

**THE RESEARCH DEALS WITH THE STATE AND PROSPECTS
OF THE FARMER MOVEMENT IN SAMARA REGION
(according to the monitoring made in 2006 by “Work And Life of a Farmer”)**

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The condition of farms, change of their quantity, crop acreage, a level of profitability and their contribution to the total amount of agro industrial manufacture are being analyzed by this research. The relations between farmers and collective farms are also being observed. The prospects of development of the country (farmer) commercial farm units are certain in Samara Oblast; the prior problems faced by the regional and municipal authorities in development of country (farmer) facilities, improvement of quality of life of farmers and members of their families are defined, effective measures (to support the country (farmer) commercial farm units are highlighted.

Since 1997 in Samara Oblast the information-research project providing regular gathering and analysis of data about the condition of social and labour sphere of the agricultural enterprises in a mode of monitoring, research 2006r is carried out by the regional administration, it was devoted to farms (the author of the article has been the scientific adviser of monitoring for the last five years). Thanks to the monitoring data the government of Samara Oblast has more exact, concrete representation about the social state of health and standards of living of workers in collective farms, about the valid level of the latent unemployment, about real scales of back pay and the level of differentiation of payment and receives concrete recommendations. Having results of the researches executed within the limits of monitoring, the government of area has an opportunity to correct more adequately the social and economic policy, and also to influence the activity of commercial structures connected with use of manpower of the territory. Certainly, direct channels of such influence in modern conditions are not being represented. But other ways of influence are used: from the recommendations accepted at sessions of Samara regional tripartite commission on social partnership, up to so-called “An administrative resource”. We shall

notice that Samara regional tripartite commission on regulation of attitudes has been working for 10 years. And not the last role in its successful activity (and experience of its work is recommended to other subjects of the Russian Federation) is played with spent monitoring social-labour sphere¹.

Increase of efficiency of farmer policy of the rural economy is one prior directions within the national project “Development of Agriculture”. Serious transformations in this sphere started in the beginning of 90th years. In Samara Oblast the peak of farmer movement occurred to 1995 when 5160 facilities were registered. In 1.01.2006 according to Territorial body of Federal service of the state statistics in Samara Oblast 3050 country (farmer) commercial farm units were implementing their activities². These data show that for the first time over the last years the quantity of farms grew to 7 in comparison to 2005. However since 1992 till the beginning of 2006 3356 commercial farm units were dismissed. Dynamics of their reduction is illustrated in Table 1.

The objective cause of such a phenomenon is the lack of support from the state and reduction of advantages for farmers, integration of some fine farms), and there are also some subjective reasons such as absence of management

Table 1

Rates of reduction of number of country (farmer) facilities in Samara Oblast (in 01.01)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Quantity of commercial farm units	4172	4028	3986	3634	3573	3517	3274	3201	3043	3050
Quantity of commercial farm units quantity which were dismissed in 01.01.1992	2097	1734	1899	2320	2570	2655	2918	3022	3250	3356

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skills of some farmers, their economic and legal incompetence, psychological nonavailability to high responsibility, etc.).

For successful functioning of farms and development of their infrastructure significant investments are required. From the budget of Samara Oblast over the last years on these purposes have been allocated: in 2003 - 7 million rubles, in 2004 - 6,3 million rubles. In 2005 - 19,8 million rubles. In 2006 as the basic tool of the state support of farms there was preferential crediting. And as a result for 1st, December, 2006 in commercial banks subjects of small agrarian business (farmer and personal part-time farms) received means at a rate of 770 million 440 thousand roubles. Besides for the first time in Russia under the mortgage of the ground it is granted a loan at a rate of 690 thousand rubles (Mitin's to country farm - Area Khvorostyansky).³

In 2005 the contribution of country facilities to total amount of manufacture of agricultural products in the field of was characterized by following figures. By farmers it is collected 229,9 thousand tons of grain (in 1999 - 92,3), 39,1 thousand tons sunflower (in 1999 - 20,8), 15,3 thousand tons of a potato (in 1999 - 1,7), 6,4 thousand tons of vegetables (in 1999 - 1,4 thousand tons), that is, for five years farmers of area more than have twice increased manufacture grain and sunflower - in 1,9 times, in 4,6 times of vegetables, and in 9 times - potato. Accordingly, their relative density in manufacture of products of plant growing, for the same period has grown on grain three times and has reached 21 percent, on sunflower twice and has reached 15,8 percent, on potato and vegetables three times - 2 percent. Relative den-

sity of farms in production of animal industries, despite of significant growth of efficiency, practically has not changed and makes about 1 percent what is due to reduction of a number of cattle (further - KPC) and especially cows. Country facilities are engaged in animal industries that is connected as with absence of means for construction of premises, purchase of cattle, and with high expenses for manufacture of this production and low procurement prices a little.

