

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION

Reindeer Meat Production Brings in Big Profits - Nenets Autonomous Okrug

On the "Kharp" ("Severnoe Siyanie") collective farm, reindeer husbandry is the main activity. Eleven work-brigades tend thirty thousand reindeer on the tundra. Winter is the time when meat is produced. This year the collective farm is planning to sell the State five hundred and forty tonnes of reindeer meat. Every year the farm makes a profit of more than six hundred thousand roubles from the sale of reindeer meat.

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Oceans and Reindeer

The people living in the far north-east of the country never get used to the changes in the weather, when minus forty degrees Celsius alternates with thaws and rains. The region is affected by two oceans - the frozen Arctic Ocean and the warmer Pacific - which compete with variable success.

The workers employed in the Okrug's main agricultural industry, reindeer husbandry, look on this clash of weathers with concern. Sharp drops in the temperature have sometimes led to the loss of animals during periods when the ground becomes covered with ice. It is precisely that danger which has now arisen. An ice crust has covered the grazing grounds of three regions, Iul'tin, Provideniye and Chukotka. In the face of these threatened ice conditions, the Okrug agricultural association gave the State Farms permissions to move their herds around freely, without any boundary restrictions.