

**OUR**

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**BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK OF THE WIELKOPOLSKA REGION**

The Warta River, near Koło, by: Paweł Pluciński



WIELKOPOLSKA  
REGION



„European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas”.

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**Krzysztof Grabowski**  
*Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region*

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are fast approaching the completion of the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020. We are facing the last calls for proposals conducted by local action groups under the LEADER action. In July and September 2023, I had the pleasure of signing agreements to support interesting projects with representatives of local governments in the Konin district, we are writing about in the current issue of the "Our European Countryside" bulletin. We are also presenting good practices in the implementation of the Program - projects of two beneficiaries from southern Wielkopolska.

The local government of the Wielkopolska Region is supporting beekeeping in the region. An outdoor event on the occasion of the Great Bee Day has become a tradition in

recent years, and this year it was organized on August 13 in the City Park near St. Joseph's Basilica in Kalisz. On the last Sunday of August, we celebrated the Provincial-Diocesan Harvest Festival of Wielkopolska in Pleszew, during which we expressed gratitude for the hard work of farmers. In 2023, the last of the seven calls for partners of the National Rural Network was resolved. I am encouraging you to read the article summarizing the current activities of the NRN partners. I am also recommending the recipe for a traditional product from the Wielkopolska Region - White borscht with rabbit meat, Tokary style

I wish you pleasant reading!

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## RDP IMPLEMENTATION

# RDP supports investments in Eastern Wielkopolska

In the third quarter of 2023, the ceremonial signing of contracts under the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 with beneficiaries from the Konin district took place. The co-financed tasks are part of the implementation of the community-led local development strategy.



Source: Powiat Starost Office in Konin

The Kleczew commune obtained funding from the Rural Development Program in the amount of PLN 195,000 for the development of recreational areas at 600-lecia Street in Kleczew

The Kazimierz Biskupi commune obtained PLN 186,117 for the reconstruction of the existing tourist and recreational infrastructure. The funds will help improve the quality and aesthetics of the square in Kazimierz Biskupi. In Żychlin, in the Stare Miasto commune, recreation areas will be rebuilt. The Municipality received PLN 102,438 for the purpose. PLN 185,295 went to the Skulsk commune, they will construct a bridge on the Skulsk Lake. The commune of Rychwał focuses on improving cultural and sports infrastructure, because thanks to the funding of PLN 50,636 it will modernize the Cultural Centre in Kuchary Borowe, while the funding granted in the amount of PLN 131,899 will be used to modernize the stands at the municipal stadium in Rychwał. A modern multi-purpose sports field will be built in Rzgów, both younger and adult residents of the commune will be able to pursue

their passions there. Funds in the amount of PLN 102,218 were allocated for the purpose. The Ślesin commune successfully applied for aid in the amount of PLN 186,110 for a project involving the development of the beach in Ślesin by installing modern tourist and recreational infrastructure. The Kleczew commune will implement an investment involving the development of recreational areas at 600-lecia Street in Kleczew. The aim of this project is to create a green area with a grass surface, including irrigation of the area, reconstruction of a pedestrian and driving route along with small architecture. The amount of aid granted is PLN 195,000. The Golina Commune is also a beneficiary of the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020, they will get funding in the amount of PLN 42,632 for the construction of a playground in Golina at Kolejowa street.

## RDP IMPLEMENTATION

Source: Powiat Starost Office in Konin



The Skulsk commune received funding from the Rural Development Program in the amount of PLN 185,295 for the construction of a bridge on the Skulsk Lake.

All the investments were co-financed as part of the implementation of the community-led local development strategy. Let us remind you that in the Konin district there are three

local action groups: the "Solidarity in Partnership" Association, "Among People and Lakes" and the "Eastern Wielkopolska" Association.

Photo: Commune and Town Office in Rychwał.



The Rychwał commune will use funding in the amount of PLN 131,899 for the modernization of the stands at the municipal stadium in Rychwał, while the Golina commune, they received aid in the amount of PLN 46,632, they will construct a playground in Golina at Kolejowa street.

## GOOD PRACTICE

# Running on the red carpet

The largest sports facility in the town and commune of Mikstat is gradually changing its appearance. Thanks to the money obtained by the local government from the EU and national funds, the stadium at Brzozowa in Mikstat is being thoroughly modernized and enriched with additional technical equipment.



