

ENGLISH ABSTRACTS OF KEY ARTICLES

Selected Aspects of Agricultural Production in the Country, by Vladimír Mackovič

The methodology of OECD, as applied by Eurostat, defines country area as a zone of a population density under 100 per sq. km. Based on such criterion, 80 % municipalities in the Czech Republic are of rural character, occupying some 75 % of the territory of the state. Yet mere 22.3 % of the Czech population live in such areas. Agriculture always was, and naturally keeps on being, strongly linked to country settlements and the land. For such areas, the economic, social, and landscaping potential of agricultural production is of immense importance. The smaller are the settlements and the lower is the population density, the higher is the importance of agriculture. Our contribution endeavours to characterize, analyse, and generalize the spatial, urban planning, and landscaping criteria of agricultural premises.

OPINIONS & DISCUSSIONS

Metamorphoses of the Country and the Rural Landscape in the Czech Republic over the Last Decades: Options of Improvements, by Martin Říha (notes by Josef Markvart)

Professionals who have long been studying problems of rural areas are facing some very interesting impacts of the after-1989 changes on demographic developments, on the creation of settlement structures, and on the look and cultivation of settlements and the landscape.

Another Talk with Jiří Löw: on the Country and the Land, by Josef Markvart & Lubor Fridrich

No need to introduce Jiří Löw to our readers: politician, teacher, expert, and last but not least member of our editorial board, Mr Löw answers questions of his specialization – sensitive country and landscape planning.

The Current Situation and the Opportunities of Further Developments of Tourism at the Lakes of Nové Mlýny, by Ludvík Hanák

The article deals with some prospective developments of tourism in the southernmost part of Moravia. Two famous treasures dominate the region, the Preservation Area of Pálava and the Cultural Landscape of Lednice/Valtice, part of the UNESCO Heritage List. Also in the region is a system of reservoirs, rather problematic for their environmental and industrial aspects but highly feasible to tourism. Also, further development of tourism in the region could improve the overall economic situation of the local population.

Urban Planning and Spatial Development at the Faculties of the Czech University of Agriculture, by Šárka Štenclová

The Czech University of Agriculture offers study programmes at four Faculties. At three of them – those of Forestry, Agronomy, and Economics & Management – urban planning and spatial development is regular part of the curriculum.

The Country: Students' Relationship with Rural Areas, by Terezie Cuhrová

The problems of country areas are nowadays much more seriously discussed than before. As with any other important issue, such discussion needs comprehensive attitudes, proper contemplation of proposals, and dispassionate viewpoints. It is not easy to eliminate the special kind of sentiment, surviving in our minds and distorting the image of the "traditional country". The words *tradition* and *traditional* country can be explained and described but are we able to understand them in the necessary contexts of today?