Despite of decrease in quantity of country (farmer) commercial farm units, the total area of the ground given by it and farmland not only was not reduced, but also increased down to 2005 when there was some reduction of the areas. But it has not concerned areas under crops - in 2005 areas under crops also increased on (Table 2) more than 90 percent of farmers are engaged in agriculture (manufacture of grain and sunflower as the most profitable cultures).

The average size of the ground area of a country (farmer) facilities is of 85,6 hectares. However during the research of 90 percent of farmers have expressed an opinion that the optimum size of the ground areas should be much more - not less than 100 hectares, and almost half - that the optimum site should exceed 500 hectares. By calculations of institute of social and economic problems of development of agrarian and industrial complex AN of the Russian Federation the average farmer at specialization on manufacture of grain crops should have not less than 350 hectares arable угодий and only in these conditions the farmer can conduct the manufacture effectively.

On total gathering agricultural crops country (farmer) facilities of the Samara area in Privolzhskiy Federal District take the fourth place com-

Table 2

Crop Acreage on categories of commercial farm units (thousand of hectares)

Years	Farm units of all categories	Including		
		The Agricultural Organizations	The Population of Farm units	Country (farmer) facilities
1998	2196,1	1971,2	68,4	156,5
1999	2148,8	1916,1	69,3	163,4
2000	1968,5	1746,6	67,1	154,8
2001	1976,1	1737,5	64,6	174,0
2002	2066,9	1795,6	65,7	205,6
2003	1867,8	1599,3	63,4	263,1
2004	1924,7	1596,9	64,7	263,1
2005	1891,1	1537,7	63,3	290,1
2005 в % к 1998	86,1	78,0	92,5	185,4
2005 в % к 2004	98,3	96,3	97,8	110,3

pared to the fourteenth on vegetables and the fifth - on grain (and leguminous) and to a potato.

For the animal industries which are being in today's conditions by unprofitable branch, and in country (farmer) facilities slump in production is characteristic. Production of animal industries borrows from farmers only 6,1 percent in total amount of manufacture. The livestock of cattle in farmer has made facilities in 2006 1,57 percent from a livestock in all categories of facilities of area, and for 9 months 2006 country (farmer) facilities have made less than one percent of cattle and a bird on slaughter from the total made by facilities of all categories. Total milk has made in farms of 4707,2 tons or 1,17 percent from the general total milk in the field of. It is received eggs - 0,37 percent from a regional parameter as a whole.

On manufacture of livestock products farmers of the Samara area borrow places in second half of list (from 14 regions) in Privolgskiy federal district - the eighth place on cattle and a bird in lethal weight, the ninth? On manufacture of milk and the seventh - eggs.

By results of sociological research also it is possible to draw a conclusion that with livestock products the majority of farmers is provided only with the families and in rare cases a

production surplus deliver on the food market of area.

In 2006 during realization of the national project of development of an agriculture volumes of crediting of agrarian manufacture, especially personal subsidiary and farms have considerably increased. And, nevertheless, by data of research, all is far not country facilities have managed, leaning on these conditions to take advantage of an opportunity to correct for the business. Here is how have estimated economic results of the activity for 2006 the farmers interrogated within the limits of monitoring (table 3).

Almost 60 percent of farmers, on their value judgment, practically have not received the income or even have finished year with losses (almost everyone the fifth). Only 3,6 percent have noted the quite good income, and more than thirds - that the income was small.

