



 Răzvan Raduca- family farm



Răzvan Raduca



130 hectares



workload reduction

## FENCED GRAZING IN THE ROMANIAN CARPATHIANS

According to the official statistics, the area of permanent grassland (pastures and meadows) in Romania is approx. 4,83 mil hectares, of which 2,16 mil ha are located in the mountain area<sup>1</sup> (Ciocan-Alupii, M., and Maciuc, V. 2020). Nevertheless, in some mountain areas, cattle farmers face a lack of land suitable for grazing.

It is also the case of Răzvan Raduca, from Petrila, Hunedoara County, who owns a family farm with 120 head of Aberdeen Angus. He grazes around 130 hectares in the mountainous area in the summer. Due to some bureaucratic constraints, although in practice there are many abandoned pastures in his area, they appear in the official documents as being exploited by other farmers who collect subsidies. In addition, the afforestation phenomenon and intensive sheep grazing have a negative impact on some of the pastures.

In these conditions, the farmer applied an innovative practice with the rotational grazing system in the mountain area (average altitude of the land is 1.830 meters), which is rarely practiced in Europe. This was achieved for more efficient pasture use, better control of the animals, and to increase pasture quality.

It is the farmer who states that this system also contributes to improving the quality of the pasture, increasing the number of herbal species, and obtaining a better quality of the final products (meat).

The grazing plots have an average of 20 hectares and are established with the help of a fencing system made by the farmer himself. The poles are made from concrete iron, on which the farmer welded two insulators alongside a small iron part that can easily be pressed by the foot (see video). With their help, an area of 20 hectares can be easily fenced in 3-4 hours using an electric fence with two wires (40% less the average time using normal poles).

Other farmers in the mountains can undertake the grazing system on a need-based basis, and the farmer, with the support of an authorized manufacturer, could patent the fencing system.

### Farmer Interview

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

