prestigious awards were awarded during the exhibition. Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic awarded the Quality Food SK (Značka Kvality SK) honorary award to select agricultural products and foodstuffs within the National Program for Support of Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs. Other significant awards such as the Golden Sickie, Exhibition Champion and other livestock awards, Slovak Cooperative Union Award and various departmental honors and awards to the best workers of the Ministry were handed out during the exhibition.

Competition CAKE OF THE YEAR 2018

6th year of the contest for juniors aged 15 to 23 years

Organizer: Slovak Pastry Cooks Association

CONCLUSION

Based on the visitor and exhibitor satisfaction, the 45th year of this exhibition can be rightly assessed as the biggest and most comprehensive agricultural and food exhibition in Slovakia this year. This fact is also confirmed by the number of direct exhibitors, their structure, occupied exhibition area, absolute attendance, its regional balance in Slovakia, and professional focus of the visitors. We want to continue to maintain and develop the tradition of celebrating the farmers' work and we hereby invite you to the next annual Agrokomplex, which will be held on **August 22 – 25, 2019.**