Photo: Commune and Town Office in Mikstat.

The new four-lane tartan track allows the organization of sports competitions and classes as part of PE lessons.

In recent years, thanks to funding from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020, new stands and covered "reserve" benches were installed. As part of another task, the

football pitch there was reconstructed (with automatic irrigation), ping-pong and checkers tables and a rope tower for children were installed.



Photo: Commune and Town Office in Mikstat.

The town and commune of Mikstat are consistently expanding the sports facilities used by residents.

At the end of 2022, another subsidy from the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 was used to construct a modern tartan running track with four 120 m long tracks. The value of the task entitled "Running on the red carpet - expansion of recreational infrastructure at the municipal stadium in Mikstat" amounted to PLN 300,888.29, with co-financing from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development amounting to PLN 55,825.50. The project was selected for implementation by the Ostrzeszów Local Action Group.

The long jump and the shot put field there were other new elements of the stadium infrastructure that were installed in 2022.

The facility hosts physical education lessons for students of the Primary School in Mikstat and sports competitions in which school teams from Biskupice Zabaryczne, Kaliszko-wice Kaliskie, Kaliszko-wice Ołobockie and Mikstat compete.

## Children in Góra enjoy the new playground

Thanks to funding from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020, an ecological playground was created in the town of Góra in the Jaraczewo commune in the Jarocin district. The investment was selected for co-financing by the Local Action Group of the Green Wielkopolska Leader Association.



Photo: Commune Office in Jaraczewo.

The playground in Góra is a facility regularly used by children.

Modern recreational infrastructure is being built in many rural parts of our region. Playgrounds and outdoor gyms are facilities that facilitate active recreation outdoors. The Jaraczewo commune invested the EU funds under the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 in the construction of a pro-ecological playground in Góra. The value of the funding granted was PLN 75,570. Thanks to the funds, it was possible to install six playground equipment items, a bench, waste segregation bins, a regulated board and an information and educational board, intended to shape pro-ecological attitudes among the youngest residents of Góra. The boards teach how to save water, energy and segregate garbage. The entire

playground is covered with a safe sand surface and also has a new panel fence with sliding gates and a gate. Children can use a six-element fitness set - a training ground, educational panels and manipulators, a "stork's nest" swing, a carousel and two play sets, one for older children - equipped with a large slide, a ladder, ropes and a climbing wall, and another for younger children, ensuring appropriate safety. The area where the playground is located also houses recreational shelters and an outdoor gym, thanks to which a recreational offer has been created for all residents of the small town.

## EVENTS

# The regional government takes care of bees

On August 13, the Wielkopolska Bee Day took place in Kalisz. This is an initiative that is gaining its reputation and has permanently entered the calendar of events organized by the Wielkopolska Regional Government.



Photo: Tomasz Potemkowski.

The government of the Wielkopolska Region organized many attractions, also for the youngest participants of the festival.

Every year on August 8, the Great Bee Day is celebrated in Poland, the idea of which is to educate society about the particularly important role of the insects for humans and the ecosystem. They are responsible for pollinating flowers, enabling the formation of fruits and seeds. Without them, it would be difficult to find food for most animal species. On this occasion, the Government of the Wielkopolska Region organized the Wielkopolska Bee Day for the third time, this time in the City Park near St. Joseph's Basilica in Kalisz.

Beekeeping is an extremely important branch of agriculture, which, due to the specific nature of its operation, has a significant impact on plant and fruit production. Bees as pollinators are of great economic importance for agriculture and climate. Due to unfavourable climate changes in recent years, long periods without rain and mild winters favouring the early awakening of bees from winter lethargy, it is necessary to support beekeeping in order to maintain the beekeeping rate at an appropriate level, i.e. an indicator determining the number of bee colonies per 1 km<sup>2</sup> and at the same time mitigate negative effects of the rising costs of maintaining apiaries.

In the face of the extremely important problem of the extinction of bees, the Wielkopolska Regional Government has been implementing the "Program for improving the phytosanitary

conditions of bee colonies" since 2018. As part of the program, PLN 2 million is transferred every year to support beekeepers from the Wielkopolska Region for the purchase of bee wax and bee food. In addition to direct support, the Wielkopolska



Photo: Tomasz Potemkowski.

