

R&D PROJECTS RUN IN 2017

SOL in breeders' hands.

According to the plans we wrote about a year ago, breeders all over Poland can already use the Stado OnLine (SOL) programme. The first step to achieve this goal was launching a pilot implementation. That is why in May, we invited breeders to test SOL. An open recruitment of programme breeders-testers took place in May and June. All those farmers who were willing to use the SOL test version - and there were over 150 of them - were allowed to use it on their farms. The experiences gained thanks to testers' remarks enabled adjustment of the programme to breeder's expectations. For example, so called "Alarms" section was created on the programme's desktop, where information requiring urgent user's action is presented. Ways of transmitting selected information was extended by SMS - in accordance with the testers' suggestions. Moreover, testers participated in testing different forms of technical support, including the possibility of launching it without logout of the programme.

As a result, in November 2017 during Podlaskie Forum Bydła we could officially announce that the nationwide implementation of the programme would take place in January 2018. That's what happened. The first request to register a farm in SOL, submitted in a standard mode i.e.: via the form provided on the website, was received on the 3rd of January at 8:00. Since then, applications have been coming in continuously, daily from a few to a dozen or so.

We are working on SOL improvement

Enjoying the rapid growth of the number of SOL users we strive to keep this trend going on. The extensive technical support that we offer to the programme's users serves this purpose. Its key element is the so-called group of "SOL-assistants" - PFCBDF's employees, who help SOL users. You can call, write an e-mail or speak through an internet messenger to a SOL-assistant and ask for explanation, advice or assistance. SOL-assistants are also equipped with an appropriate tool that enables them (with SOL user permission) to look at a particular problem, as it is shown on the user's screen. The on-line PDF manual is reachable by a user directly from the programme as well as a set of short tutorial videos showing the main SOL functions.

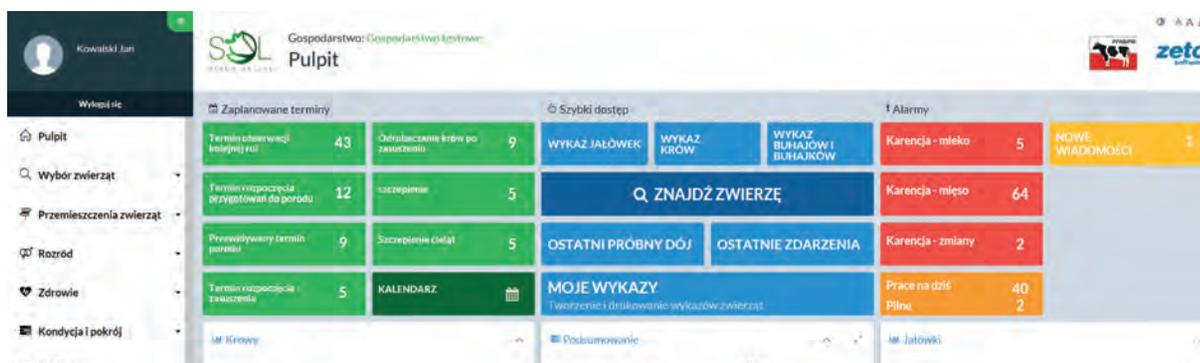
We are also reacting accordingly to comments and remarks made by users, by implementing the improvements they postulated for. We are also working on further modules that will expand the programme's capabilities and facilitate its use. That applies in particular for the INSEMINATION module. It will help breeders who inseminate their cows themselves, because the module will allow them to register "officially" insemination data, as required by law.

Who and how can use SOL?

For the time being, the program is open only to those breeders whose cows are in milk recording. Other breeders will also be able to become SOL users, but only starting from June 2018.

In order to get the access, the future user has to declare his/hers willingness to use SOL addressing it to one of the SOL assistants mentioned above. You can do that in several ways. The simplest one is to fill-in a digital form on the website www.stadonline.pl. The SOL-assistant will then deal with the case. First of all, he will call the breeder to make sure that the person making the request has the right to do so, meaning to confirm that he or she is the owner of the farm or is authorized by the owner. Next, the SOL-assistant will set up a farm record in the programme and create an account for the main user in this farm (shortly called: GUG). Finally, he will send the login and password to GUG. The aforementioned procedure should be done as soon as possible within 5 working days in maximum. Starting from the moment when the breeder get his login and password, he can use SOL freely.

Figure 1 “Alarms” on the SOL desktop – an outcome of cooperation with the programme testers



Is using SOL for a fee?

Let's start with the fact that SOL is a modular tool. That means the programme will consist of many “blocks” that the breeder can use to build such a SOL variant that best suits his needs. The basis of the programme and its only indispensable part is the “BASE” module. Deciding to use SOL, therefore, a user always decide to use this module.

The first of optional “blocks” of the programme that we are offering to breeders is “HEALTH” module. The breeder him-self decides whether he wants to use only BASE module or to take the advantage of additional functionalities offered in HEALTH module.

There is no room for even a short description of many functionalities that are available in the mentioned modules. If you don't mind please learn more on the SOL website.

Let us now get back to the payment options. In accordance with the PFCBDF's Board, every breeder whose cows are in milk recording may use the BASE module free of charge for an indefinite period of time. Moreover, if the user registers all data on cows' related events, starting from April 2018 the fee for milk recording will be reduced by 0.20 PLN/cow. The use of the BASE module is therefore not only free, but can even reduce the expenses for milk recording!

The use of HEALTH module is free of charge for the first 90 days after the programme is made available to the user. After this period, further module use is payable. The payment will be calculated according to the number of cows present on the test day and will be 0.80 PLN /cow/month.

Do you want to know more before making a decision?

All information about the program itself, use rules and actions to be done in order to get the access are available on the programme website (www.stadonline.pl). On the website you will find SOL demo version and contact details for SOL-assistants who are ready to provide you with all necessary details. We encourage you to visit SOL website and contact SOL-assistants. We hope, what you can see and hear will encourage you to send us your declaration to use SOL.

Figure 2 SOL available for breeders - anywhere, anytime.