Value judgment of dynamics of position of a commercial farm unit (table 4) quite correspond with estimations of a degree of profitability or nonprofitability of facilities. Results of research testify that almost twice, in comparison with the last years, the share of farmers which consider has decreased that position of facilities has improved (their only 12 percent), on the contrary, more than 40 percent (in

Table 3

Dynamics of estimation profitability of commercial farm units by farmers 1999-2005 (In percentage to number interrogated)

Estimation of results of the year ...	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2005
The received income was quite good	5,3	6,6	10,2	1,0	14,8	3,6
The income was small	50,3	45,4	44,4	20,8	46,0	36,7
Practically no income was made	28,5	34,9	38,0	42,5	28,9	41,0
The Year ended with losses	10,6	11,8	7,4	34,7	9,6	18,7
Another	5,3	1,3	0,0	1,0	0,7	0,0
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Table 4

Estimations of state of a farm compared to the previous years by farmers (in percentage to number interrogated)*

Variants of answers	Interrogation 2001 r.	Interrogation 2002 r.	Interrogation 2003r.	Interrogation 2004 r.	Interrogation 2006 r
Position of a commercial farm unit became better	21,7	26,9	6,9	23,0	12,2
Position of a commercial farm unit became worse	27,6	20,4	60,4	19,3	42,4
Position of a commercial farm unit has not changed	49,3	49,1	27,7	48,1	41,7
Were at a loss to answer	1,4	3,6	5,0	9,6	3,7
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

* The note: per 2005 research was spent only in collective farms of area, accordingly, and in the further in tables there are no data for 2005.

one and a half time) have noted growth, that position of facilities became worse.

On a background of many problems with which country commercial farm unit collide today, almost half of interrogated farmers considered earlier, that a standard of living of their families above, than at workers of collective farms. It is natural, for if farmer work did not give material advantages who on it would be flattered. However in 2006 so considered already less than 12 percent of farmers, and have as much declared, that live worse workers of collective farms. According to research almost 40 percent of farmers name themselves needy, not provided the most necessary and even living in misery. Certainly, it is a nonsense. Such perception of the financial position weakens labour motivation and does not leave any optimism and hope for the best future at the majority of farmers.

Accordingly, and the general estimation of satisfaction work of the farm and its efficiency is at a low level (in percentage to the general number interrogated):

- ◆ Are to some extent satisfied 23,7
- ◆ In this or that are not satisfied 69,0

So, more than two thirds of respondents in a commercial farm unit are not satisfied by results of the work. What exactly does not suit rural businessmen? In this occasion opinions are grouped, are distributed on a rank and are resulted below (in percentage in the general number of answers):

1. Low profitability of manufacture because of a difference of the prices for production and the PETROLEUM PRODUCTS 51,1
 2. Consumer prices 16,3
 3. The prices for machinery and spare parts 13,6
 4. The attitude of the Government of the Russian Federation to a village (incompleteness and delay of reforms, lacks of the tax laws, insufficient grants and advantages) 6,0
 5. Inaccessibility of machinery and the quality of spare parts 4,3
- Other reasons (the prices for fertilizers, a weak industrial infrastructure, secondhand dealers, shortage of the staff, a poor harvest, etc. - individual statements) 8,7

Certainly, the principal cause of a dissatisfaction of farmers is covered with the work in dispriority of the prices for production and en-

ergy carriers, the PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, and their pessimistic mood is based on conviction, what the state is anxious by problems of an agriculture still insufficiently, as elimination difference of the prices - the prerogative of the central authorities.

The market economy assumes a variety of forms of managing including the agriculture became multistructure. In modern conditions farms are not the strong contender to the large agricultural enterprises though there are also exceptions (but such farms, as a matter of fact, are agro-industrial holdings). Thus it is important to understand, that any of forms of managing is not panacea, and it is necessary to find ways to strengthen cooperation for the sake of an overall aim.

In the given monitoring character of mutual relations between farmers and peasants, and also between farmers and heads of joint-stock companies working in village, etc. is constantly traced.

The given interviews to experts (with which heads and experts of areas acted in research) have allowed drawing a conclusion that the period of sharp confrontation has ended. For area successful work of farmers - these are the workplaces, the used grounds, the certain taxes in the budget and sponsor's injections. For fellows villager - material benefit (the additional income, reception of a forage for cattle, share indemnification). In any case - all it became clear, that work at the farmer strained, the responsibility greater, and the result depends not only on it, but also from a lot of circumstances. Differently, position was a little stabilized, though farmers have a number of claims to a management of area and area.

