

Animal Project

Like many villagers in rural Ukraine, Leonid Martenyuk owns a house, a small barn, and about an acre or so of land. Three years ago, as Leonid was looking for a way to increase his income to support his family, he received a sow from IBA's animal project. This sow produced a fine litter of piglets, two of which Leonid returned to IBA as repayment for the sow, and the rest which he sold. The hog raising went so well that since 2016 Leonid has been able to expand his herd to 4 sows, with plans to increase it to 7. Leonid grinds his own feed, which in addition to purchased grain includes produce such as beets and cabbage, and extra milk from his cow. Demand for his hogs is so high that recently, when IBA asked to purchase one to give to a new animal project recipient, none were available, as all the piglets had been spoken for. Butchering is not a lost art in Ukraine with many villagers fattening and butchering their own hog. Leonid has been able to renovate his house and improve his barn. He and his wife are believers and thank God for helping them, and want to help others in their community.

IBA's animal project was formed with the goal of helping poor villagers start a viable business raising farm animals. Recipients receive the animals from IBA free of charge and repay once they produce offspring or reach marketable size.

This spring Sergei Kolesnik, a Ukrainian brother from the Mennonite church in Berezyanka, agreed to help IBA administer the animal project for the coming year. Sergei has had a successful greenhouse business for many years and is very familiar with the challenges and opportunities rural

Ukrainians face. Sergei enjoys evangelizing, and this position will help him connect to people that he otherwise would likely never meet.

The animal project has great potential to help poorer villagers who often have few income opportunities outside of low-paid day labor, and lack access to funds to get any-thing started. IBA has received many requests from villagers who wish to take part in this project, and we want to significantly expand this program. An American family is in serious consideration about moving to Ukraine to work on this project full time. **Funds are needed to cover the costs of**

sending someone like Sergei out to meet potential new recipients and check up on past recipients, and to cover the costs of expanding the project to reach more people like Leonid and Marina Martenyuk. To donate to this effort please write "Animal Project" on your remittance slip.



Leonid and Marina Martenyuk on the porch of their house in Kryvshyintsi, Ukraine. The Martenyuks received assistance from the animal project in 2016




One of Leonid Martenyuk's hogs from the herd that was started with help from the animal project

Tiller project

Ukraine has some of the richest soil on earth, and since most villagers own an acre or so behind their houses, nearly everyone has a garden. Many

people however, have little more than a hoe and shovel with which to work the soil. IBA has a tractor mounted tiller and a smaller walk-behind tiller to till gardens for

villagers who lack the means to do so themselves. This has been a great opportunity to reach out to neighbors and be a blessing to those in need. 

Karina Pisarevskaya looks on as her garden is tilled by Lanae Graber. Karina, a member of the Berezyanka Mennonite church, did not have a means to till the garden at her property, where she has a foster home for young children.




Brief Boys/Mens Home Update

A Ukrainian family has agreed to be house parents at the men's/boy's home. We will have more details in a future newsletter. Please pray that they can fill this role and be a blessing as they guide and support the residents. The men's/boy's home will have residents living there full-time, and the house parents have a family of their own, so **we are looking for a single man to live with the residents and**



Karlin Graber and Kostya Diktyar out tilling a garden with the David Brown tractor.

be a mentor, especially for the nights and weekends when the house parents want their own family time. This mentor does not need to know Ukrainian or Russian, as many of the residents speak basic English, but should be willing to learn. This is a great opportunity to speak into the lives of these men and boys. If interested, please contact Luke Coblentz at (606) 748-6049. 



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