The Wielkopolska Bee Day was an opportunity to present products of regional beekeepers.



Regional Government also subsidizes the purchase of melliferous tree seedlings.

*- I am very glad that we can meet in Kalisz for the third time to celebrate the Great Bee Day. Scientists have calculated that when the last bee dies, humanity will die out only 4 years later. We want to show how important a role bees play in our lives, how to care for them, and at the same time show how many products are related to their work. Therefore, I am cordially inviting you to participate in the celebration and jointly visit the exhibition stands presented by beekeepers from our region - said Krzysztof Grabowski, Vice-Marshall of the Wielkopolska Region, during the opening ceremony.*

This year's edition was exceptionally popular, and the beautiful weather and rich program of events favoured a very large number of visitors taking advantage of the opportunity to spend time together. The event included many attractions, including: a beekeeping fair, honey spinning demonstrations, as well as demonstration hives allowing you to see what the life of a bee family is like. There was also a historical reconstruction and a show prepared by the Association of the "Knights' Brotherhood of the Kalisz Land". There were also numerous surprises and animations for children and teenagers, providing exercise in the fresh air and a lot of professional knowledge about the role and importance of bees.

Visitors could buy honey from true beekeeping enthusiasts and try both savoury and honey-based dishes prepared by the local Farmers' Wives' Association. Beautifully arranged and decorated exhibitors' stands were an additional diversification. Event participants could get acquainted with, for



Photo: Tomasz Potemkowski.

The Wielkopolska Bee Day was very popular among the residents of Kalisz and guests from various parts of the region.

example, the offer of the "LGD7 - Land of Nights and Days" Association. The local government of the Wielkopolska Region organized a competition for the most beautiful stand on the Wielkopolska Bee Day. Musical setting with an impressive repertoire, including holiday hits and well-known songs, was provided by the Municipal Brass Band at the Volunteer Fire Department in Czajków, performing in beautiful formal uniforms. For the third time, the event was co-financed by the European Union as part of the National Rural Network.



Photo: Tomasz Potemkowski

The first place in the competition for the most beautiful stand went to the Farmers' Wives' Association Druga Wieś from the Stawiszyn commune.

## EVENTS

# In gratitude for the harvest

After a three-year break caused by the pandemic, the Government of the Wielkopolska Region returned to the tradition of organizing the provincial harvest festival, it takes place on the last Sunday of August. This year the event came to southern Wielkopolska. The 22nd Diocesan-Provincial Harvest Festival of the Wielkopolska Region in Pleszew enjoyed great interest among inhabitants of the region.



Photo: A. Kapaściński

The agricultural exhibition was opened by Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

Agriculture is a special sector of the economy. It is extremely important because thanks to farmers, there is no shortage of goods provided by nature on our tables. For this reason, after the harvest, almost all communes and poviats organize harvest festivals in gratitude for the hard work of farmers and the crops collected from the fields. This tradition has also been cultivated by the Wielkopolska Regional Government for years. This time, the provincial harvest festival was organized in Pleszew. The Pleszew Poviats are associated with highly developed agriculture, as much as 70% of the poviat's area is agricultural land. The district includes 6 communes: the city and commune of Pleszew and the communes of Chocz, Czermin, Dobrzyca, Gizałki and Gołuchów. Mainly cereals, potatoes, sugar beets and greenhouse tomatoes are grown here. There is also breeding and rearing of pigs and dairy cows. The AGROMARSZ Agricultural and Horticultural Fair is held every year in Marszewo, in the Pleszew commune.

