

Angela Zimmerman



TAKING STOCK

I knew, entering September, that there would be plenty of work—we had to prepare for the UDG ag training program, help a farmer write a plan for a custom hay-making business, re-shoot some seminar material that was filmed in 2019, and prepare a greenhouse in Maximovca.

Now, a month later, some of those things have been begun, but not finished. In Moldova, things take more time than we are used to in the States. The farmer is still a bit interested in the hay-making business, but is hesitant to officially register it—the government would take 12% of the profit, plus require me to pay into the pension fund and buy the national health insurance? Maybe I don't want to register...

I suggested taking small steps—a short training on entrepreneurial finance, writing an outline of the business—but as we continued talking, he still gave excuses about why these weren't worth trying.

Then the conversation took a turn; he started talking about the problems in the local church. This is a Baptist church, and the farmer is very involved in church activities. Some people have felt slighted by other members, the pastor is tired and often traveling outside the country, and there have arisen a number of small issues that have not been resolved and have snowballed. The problems there have affected his outlook on starting a business.

During the drive home, I realized we cannot ignore the fact that a farmer's life is multifaceted. We talk about agriculture, but only when a person is healthy physically, emotionally and spiritually, can he really prosper. When issues arise, the roots may come from other domains of life, not just the barn or the greenhouse! I and us Ag Connect staff must patiently walk with each person and allow God to be at work in us and in the life of each farmer, and wait for the harvest to come :)

Praises!

- Thanks to all who came and worked on the pork dinner fundraiser for me!
- A young woman from our church started outreach to local teen girls
- We have 12-15 students signed up for UDG ag training

Prayer requests:

- To finish purchase of the Maximovca property
- UDG students and ag training organization
- Looking to God alone for direction (vs. listening to all the requests and voices)



Stray dogs beg for tidbits



Chisinau Opera House



Crummie's alternator went out during a trip to the city