

Russia, Pig Farming

Two Swiss farmers who ran a pig farm in Switzerland for many years decided to establish a similar operation in Kaluga, Russia. In 2004 they bought farm buildings of a defunct pig farm and founded OOO Oertle. The purpose of their company is to breed and slaughter pigs using breeding and production methods that meet European standards.

The project sponsors have identified a demand for processed pig meat in the Russian market, which is generally higher in price than in the EU and particularly North America. Due to lower production costs, the margins are larger locally than in Western countries. Currently there is not much local competition on the market, improving the prospects of selling the meat, first in Kaluga and then in Moscow. Sales will begin in 2006, and the goal is to sell over 2000 pigs annually by 2008. The project will have a positive impact on the local economy, by creating several jobs and transferring know-how in state-of-the-art pig farming methods.

OOO Oertle received a loan from the SECO Start-up Fund to finance the farm renovation and initial breeding costs.