

EASY OFF BOARDS

Konrad Piwoński, a farmer and co-owner of Kozfur Sp. z o.o in Poland uses Easy Off Boards from Jasopels. Having twenty years of experience in the industry, he does not hesitate to say that so far “these boards are the best available”. “Drying is quicker, and skins are in a much better condition”, he emphasizes.

There are many Jasopels products and solution on your farm. How long have you been using them?

We were already using their products, when there were no Jasopels representative in Poland. One of our first Fleshing Machine was made by Jasopan, a company which has been part of Jasopels since 2003. We still have and use these machines. Even the first machines we got still work perfectly. The only problem we have now is that they became too small for us.

Why?

The reason is prosaic – the animals got bigger. Hence, the skins are bigger and better equipment is needed to process them. It's obvious that machines had to get bigger as animals got bigger. For example, fleshing machines could have been shorter in the past, but today they would just not work for us. The boards had to change as well.

And you decided for such an investment in Kozfur. You changed the system and bought the Easy Off Boards. Was it a difficult decision?

Certainly. We were afraid of the cost. The change from the production using wooden boards to the process using plastic boards meant that we had to change machines stretching the skins on boards, as well as adapt the drying room. I admit that we took a long time to consider all advantages and disadvantages.

What factor prevailed?

There were a few, but the key one was the development of our company. We wanted our pelting process to be of the highest quality. We considered various options, but the size of our mink farm meant that Jasopels Easy Off Boards turned out to be a good option.

Which features of the Easy Off Board were the most important for you?

First of all, the drying time is significantly shorter than in the case of wooden boards. This is the principal advantage we notice when using the boards. They are also much better than the competitors'

solutions as they are more convenient - the skin comes off them easier. If you compare and measure the available boards, it turns out that the standard expansion between closed and open boards is about 6 millimetres. This measurement is 10 millimetres for the Easy Off Boards we bought.

Do these four millimetres of difference have such an impact on the daily work?

Initially we thought the same - “as few as” four millimetres, but in practice they were “as many as” four millimetres. Thanks to that the work is easier more convenient and faster. Additionally, there are fewer damaged boards in the whole process. This is not only our opinion. Our employees have also noticed it.

How much time it takes for the investment to pay for itself?

It depends on the production size. This is certainly an individual matter for every mink breeder.

You decided not only to buy the boards, but also to comprehensively modernise the plant at this stage of processing the skins.

We not only replaced the boards on a scale of one to one, but also replaced parts of the drying room. The boards are complemented by a drying installation with appropriate trolleys used for plastic boards.

In your opinion, how has the work changed since you bought the first Jasopels boards?

We use the trolleys I mentioned for the Easy Off Boards. Previously, when we used wooden boards, we had to have ceiling-mounted modules with hooks. We put the wooden boards on them. This was a tiring and time-consuming process. We had to attach the skin using rivets, and then it was stretched manually. We tried using machines in our old stretching system, but they did not perform that well, as the skins were getting damaged. When using the Easy Off Boards, the skin comes off with a single pull. It also dries quicker and there are fewer damages. The whole operation is not cheap, but definitely worth the money. We are gradually switching to Jasopels boards.

- **Shortens the drying time**
- **Facilitates pulling the skin off**
- **Are made of plastic**
- **10 mm expansion between an open and closed board**

