



The Auksuciai Foundation for Agricultural and Forest Development and The Auksuciai Farm and Forest Center ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Background

The Auksuciai Foundation is the only American-based, privately funded nongovernmental organization working in Lithuania for the benefit of farmers and rural communities. Its purpose is to identify and support agricultural and forestry practices that, if adopted, will enhance the economic and social well being of Lithuanian farmers. The mechanism to meet this goal is a 157.5-hectare (389-acre) farm located in northwest Lithuania near Siauliai. Here, the Auksuciai Farm and Forest Center carries out research on new crops, improvement of existing crops, market development, and improved farming practices. In the USA, the Auksuciai Foundation is incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation. It provides financial and technical support to its partner Lithuanian nonprofit, Auksuciai Farm and Forest Center (Auksučių Ūkio ir Mišku Centras). This report highlights the accomplishments of these two organizations.

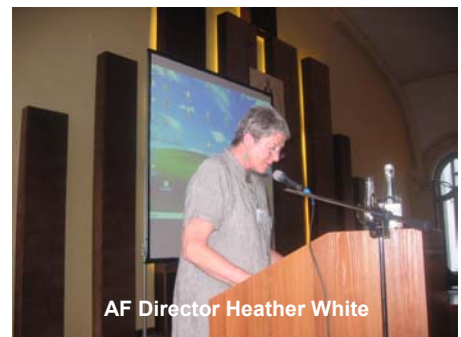
“Building Rural Lithuania’s Future”

During the year the Foundation:

- Finished construction of our long planned Jurgis Gudaitis Center for Research and Education. The goal is to utilize this two-story 5,633 sq ft (523 M²) building (with rooms for visiting researchers and students) for activities which will improve the economic well-being of local farmers and their communities.
- Invited Dr. O. Donald Meaders and Dr. Jonas Valaitis to become advisors to the Auksuciai Foundation Board of Directors
- Provided \$10,046 in support of the Lithuanian Auksuciai Farm and Forest Center.
- Funded a Center 2004 Research and Education Report showing results of experiments and trials conducted on the farm during the year with various vegetable, grain, and tree crops.
- In July, board member Heather White made a presentation at the 2005 XIII Lithuanian Science and Creativity Symposium in Vilnius on programs of the Foundation. Symposium participants followed up with a social event and tour of the farm near Siauliai.
- Mrs. Grazina Liautaud contributed an additional \$50,000 to the building fund in honor of her father, enabling the completion of the Jurgis Gudaitis Center Building for Research and Education. Fifty-three donors contributed \$12,960 to the Foundation. In addition, Foundation board members provided \$25,213 in unreimbursed organization expenditures.



Jurgis Gudaitis Center for Research and Education



AF Director Heather White

- Organized with the University of California-Davis, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences in the development of a six-month training program beginning in January, 2006 for Farm Center, Assistant Director of Research, Vaida Šileikaitė.
- The Foundation continued cooperation through memoranda of understanding of the Lithuanian Agricultural University and Siauliai University with the University of California, Davis. Board members Qualset and Chiles discussed collaborative research projects with faculty members at the Agricultural University and with the director of international programs at Siauliai University. UC Davis has provided grant funds to foster international cooperation with the Foundation and the Lithuanian universities.



Program of Work for 2006

- Continue financial support of Auksuciai Farm and Forest Center program of research on new crops, improvement of existing crops and development of marketing programs for specialty crops that show promise to local farmers.
- Complete training program for Auksuciai Farm and Forest Center, Assistant Director of Research, Vaida Šileikaitė, (January through June) at the University of California, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Davis, California.
- Provide funds and organizational support for the third Annual Farm Field Day on July 16, 2006, for local farmers and others connected to agriculture.
- Conduct a Grand Opening/ Dedication July 16, 2006 of the newly completed Jurgis Gudaitis Center Building for Research and Education at the Auksuciai Farm and Forest Center.
- Utilize the Gudaitis Center and its facilities to help existing Lithuanian based support organizations that work with local youth in nearby rural communities.
- In cooperation with existing Lithuanian farm organizations, begin to offer programs at the Gudaitis Center building for local farmers understand and participate in programs of the European Union.
- Develop working relationships with the agricultural education community in the USA and Lithuania to offer a program of benefit to young Lithuanian farmers.
- Obtain sponsorship for five computers and begin offering Youth Computer Workshops at the Gudaitis Center. Also, make this equipment available for use by local farmers to obtain information on sound ecological farming practices and a better understanding of how to market profitably the farm products they have produced.
- Organize a second shipment from the USA to Auksuciai Farm and Forest Center including equipment already acquired in California, including a refrigerated field storage unit, research equipment, used farm equipment, and items for local schools and Siauliai University.
- Establish a long-term working relationship with the Siauliai University Botany Department and Botanical Garden, including student field research activity at the Auksuciai Center farm.