For last year, in opinion of respondents, a little that has changed: only 15,8 percent of farmers consider, that the attitude to them as a whole has improved, 72,7 percent emphasize, that this attitude remains former, the others hold the opinion, that the attitude even has worsened.

But, as well as at the previous stages of monitoring, direct dependence between success of a farm and the attitude to farmers is traced.

It is necessary to note fastening of the tendency which have outlined still in 2004 of positive changes in attitudes between farmers and heads of agricultural productions - two years ago

Table 5

Estimation of the attitude from administration of area and area to farmers depending on position of their facilities (in percentage on groups)

The attitude from administration of area to farmers for last 1-2 years has changed	The state of a farm			In total
	It became better	Became worse	Has not changed	
The attitude has improved	41,2	13,6	8,6	15,8
Has not changed	52,9	71,2	82,8	72,7
Has turned to worse	5,9	13,6	6,9	10,1
Other opinion	0,0	1,6	1,7	1,4
Other opinion	0,0	1,6	1,7	1,4
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

successes of farmers frequently at of some heads caused if not irritation, discontent anyway. In 2006, on the contrary, already the majority of heads of collective farms benevolently and efficiently concerned to farmers, especially to those who works successfully, with real feedback: more than two thirds of farmers characterized their attitude as benevolent, business. Same heads marked also - problems even more often are solved together, there is a mutual assistance during a harvest season, information interchange, the help machinery. That all there are disputed situations (which less often is characteristic also and earlier in the Samara area were not sharp), connected with unconscientiousness of the parties or their certain dishonesty.

In comparison with the previous stages of monitoring the number of respondents it became easy enough to them to receive the ground in rent has twice increased.

Such state of affairs, undoubtedly, will render positive influence both on a moral and psychological atmosphere in areas, and on an overall performance of all sectors of multistructure rural economy.

The estimation farmers of efficiency of the facilities is in indissoluble communication with

definition of directions in which it can develop how the rural businessman of prospect on the future imagines, it is measured to adhere to what vital strategy - strategy of a survival (and at the present stage it, unfortunately, prevails) or strategy of development, that assumes the sold national project.

As indicators of prospects of development in the present monitoring serve desire to increase manufacture of agricultural production, including due to introduction of new kinds of cultures, to increase the sizes of the processable ground areas, to adjust processing production. By results of interrogation obviously, that the basic direction of work of farms and there is a manufacture of grain.

It is more than third of farmers (36,7 percent) have declared desire to expand the ground area under the facilities (in 2003 on it informed the little more than half - 51,5 percent of farmers, but as has shown monitoring, for these two years there was an integration of facilities). It, first of all, young (till 30 years) farmers with the maximum or average special (agricultural) formation and the experience of farmers not less than three years, that is, active enough part of businessmen.

Table 6

Results of interrogation of farmers

Consider as the most attractive and reliable	Share of answers, in percentage to number interrogated*		
	2003	2004	2006
Grain-growing	70,3	94,8	68,3
Animal industries	50,5	43,7	10,1
Vegetable growing	31,7	13,3	6,5
Seed-growing	28,7	14,8	0,0
Fish culture	6,9	1,5	3,6
Breeding facilities	6,9	0,7	0,0
Processing of production, beekeeping, poultry farming and so forth	11,9	3,0	11,5

* The result exceeds 100 percent as the respondent could note some variants.

About half of interrogated farmers (45,0 percent) plan to increase production, 38,8 more percent plan to keep former volumes, at least. But thus only the fifth considers everyone, that economic efficiency of its facilities in current to year will be such, that these plans will manage to be realized. To this visible contradiction there is some explanation - obvious understating of true profitability of a facilities, on the one hand, and creation of the certain conditions - with another. First of all, it is a question of elimination of superfluous intermediaries between manufacturers and processors (it have specified 63,3 percent of farmers), about perfection of system of crediting (46 percent), about acceptance of some measures for liquidation difference of the prices (42,4 percent).

t the same time, prospects of development of farmers in the Samara area are difficult for naming "Iridescent". At almost half (48 percent interrogated) appear desire all to throw (and every year someone realizes this desire), prospects of continuation of family business on village the successors only about 1/4 interrogated farmers estimate optimistically, the share of the farmers assured that is to whom to continue their business, steadily decreases from year to year. Moreover, as has shown research, farmers try to educate the children the formation which has been not connected with an agricultural production and, accordingly, by residing in village and farmers. Change such situation the thought over state policy concerning farmers can only.

