

# Black gold in earth's depths

New hydrocarbon deposit recently discovered by geologists in Oktyabrsky District of Gomel Region

By Olga Polezhaeva

A new hydrocarbon deposit has been discovered during testing of Yuzhno-Vis-hanskaya #34 exploratory well, at a depth of 3,252-3,272 metres (in the lower horizontal subsalt layers). Daily oil influx is estimated at 5 cubic metres, with geologists continuing to drill the well. "At the moment, we are studying its second interval, which is laid lower; its mastering is planned for the near future," explains the Deputy General Director and chief oil and gas geologist at Belgeologiya, Yaroslav Gribik.

Simultaneously, two other mines are being studied: Shatilkovskaya #15 (Svetlogorsk District) and Novokazanskaya #47 (Kalinkovichi District, Gomel Region) — where oil has been earlier observed. "We're close to completing our study of Shatilkovskaya #15, conducting this job jointly with Belorusneft," Mr. Gribik

tells us. "Mines at Novokazanskaya #47 are soon to be mastered."

This year, Belgeologiya is to increase its commercial oil extraction to 400,000 tonnes; geologists are already exploring new territories to help achieve this target. "We have some problems regarding the sustainability of oil influxes, as the discovered deposits are small. With this in mind, in H2 2011, we plan to speed up our drilling of new wells. Among them is Prokhorovskaya #13, which is located at Prokhorovskoye oil deposit," Mr. Gribik notes. Geologists are also expanding their research in the west of the country. This September, they plan to drill Novoberezinskaya well in the Zhlobin District. Another similar project is to be implemented in the Svetlogorsk District, focusing on the development of Morozovskaya site.

New geophysical methods of research are to be applied

in looking for oil, including exploring at increased depths. A well has already been drilled in the Mogilev Region's Glusk District — with a planned depth of 5,100 metres. "At present, its depth is just 1,700 metres but, by the beginning of the fourth quarter, we'll unearth the subsalt carbonate layers, at a depth of 3,900-4,300 metres, assessing their suitability," the specialist notes. "Its drilling will continue in 2012 but further work will require stronger drilling equipment."

The search for mineral deposits is envisaged by the State Programme for Geological Prospecting, developing Belarus' mineral resource base. This runs until 2020 and aims to raise the country's fuel and energy capacity, while finding and developing new deposits of construction materials and other non-metallic sources. Regional geological exploration of possible Belarusian deposits is planned.



Oil extraction underway in Rechitsa District of Gomel Region

## Young characters tested in the fields

Getting up with the dawn becomes habit for young men joining harvesting campaign

By Yelena Semenova

It's not the first season that Grodno State Agrarian University has formed agricultural teams of volunteers — and there is no deficit of willing participants. This year, four dozen university students united into two groups, going to Putrishki and Progress-Vertelishki farms in the Grodno District.

Putrishki Deputy Head Tadeush Strankovsky notes that today's young people seem to either love farm work or hate it. The latter are relied upon majorly during the harvesting campaign.

Future agronomists Victor Pigul, Dmitry Basyuk and Andrey Bolond, who have been working at grain drying, are recommended by Mr. Strankovsky as competent workers.

"I grew up in a village and have taken part in harvesting since school. This guided my choice of going to agricultural university and my application for the agro-team," says Andrey Bolond. He doesn't hide his interest in the addition-



Alexey Korotky and Pavel Konoplyanik help gather vegetables

al money he can earn. "I've recently become a father. I'm not afraid of working in the village. Moreover, young specialists are offered housing here. It's exactly what my family needs now," he reasons soundly.

His classmate, Dmitry Basyuk, grew up in a town; however, the prospect of living and working in a village doesn't frighten him. Since there is still some

time until graduation, the young men are ready to spend their holidays working in a village.

"Young people's help during the harvesting campaign is, of course, useful. A student's attitude towards work shows what kind of future specialist they'll be in our farming industry. I wish there were more hard working young people," notes Mr. Strankovsky.

## Much popular bilberries

By Victor Terekhov

Belarusian berry to be used for drug making in China

Belarusian forests have always been known for their rich bilberry fields. This year, favourable weather and good prices (offered by purchasers for berry collection) have contributed to a rich harvest. As a result, in July, the country exported 1,200

tonnes of bilberries — double that of last July.

More supplies are expected, with at least 3,000 tonnes to be sold abroad by late 2011. From now on, Belarusian berries can be sold to European markets without going through the Baltic States, enjoyed by citizens from the UK, Austria, Finland, Poland and, even, China. Apart from bilberries, these and other countries

are also interested in other kinds of frozen berries.

China plays a special role on the Belarusian bilberry market, planning to produce drugs from the berry; in the near future, 1,000 tonnes are to be supplied to a pharmaceutical company producing an eyesight improving extract. Two years ago, the firm bought our bilberries and has been pleased with the quality.

## Businessmen to be encouraged to solve ecological problems

By Olga Kunitskaya

Belarus' Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Ministry initiates establishment of Business and Ecology Club

The Ministry believes that environmental activity is yet to become an element of the business process, alongside the enhancement of product quality, sales growth and logistics networks. Most companies still view money injected into ecological matters as an expense with no

real return which can result in raised prices, reduced direct and indirect costs, improved image and accession to new markets.

Processing and sorting communal and industrial waste, disposing of it safely, or recycling materials in an environmentally friendly manner is usually low on the agenda. Domestic businesses are demonstrating no interest in mastering recycling, although it is a vital aspect of the country's sustainable socio-economic development.

The Natural Resources

and Environmental Protection Ministry notes: 'New public technologies are needed to ensure the country's ecological development. These can balance the interests of entrepreneurs and ecologists as part of the further promotion of partnership between businesses and society — including via the establishment of a wide network of connecting links (such as associations, technoparks and business clubs) with the aim of realising a 'state-business-science' cluster principle in solving ecology related problems.'