

Gasoline conveniently to hand all over the country

Country's first mobile gasoline station launched in Senno District of Vitebsk Region, responding to increasing demand



Belarus' first mobile gasoline station is in big demand with car owners

The gasoline station was constructed by Belarusneft-Vitebskoblnefteprodukt and came into operation this June, in the settlement of Bogushevsk, in the Senno District. Each of the mobile gasoline station's tanks hold 5 cubic metres of fuel and can be operated by one person, supplying three kinds of fuel. Cash and non-cash

payments are possible, with the station independent of external sources of electricity.

"The mobile gasoline station in operation in our district is gaining in popularity, especially with enterprises and organisations located several dozen kilometres from a stationary fuelling station," notes Zoya

Fomina, the Deputy Chair of the Senno District Executive Committee. She notes that the station operates within a 10-20km radius of the settlement of Bogushevsk. It attracts agricultural enterprises and other organisations, as well as individuals refuelling their cars, tractors and other machinery. The closest otherwise is 30-40km away,

in Senno, Orsha. Ms. Fomina tells us, "It's advantageous for everyone, saving time spent travelling to the fuelling station, which produces wear and tear on vehicles, as well as wasting fuel."

Ms. Fomina also notes that Belarusneft-Vitebskoblnefteprodukt's innovation will act as a model to other districts across the

Vitebsk Region; many remote locations still lack fuelling stations. Of course, the operation of mobile units is providing a social service: a great responsibility. He notes that various agro-experts and enterprise managers have been showing interest in the idea, assessing its feasibility for their own districts.

High standard fuel production

By Vyacheslav Krupko

Mozyr oil refinery to launch production of AI-95 EURO-5 standard automobile fuel in 2015

Mozyr and Novopolotsk oil refineries are increasing their production of high-octane gasoline, thanks to modernisation programmes. Mozyr is launching hydrogen isomerisation, and has already begun using mazut vacuum distillation to produce commercial fuel.

These steps aim to increase oil refining depth, while reducing the use of marketable mazut and improving the quality of production. "The successful launch of this facility has once again shown that, within the post-Soviet space, Mozyr oil refinery is one of the most technologically modern," explains the enterprise.

Near-term prospects for the enterprise include the construction of a facility manufacturing high-octane gasoline, launching octane 95: above the EURO-5 quality standard. If demand exists, the plant will start manufacture of gasoline with octane 98 from 2015.

Delicious watermelons are growing even in the north

This juicy southern dainty is no more difficult to grow than our cucumbers, as evinced at a co-operative farm in Olgovskoye, near Vitebsk

By Olga Semenova

The Dvina Region's ripe watermelons and sweet grapes have long been grown by amateur gardeners but are now enjoying 'mass production' over large areas, with unexpectedly good results.

Just a month and a half ago, Victor Korsak — the manager of Olgovskoye's co-operative society — doubted the wisdom of growing watermelons. The future striped giants looked pale beside the hearty cucumbers but the weather in the most northern region was favourable this summer: hot and dry in the day, and no less than 16 degrees at night.

"We planted out our seedlings at the beginning of June and, for a long time, almost no growth was evident," admits Victor. "Then, the plants became stronger and bloomed in the middle of July; their flowers were so delicate and small that it was difficult to imagine them becoming large



Victor Korsak managing vineyard of 'sweet' grapes

fruits. The cucumbers, at that stage, looked much stronger."

In the Vitebsk Region, one of the best-known varieties is 'sugar baby': a small watermelon, dark green in colour, with a thin skin and very sweet pulp, which is bright red. However, Olgovskoye chose the Turkish variety of 'demre'.

"This mid-season variety has a high crop yield and is ideal for open soil," notes Victor. "We grew our seedlings in

a hothouse and, during the initial stage, we used spun-bond. We then looked after them in the same way as cucumbers and marrows. I admit that we were surprised that almost every flower yielded a large fruit: one weighed 9kg!"

One hundred square metres of watermelons can't be called a plantation. However, it's impressive: almost 150 light green striped fruit have grown — most weighing 5-7kg. More than half a tonne

of melons are expected in total.

The Belarusian northern watermelons are yellow skinned and light pink inside, with black stones. Luscious tasting, it really is possible to receive good results at our latitude.

"We were convinced that watermelon farming is no whim; we can cultivate them as we do our existing tomatoes and cucumbers," Mr. Korsak emphasises. "The crop is impressive in quality and quantity, so everyone can create a small miracle on their land. Certain varieties have quite good prospects on an industrial scale if our climate remains warm."

About 20 years ago, attempts to grow peppers in Belarus caused a smile; now, they're a common sight in our kitchen gardens. Quite possibly, we may soon see watermelons behind every fence and may prefer domestic Belarusian watermelons to those imported from abroad.

Quality multiplied by reliability

By Andrey Smirnov

Belshina masters tyres for Golf class vehicles

The new and original asymmetrical tyre tread provides high road holding and speed endurance, being intended for compact class vehicles: the most popular in Europe today, accounting for about one third of all sales. For decades, the Volkswagen Golf has been a trendsetter, inspiring the expression 'Golf class': those able to transport five adults with luggage.

The new tyres were launched in early September, at the Oil, Gas and Petrochemistry Expo, as part of the Tatarstan Oil, Gas and Petrochemicals Forum, hosted by Kazan Fair exhibition centre. Bobruisk's stand also presented its solid metal cord tyres and passenger tyres, which came into mass production in 2013.

Belshina continues to modernise its facilities,

purchasing highly efficient equipment, allowing the production of tyres of the highest quality. Ambitiously, it is making solid metal cord tyres of radial design, with a bore diameter of 57 and 63 inches. It aims to expand its range and output of tyres for 220-360 tonne capacity quarry trucks, made by BelAZ JSC and by some foreign manufacturers. About 254.9 million Euros is being invested in this direction, including 215.1 million Euros spent in stages, on equipment. By 2017, Belshina should be able to produce over 8,000 tyres annually.