In the Pleszew Poviat, the EU funds are actively used under the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020. Since 2016, funds worth PLN 25.5 million have been received here. 40% of the funds is for road investments. In total, 14 such projects were co-financed, e.g. thanks to the funds, the town of Mamoty in the Czermin commune was connected with three other towns, and it was possible to construct Leśna Street

in Gołuchów. The Pleszew Poviat invested in the reconstruction of the poviat road on the Chocz-Józefów section. The Czermin commune most actively sought funds both for the construction or modernization of local roads, as well as for water and sewage management, obtaining nearly PLN 8.5 million for the purposes. Thanks to the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020, village halls in Roktów and Pacanowice in the Pleszew commune and village halls in the Dobrzyca commune were rebuilt. The village hall in Wronowo in the Gizałki commune was expanded and rebuilt. In Żegocin, in the Czermin commune, the Cultural Centre was equipped. A multi-purpose sports field has also been built in the town, it serves the residents well. In Chocz, 1-go Maja Square was revitalized, and in Ruda Wieczyńska, in the Gizałki commune, a recreation area was created next to the Volunteer Fire Department building. The Roman Catholic John the Baptist Parish also benefited from European funds under the Rural Development Program 2014-2020, in Szymanowice in the Gizałki commune, it allocated money for the renovation of the parish church. PLN 2.6 million went to entrepreneurs to start or expand their business activities. In the Pleszew poviat there is a Local Action Group and the "Together for the Future" Association. It is also worth mentioning the Wielkopolska Rural Renewal program financed from the budget of the Wielkopolska Voivodeship. As part of the "Beautiful Wielkopolska



Photo: S. Mikołajczak.

Harvest festival starosts, Joanna Szymczak and Lucjan Kempieński, presented Marshal Marek Woźniak with bread baked from this year's flour.

Village" grant competition, 55 projects were implemented here for a total amount of PLN 1.66 million.

The hosts of the 22nd Diocesan-Provincial Harvest Festival of Wielkopolska were Marek Woźniak - Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Krzysztof Grabowski - Vice-Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Fr. Damian Bryl - Bishop of Kalisz, Maciej Wasielewski - Starost of Pleszew and Arkadiusz Ptak - Mayor of the City and Commune of Pleszew.

*- Today we are meeting in the Pleszew region to express our thanks to our farmers from Wielkopolska. We all benefit from their work all year round. Our entire community benefits - the local government community of the Wielkopolska Region, this year, it celebrates the 25th anniversary of its establishment in a new, democratic form. Today we are the European Region of Active People - one of the best-developing regions in Poland, it exceeded 75 percent of the average EU GDP per capita, which I am proud to emphasize. This is still the dream of 13 Polish regions and several dozen regions of the European Union. It is hard data that is difficult to argue with. Today it is over 83 percent of the European Union average per capita. This is a success for all of us! And a beautiful gift we gave ourselves for the 25th anniversary of the regional government! - says Marek Woźniak, Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region.*

The harvest festival began with the presentation of an agricultural exhibition, opened by the Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

*- Our farmers from Wielkopolska, despite many difficulties, show that they can manage well. They do it because they love their job. As the Local Government of the Wielkopolska Region, we*

*are proud of our farmers because they can successfully compete with their colleagues not only from Poland, but also from other European Union countries - said Krzysztof Grabowski during the opening of the exhibition.*

Then, a thanksgiving mass was celebrated by Friar Damian Bryl, the Bishop of Kalisz, emphasizing that not only human work and commitment are important in agricultural work, but also God's blessing. There was also a traditional harvest festival ritual, presented by the Song and Dance Ensemble "Łany" of the University of Life Sciences in Poznan, and the sharing of bread baked from this year's flour, which the Harvest Festival Starosts, Joanna Szymczak and Lucjan Kempieński, presented to the Marshal.

The harvest festival starost lives in Sulęcín and has been running a 45-hectare farm with her husband, Mirosław, for 15 years. Mrs. Joanna is a winner in the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year competition. The starost of the harvest festival comes from Taczanów Pierwszy, where he and his wife Anna have been developing their family farm for 37 years, it currently covers 56 hectares. He was honoured with the "Merit for Agriculture" badge.

The tradition of the provincial harvest festival is the marshal's competition for the most beautiful harvest wreath and exhibition stand. The first location in the harvest wreath competition was taken by the Konin Powiat, the second by the Stawiszyn Deanery, and the third by the Grodzisk Powiat. Prizes for the most interesting stands went to the Commune Women's Council of the Gołuchów Commune, the Brzezie Farmers' Wives' Association and the Wronów Farmers' Wives' Association, respectively.

