



 Niculina Roba- family farm



Niculina Roba



8 hectares



animal management

MONITORING LIVESTOCK ON PASTURE WITH GPS TRACKER

The Romanian mountain areas present many barriers in terms of the activities that can be carried out due to the weather conditions, the soil and the difficult access (steep slopes and/or remoteness). Extensive livestock farming has been over time and still remained a very good option for those who want to use mountain pastures.

The mountainous area of Cluj County is characterized by small family livestock farms. In recent years, there has been a downward trend in their number due to farm abandonment. Farmers in the mountain area usually own their land but when it comes to grazing, there are also areas of land belonging to the territorial administrative units that can be used by all villagers, as common grazing pastures.

Niculina Roba, graduated the Faculty of Horticulture and Rural Development Business, study program Economic Engineering in Agriculture in 2021. Together with her family, she manages a farm of 8 dairy cows, from a local breed Bălțată Românească. The farm is located in the village of Măguri, Cluj County and grazes an area of 8 ha.

The problem they faced was locating the animals on the pasture. The animals travel around 17 km a day in the mountains and sometimes they have difficulties in getting back home in an area where big carnivores have their habitat (bears; wolfs). In these situations, the Roba family had to go personally to look for the animals, which was time and energy consuming.

One solution identified by the Roba family was the purchase of GPS trackers for the cows. These were bought through the CAP pillar two funding, sub-measure 6.3 and costed around 100€ each. The devices are sim-card based, emitting GPS signals.

Now they can much more easily locate animals in the mountain pastures. What's more, the technology has the potential for a wider adoption, especially in areas with extensive grasslands, and can be particularly useful for monitoring animals with health problems or those about to give birth.

Farmer Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhboiwixlOg>