**Auksuciai Foundation
Financial Report
2005**

Income

Contributions	\$12,960
Interest (estimated)	1,374
Un-reimbursed Expenses (Board Members)	<u>25,213</u>
	\$39,547

Building Fund

Carryover	123,747
Contributions	<u>50,000</u>
	\$173,747

Expenses

Auksuciai Farm and Forest Center	\$10,046
Loan Repayment (equipment shipment)	3,500
Insurance	1,250
Accounting	530
Professional Services	750
Administration	567
Un-reimbursed Expenses	<u>25,213</u>
	\$41,856

**Building Fund transfer to Auksuciu
Farm and Forest Center Fund**

\$173,747

Gain/(Loss) (\$2,309)



Auksuciai Farm and Forest Center Headquarters



Auksuciai Farm & Forest Center (Auksučių Ūkio ir Mišku Centras)

“AUMC Guiding in the Present“

- Hosted visitors to the farm including, Vygaudas Usackas, Lithuanian Ambassador to the USA; Stephen Mull, USA Ambassador to Lithuania and Mathew Lee, Taiwan Ambassador to the Baltic States.
- Worked with Center Board of Directors to guide development of the project and determine research agendas for the year and future years.
- Dr. Vaclovas Tricys – Siauliai University, Dr. Virginija Zostautiene – Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Leonas Kadziulis – Dotnuva Akademija, Dr. Algirdas Radzevicius – Lithuanian University of Agriculture, were invited and accepted membership to our advisory committee.
- Conducted research and educational projects on various aspects of the production of wheat, barley, peas, dry beans, field corn, popcorn, safflower, linseed and numerous vegetable varieties in the field and in the greenhouse.
- Began introductory studies of new crops including safflower, linseed, popcorn and blueberries.



- Completed first harvest on “hedge-row” plantings of 10 apple varieties.
- Leased operations of the commercial farm acreage to a local farmer after the departure of our Farm Manager, Raigedas Karosas.
- Hired a new Assistant Director for Research, Vaida Šileikaitė in March 2005. Duties include management of the research projects, development of new researchable concepts, management of employees and represent the Center on business matters.
- In July 2005, began construction of the Jurgis Gudaitis Center for Research and Education. This facility will serve as a center for the education and benefit of local-area farmers. The exterior of the facility was completed in December and the interior will be completed by April 2006. (Construction budget and costs outlined below.)
- Hosted a social function for participants from the XIII Lithuanian Science and Creativity Symposium held in Vilnius in July 2005.



“AUMC Building for the Future“

New Crop Introductions/Marketing

- Continue research and educational activities in the development of new crops including asparagus, blueberries, various fruits and berries, and other crops as the opportunity arises.



Personnel

- Begin the search for a new farm manager who is bilingual (English and Lithuanian) and who has the qualifications to manage the farming operations of the project and the desire to help local area farmers become more prosperous.
- Seek resources to hire additional assistance to enhance the research and educational agenda.

Ecological Farm Management/Production

- Stress ecological farming practices throughout the research and educational process to include cultivation practices, organic vegetable production, organic grain production and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- Begin installation of native plant landscaping, as an educational tool, around the new Jurgis Gudaitis Center.



Technology Transfer

- Conduct Farmer Field Days on a biannual basis
- Develop local newsletter on agricultural technological information for local area farmers.
- Increase staff contact with local farmers.
- Develop Computer Access Center in conjunction with the new Jurgis Gudaitis Center. This will facilitate greater access by local individuals to the informational sources available through the internet.



Economic Management

- Develop Economic Management Tools
- Develop Cost of Production Strategies
- Develop Information on Farmer Budgeting and Recordkeeping

Relationships with Existing Institutions

- Continue to develop positive relationships with the Siauliai University Botany Department and the Botanical Garden for student research and learning activities at