



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD AID

IBA endeavors to draw people to Christ, and teach good stewardship and sustainable living.

Spring 2016

Newsletter

Animal Project.

For small farmers and villagers in Ukraine, getting started with a small business is challenging, to say the least. Coming out of the collective farm system they don't have the deep history and support system for private enterprises that we often take for granted in the USA. The financial instability has only worsened an already poor lending situation, with interest rates often in the 30% range. In this situation starting a small business can seem out of reach. Young people are often at home without a job, lacking the teaching or opportunity to start a small project on their own.

IBA has started an animal project with the goal of helping families and individuals start a viable business raising farm animals. Recipients will receive animals from IBA free of charge and must repay with offspring. Repayment is with two animals of the same sex and size as the

Below: The pig that the Koyla Diktar family received from IBA recently had this healthy litter. Hopefully this will be the start of a successful business.



Above: Koyla Diktar holding one of his rabbits. Koyla has a job in nearby Skvida, but having some animals gives him additional income and allows his children to be involved in providing for the family.

animal received. The only animals at this point are pigs, goats, poultry and rabbits, although that list might expand as needed. As news of this offer spreads more people are contacting IBA and showing interest in the project. Most of those requests are expected to be fulfilled as funds become available.

Below: A rabbit from IBA is now owned by 16 year old Nakita Shevchyk, giving him an opportunity to earn money and teaching him business principles.



Grain Drying, Fall 2016

A dry summer in Ukraine resulted in yields about 60% of normal. While not as busy as 2015, IBA still dried between 400 and 500 tons of corn and soybeans in the locality of Kryvoshyntsi. The market dynamics were different from last year as the large commercial dryers weren't as busy and therefore were more competitive. Another grain drier was sent over and assembled.



Above: A local farmer gets ready to dump wet grain into the dryer. He farms together with his son, cash cropping and raising an assortment of livestock. Having dry grain allows him to store grain for the winter or command a premium price at the elevator.

Left: A local crane operator was hired to help assemble the grain dryers. The used dryers were disassembled in Maryland, packed into a shipping container, shipped to Ukraine and reassembled.

Below: An empty gravity bin wagon waits for dry corn. The car, gravity bin and grain dryer in this photo are owned by IBA, while the tractor is the farmers.



Right: A Kamaz truck and trailer wait to pick up dry corn.



Right: Corn from the field had been dumped on the ground and is now being loaded for drying. Grain bins are rare in Ukraine. Most of the grain is stored on the ground in barns and gathered up with machines like this one.

Please contact us about coming to your community to show slides and talk about what we're doing in Ukraine

Right: Steam rolls off of two of IBA's grain dryers as the wet grain is being dried. IBA usually set up the dryers at a former collective farm and the farmers brought grain in. This was easier than setting up separately at each farmstead.



Left: IBA's trusty Soviet era car pulling an empty gravity bin wagon. Ukraine has high import taxes on cars to protect its domestic car industry. As a result western brands are more expensive in Ukraine than in the USA, and old cars like this are common.

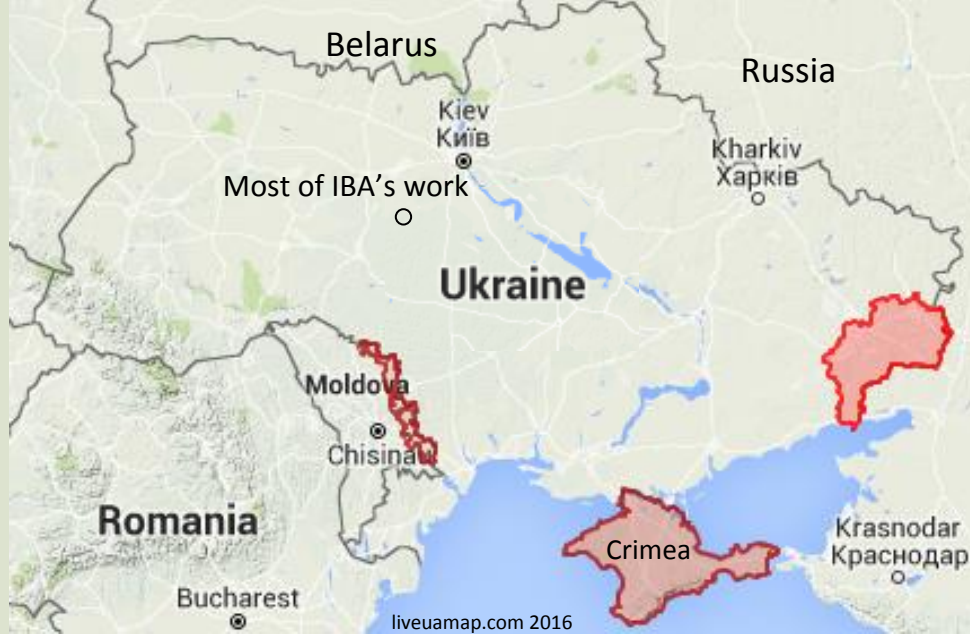


Left: The New Idea manure spreader that IBA sent to Ukraine saw a lot of use. In this photo manure is being spread on a villager's garden plot. Smaller used equipment like this is hard to find in Ukraine, as the equipment used on collective farms was mostly large and worn out. While new equipment is available, it is every bit as expensive as in the USA.

The Conflict in Ukraine

In February 2014 protests erupted in Ukraine after then president Viktor Yanukovych refused to sign an association agreement with the European Union. After the protests forced Yanukovych from office, counter protests arose in Crimea and the eastern oblast of Donetsk and Luhansk. Aided by Russian Special Forces, pro-Russian separatists declared the secession of Crimea from Ukraine and joined Russia with the support of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Protests in Donetsk soon turned to war. With Russia's help the separatists prevented the Ukrainian government from retaking the area and a shaky cease-fire agreement was signed.

The civil war and political unrest has caused a serious decline in Ukraine's economy. Inflation led to a steep rise in prices, making it very difficult for old people living in fixed pensions.



The map above shows the areas occupied by Russia or Russian supported forces shaded in red. Crimea and the separatist region in the east used to be governed by Ukraine. The narrow strip of red between Ukraine and Moldova is the region of Transnistria, a breakaway region of Moldova that hosts Russian forces.

The Ukrainian currency, the hryvnya, has lost a lot of value since the conflict began, going from an exchange rate of about 8 hryvnya to 1 US dollar in 2014 to about 25 to 1 in 2016.



Thank You

To everyone who has already donated prayers, time, or money, the IBA committee wants to extend a huge thank you! Your assistance was greatly appreciated. We strive to maintain open communication with our supporters. If you want any additional information on the projects we are involved in, please contact us.



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD AID

To be put on the mailing list, make a donation, or ask questions, please contact us at:

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