On the basis of the analysis of data of carried out research measures which introduction will promote change for the best to a situation in country facilities of area are offered:

1. In opinion of research group in the Samara area necessary conditions for normal work of farms are not created. The given researches show, that 80 percent of the interrogated farmers to some extent consider, that conditions for development of farmer manufacture are absent. For overcoming the developed situation reforming existing system of crediting of country facilities, first of all, is necessary. Conditions of crediting should be as more as possible various, flexible, with attraction of various opportunities and observance of mutual interests, from special fund of crediting of farmers up to commercial banks and advancing of the

future crop. It is obviously necessary to suggest to management of The Russian agricultural bank to consider an opportunity of increase in terms of given out credits (till 30 years as it is done in a number of the countries with the developed market economy), simplifications of system of crediting, reduction of quantity of the documents necessary for reception of the credit, perfection of system of mortgaging maintenance and simplification of rules of delivery of the soft loan under target programs to agricultural manufacturers under 2 percent under guarantees of the Government of area (now from 16 percent on conditions of the credit the state returns 14, but the farmer is burdened by 16 percentage credit from the date of its reception, and return will be only after full repayment of the credit and percent on it, that for many farmers is more than unprofitable). At not target use of the credit to demand its pre-schedule repayment.

2. On the basis of data of constantly operating monitoring behind the prices for agricultural production creation of the mechanism of the purchases stabilizing the prices for the basic products even at their insignificant decrease is offered. To the main thing in system of selling should become maintenance of the prices at a level providing normal profitableness.

3. It is necessary to develop the program on development of a multiplaned infrastructure for purchase, processing and transportation of agricultural production and its preparation by that for reception at the enterprises of the food-processing industry and in the food market (especially in the remote areas, where a level of procurement prices, for example, on milk, more than twice below, than in the central areas of area). Farmers (their the certain part) can become parts of this infrastructure, creating on the base (by means of credits and on the basis of consumer cooperative society) small massacre, refrigerators, manufacture of cheese, the enterprises on primary manufacture of a sheepskin, etc. To provide the actions directed on revival rural consumer cooperative society, including increase in volumes of its crediting, and increase of efficiency of its work there where it was possible to keep such form. The offer on creation of a special agricultural chamber of commerce is made in the field of. Should earn in a new fashion the mechanism of a grain stock

exchange, on conditions of an advance payment for production delivered by peasants.

4. Farmer manufacture, can be effective, but demands significant investments and appreciably depends on presence of a seed capital and persistent work of farmers. In the field of as a whole exists both significant fund of redistribution of the grounds, and a climate favorable for investments. It is necessary to use these factors in development of farmer movement. It is represented expedient to declare competition on creation of farms in the field of under guarantees of the Government of the Samara area, with granting the grounds from fund of redistribution of the grounds and attraction of investments as from other regions, and foreign (including from the CIS countries). In the field of already there is an example, when the farmer (the former agriculturist, the wife? The book-keeper) from Kazakhstan with machinery has arrived to the Kinel-Cherkassk area (state farm it. V.I.Chapaeva) also has organized an effective farm. This positive experience should be developed and supported.

5. The dissatisfaction with present tax system, the prices, conditions of the credit and as a whole efficiency of the facilities lead to that some farmers practically do the business shadow. But there are also the objective reasons influencing a financial position of farms. Among such reasons it is possible to allocate absence at farmers of a technical opportunity effectively to conduct a facilities. In fact that machinery with which they began the business, gradually wears out and fails, and get in immediate prospects new can less than 10 percent of the interrogated farmers. Thus more than two thirds of respondents have answered, that such opportunity at them in general is not present. Opportunities of the decision of this problem at existing leasing and credit mechanisms at farmers are limited. To one of outputs from the developed situation can become the appendix of additional efforts on development of cooperative communications between farmers. Experience of successful cooperation in sphere of use of machinery already is available. But in the decision of problems of improvement of a financial position of farmers of effort it is necessary to direct also on cooperation of selling and supply, insurance and credit cooperation. That is, cooperation and concentration of farmer manufac-

ture - one of variants of development of this form of managing.

