

Tomasz Lelas, a mink breeder from Stopnica, runs a farm together with his cousin Hubert Kozłowski. With 9 years' experience in the business, they have been using Jasopels Fleshing Automat T4 for several months now. They agree that the investment in the equipment has been a qualitative leap in their company. "We have managed to limit the amount of greasy skins from around 40 percent to just 1", says Tomasz Lelas.

You have bought the machine at Jasopels quite recently. How has the Jasopels Fleshing Automat T4 been doing so far?

We have been using it for a few months. It was delivered in October and since then it has been working smoothly throughout the whole season. I must admit that we were surprised not only by the quality of fleshing, but also by the large number of setting options and its great precision.

This kind of equipment is a big expense for a farmer. It is an investment bound to bring greater profits in the future. Do you think that it will earn its keep?

Definitely. And I am saying it now, after I saw the results of the auctions where we sent skins fleshed with the new machine. Before, we had many greasy skins because our old device could not handle it anymore. Around 40% of our product was qualified as greasy. Now this relation has changed completely. For each 1000 fleshed skins only 10 are greasy, that is approximately 1%. That has been a qualitative leap, especially in case of males.

What made you choose Jasopels equipment?

Our previous fleshing machine was very old and too little. We saw Jasopels Fleshing Automat T4 for the first time during a fur exhibition in Gądko. We were checking different devices at that time. T4 is not the most recent version of Jasopels Fleshing Automat T4, but it is perfect for the amount of skins we process. It simply has the best price vs. quality for us. We could go for an older model at Jasopels, whereas other suppliers only promoted their latest solutions, which we found incompatible with our needs.

How many skins do you process yearly?

This has been a unique season as we also processed skins from a neighbour's farm, so all in all the machine fleshed over 20.000 skins, out of which 15.000 were ours.

Did you come across any problems, when it comes to the machine's operation?

No, the machine has been working with no failures or breakdowns, except for a few errors that occurred in the beginning. A service technician fixed them immediately on the phone. In one case e.g. it was too low temperature in the room that turned out to be the cause of a problem.

What problems did you manage to eliminate with the new device?

Our previous fleshing machine was more than 20 years old. We attempted to change the settings a few times, but it would not work properly as evidenced by the high percentage of greasy skins. First and foremost, the machine was too short. We could hardly flesh females with it, not to mention bigger skins. It was completely unsuitable for males.

Does the work go faster with the new machine?

It is more effective, for sure. Before we had to put an extra employee who took the skins off at the back. It is not necessary anymore with our T4. The efficiency of the machine itself is also much higher. Electrically operated beam runs faster and more smoothly. We do not have a large drying room, so we were not so much into speed, but we consider it an asset that the machine can flesh even 150 – 180 skins in an hour.

The machine is quite high tech. Is it also complicated to learn how to operate it?

Certainly not. All the settings are configured easily. The menu is transparent and there are no operational problems. It takes two days to master everything, as it was in our case.

Would you give any advice to those who are planning to buy a Jasopels Fleshing Automat T4?

Jasopels offers an appropriate training when you buy a machine. A service technician will give you all the instructions regarding the use, maintenance or parts exchange. The rest must be tested in practice, as skins are fleshed well only with the appropriate settings and this is an individual thing. I recommend checking closely the first few skins after the settings have been changed and amending the parameters on a daily basis.

Do you consider this investment to be a good decision?

Yes, of course. If you want to keep ahead of competition and make the best product, you must invest in the new machines. Today I would make the same choice and I would not hesitate to recommend this Jasopels Fleshing Automat T4 to other breeders. This is our first purchase at Jasopels and having some good experience with T4, we are planning next ones. We are considering buying a slicing machine and a stretching machine. I think we will continue to cooperate with Jasopels, not only because of the service; as it is convenient to have equipment of the same brand. What is important to us, is the quality of contact with Jasopels agents, who are always available and ready to help us.