## It's time to sum up...

Implementation of the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 is coming to an end. In 2023, the last, seventh edition of the competition for partners of the National Rural Network took place. The network is evolving and the guidelines of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development regarding the implementation of operations under the two-year NRN Operational Plans are changing. This is a good moment to summarize what the NRN partners have managed to achieve since 2017. We are also indicating what initiatives were undertaken during the last competition.

Competition No	Number of applications submitted	Number of co-financed measures	Value of funds allocated
1/2017	39	16	PLN 306 704,20
2/2018	22	22	PLN 496 330,86
3/2019	48	29	PLN 605 566,49
4/2020	47	24	PLN 525 351,9
5/2021	55	37	PLN 1 115 734,95
6/2022	49	32	PLN 946 302,35
7/2023	42	16*	PLN 498 418,28*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>PLN 4 494 409,04</b>

(\* ) measures under competition no. 7/2023 are in progress.

Over the years, as part of the implementation of the two-year operational plans of the NRN, 176 projects have been co-financed for a total amount of nearly PLN 4.5 million. More than 130,000 inhabitants of villages and rural areas benefited from the projects. Events, often under the patronage of the Marshal Office, are remembered by many people and have become a permanent part of the schedule of events in many cities and villages.

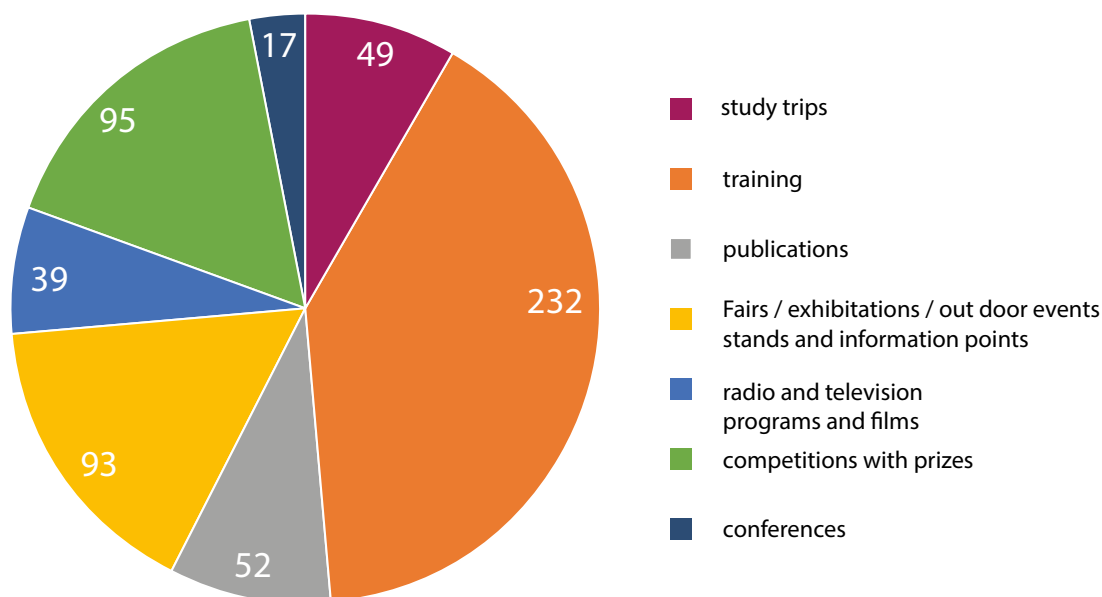
- Looking back, we can proudly say that we have very active partners of the National Rural Network in the Wielkopolska Region. This is evidenced by the number of applications submitted (over 300) over the past 7 years. This is a great potential that the Wielkopolska Region Government intends to use also in the future. The formula is changing and no longer provides for further competitions announced by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. However, the NRN partners will take an active part in projects initiated by the Regional Government - assures Deputy Marshal, Krzysztof Grabowski.

Taking into account all the measures carried out by the NRN partners, training was the most popular. As many as 232 of them were organized. A frequently undertaken initiative concerned competitions with prizes, in which residents of the Wielkopolska Region eagerly participated. The National Rural Network also supported fairs, exhibitions, outdoor events as well as stands and information points organized during the events. Thanks to the NRN, 52 publications on life and busi-

ness in the countryside were created, 49 study trips took place and 17 conferences were held. The NRN partners financed 39 radio and television programs and films.