6. Now any of structures municipal and the federal authority does not bear the due responsibility for activity of country facilities and creation of conditions for their successful work. In any measure use or incomplete use of the allocated ground is traced, but the facts of its withdrawal for the admitted infringements are extremely rare. Territorial managements of an agriculture should bear more concrete responsibility for the account, the analysis and the control of observance of operating requirements country facilities, and also for creation of conditions for their development. Therefore in each area there should be the competent expert who is personally responsible for farms including giving the information where it is more favourable to take seeds, fertilizer, machinery, where to hand over grain, etc. (expediently to distribute an available experience in Kinel-Cherkassk, areas Khvorostyanskom) and in parallel to spend periodic consultations of such experts.

7. The offer on annual specification of results of agricultural census of 2006 (which data will be published only in October, 2007) working farms and their periodic (but not less often than an once in a year) certifications, an estimation of a degree of conformity of their activity to the legislation is made. On the basis of spent certification the account of changes in a condition of material and industrial base of facilities, and also in directions of their activity can be put. Now the account is under construction on reports of farmers where the validity is to some extent deformed. That such certification was favourable to the farmers, necessary it is represented by way of experiment (before the introduction of the country into WTO) to enter grants for each head of large horned livestock, for the grounds entered into a turn from fund of redistribution of the agricultural grounds, on realized within the limits of regional target programs cattle-breeding (effective experience of Tatarstan, Bashkiria) and plants production.

8. It is necessary to enter the examination, corresponding certification of the persons, wishing to become farmers. This offer leans on foreign experience where to the person, aspiring to lease the ground, a number of requirements of the educational and professional plan is shown. Demands attention and system of improvement

of professional skill of farmers, especially in the field of economy, the right, modern agricultural technologies. Therefore there was a question on cooperation of farmers by way of creation of joint accounting and legal service. About 80 percent of the interrogated farmers have expressed desire to raise the level of knowledge and experience. Necessary creation of help consulting service in a mode is represented "A hot line" Under aegis of the regional Government and due to means of the regional budget.

10. Very serious problem - absence of change in farms. Prospects of continuation of family business on village the successors only about 1/4 interrogated farmers estimate optimistically. A farm to have prospect, should have change. In opinion of researchers, the decision of this problem lays in three aspects:

First, the share of the farmers having the own house, today is not so significant also the tendency to improvement of living conditions of rural businessmen to fix it is impossible. Only each tenth farmer has an opportunity for improvement of the living conditions and plans it to carry out. That is, children of farmers simply have no place to live and they are compelled to leave a farm. It is obvious, that it is meaningful to support farmer movement by granting of preferential hypothecary credits for construction of habitation. Secondly, it is meaningful to consider idea of creation some kind of "busi-

ness-incubators" for formation of a reserve of the future farmers. Thirdly, carrying out of the information policy promoting formation of positive professional image of the young farmer is necessary, to make its figure attractive, in any measure to enter "a fashion" On employment by farmers among rural youth to tell in mass-media about labour dynasties of farmers, etc.

11. According to monitoring researches the share of the concluded labour contracts of hiring steadily decreases. Certainly, it testifies to existing imperfection and backwardness of social institute of hiring.

So, today it is difficult (and it is not necessary) to consider farmers as alternative to a large agricultural production. The nearest decades it will not borrow such place as in the developed countries of the West, but it is the checked up way, proving to be true development of economic, and at a correct, reasonable state policy the farmers is quite capable to solve the complex economic problems connected with a food problem and in the country, and, especially, in region.

¹ For more detail look for: Hasaev G.R. System of Social Partnership Grows // the Site of the Government of Samara Oblast: <http://www.adm.samara.ru/news/3/3/18309/28.05.2007>.

² Territorial body of Federal service of the State Statistics in Samara Oblast // www.samarastat.ru.

³ Data from the official site of Samara Oblast Government.