

The Eco Farm

My personal highlight of our stay in Transylvania was the day we visited the eco farm. Although I am born and raised in a land that is not that different than Romania I was really impressed by the farm and by the people working there. Maybe for most of the Austrian people it was indeed an eco farm. For me it was a normal farm, it was exactly how a farm should look like and it was exactly how I remember the farms before all the technology came in and made the farms all about meat and business. The day before we talked about the eco farm and what it probably looks like. After spending 7 years of my life in Western Europe I imagined a green fancy farm with no signs of the village life and lots of brilliant systems that make taking care of hundreds of cows easier. When we entered the farm I wasn't sure if we are already there because I did not look like I imagined it. There were exactly one pig, a big dog, few chickens, one amazingly beautiful horse and if I remember right three or four cows, proudly introduced as "the happiest cows in Romania". They looked indeed very happy and also proud to be where they are, as the owners were too. And I was impressed to the bone because it was much more than I actually expected. We traveled there with a group of Korean students who were working on smart farming and traveling through Europe to find some good places. I think they did not expect to see a farm like this and it was for me personally very amusing to see the shock when the technology and the smart producing meets the nature and the natural way of growing.

Few minutes after our arrival the food was presented and that day we were allowed to eat I think what most Western Europeans call bio food and what I remember to be the food of my childhood. It was indeed the most tasty food I ate in years and I was very happy to have the opportunity to taste home made cheeses, soup and other delicious meals.

I did not choose that day because of the food, I choose it because it was very impressive how the people deal with life there. The farm belonged to a family and all the family members were a part of the process. They all looked after the house, the animals and of course the guests. They were also selling some home made stuff like what the Italians like to call Dulce de Leche, or self made rose marmalade.

The family also took us to a house nearby and told us that they often have some volunteers to help them. Foreign people sign up for working at an eco farm in Romania and they sleep in the house. The house they showed us was furnished in an old style and the family told us they actually kept the old furniture in the house and restaured the old parts of the house. The floor and kitchen were certainly new and the house was actually in extremely good condition. It really showed that the family is living very good with what they were doing and they looked so happy and so proud doing it that we could only show respect and hope that one day maybe what we now call eco farm will become trendy again and be described as a normal farm, because that is actually how people are supposed to be farming and that is the natural way and I am glad that we had the chance to visit it and be reminded of how important it is to keep our traditions and most of all how important it is to do what you want to do with passion and love.



Toni Cherneva