Operations submitted to competition No. 7/2023 will be implemented until October 31, 2023. However, many tasks were completed earlier. At the beginning of March, a conference "Entrepreneurship at the Gates of Wielkopolska" was held in Baranów in the Kępno powiat, devoted to the support that can be received by local enterprises producing furniture, their business profile dominates in the Kępno powiat, called the "furniture basin" of Wielkopolska and the country. The offer and opportunities offered by the "Meble Polska" fair, organized by the Poznan International Fair, were also presented. In March, on the occasion of the Village Head's Day, a meeting of Wielkopolska village headmen was also held in Stawiszyn, during which the results of the provincial edition of the "Community Fund - the best initiative" competition were announced.

In June, we celebrated the National Field Days, this year they took place in Sielinek, Wielkopolska, Opalenica commune, Nowy Tomyśl powiat. During the event, its organizer - the Wielkopolska Agricultural Advisory Centre in Poznan carried out an operation co-financed by the NRN, consisting in organizing exhibition stands of Farmers' Wives' Associations promoting regional and traditional food products. Representatives of local groups presented their culinary skills and traditional recipes of Wielkopolska cuisine. The exhibition was



**List of forms of operations carried out by the NRN partners in 2017-2023**

an excellent opportunity to meet involved rural residents, exchange experiences and understand the importance of rural areas for our culture and economy.

At the first weekend of summer, the Asparagus Festival was organized in Mochy in the Przemęt commune, it was more widely written about in the previous issue of the bulletin. In August, the Lisków Commune carried out a study trip entitled: "We learn about the culture and tradition of the Beskid Land. During the trip, important topics regarding local development and the development of branches of the local economy

were discussed. Participants also learned about the activities of Farmers' Wives' Associations and Groups operating in the Vistula area and exchanged valuable experiences regarding possibilities of obtaining funds for further development. The target group consisted of representatives of Farmers' Wives' Associations, Groups, members of the Volunteer Fire Department, farmers, representatives of folk groups, entrepreneurs and local government officials from the Lisków commune. In total, in 2023, the NRN partners obtained the EU funds for the implementation of 16 projects.



Source: Commune and Town Office in Grabów nad Prosną

"Save from oblivion - Grabowska Senioriada" is a project implemented as part of the 6/2022 competition for the NRN partners by the Town and Commune of Grabów nad Prosną.

## CULINARY ZONE

# White borscht with rabbit meat, Tokary style

White borscht with rabbit meat, Tokary style, is a traditional soup prepared near Turek. The author of the regulation is the Association for the Development of the Farmers' Wives' Association and Village Council in Tokary Village in the Kawęczyn commune. White borscht cooked with rabbit bones with the addition of vegetables is still a popular and beloved soup, served all year round, regardless of the season. The dish is most often served with mashed potatoes or pasta, with butter or cream. In 2019, it was included on the list of traditional products of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the category of dishes in the Wielkopolska Region.



Source: <https://uwielbiam.pl/przepisy/bialy-barszcz-z-krolika>

### INGREDIENTS:

- rabbit meat from our own farm
- vegetables: carrot, parsley, leek, celery
- spices: salt, pepper, marjoram, lovage
- wine or apple vinegar
- cream 12%
- wheat flour

### HOW TO PREPARE:

Boil water and add the previously washed and cleaned rabbit and vegetables. Then add salt, pepper and lovage at your discretion. Cook for about 2 hours. Remove the cooked meat and vegetables and add the vinegar. Prepare dough of flour and sweet cream, add a small amount of rabbit and vegetable broth to it. Take out any unnecessary flour lumps. Then, stirring constantly, add the prepared "dough" to the broth and boil. Finally, add a significant amount of marjoram. It tastes best with mashed potatoes with butter or cream, or with homemade pasta.

PHOTO CORNER



"Review of Farmers' Wives' Association Folk Ensembles in Nowa Wieś/Farmers' Wives' Association from Kobierno showing how to tear featers",  
author: Paweł Władysław Płócienniczak, photo taken in Nowa Wieś in the municipality of Rozdrażew (Krotoszyn powiat)



author: Adam Andrzejewski, photo taken in Wola Koszucka Parcele in the Słupca commune (Słupca powiat).



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