



WWF BALTIC  
ECOREGION  
PROGRAMME

Photo: Egdijus Povilaitis



# WWF BALTIC SEA FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD – CRITERIA AND APPLICATION FORM 2015

WWF, in cooperation with farmer organizations from around the Baltic Sea, is launching its 2015 competition to highlight best practices in “Baltic-friendly” farming and to recognize farmers who are advancing innovative measures to reduce nutrient runoff from their farms.



Photo: Kalle Ekkila / WWF Finland

Farmers can help save the Baltic Sea by reducing nutrient outputs from their farms and taking steps toward sustainable agriculture. The Award, created in 2009, is intended to inspire farmers from the entire Baltic region to take active part in combating eutrophication.

The competition will select a national winner of the Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year Award from each country around the Baltic Sea. The winners of each national competition will all receive a certificate and a nominal monetary award of 1000 Euros. The nine national winners will serve as the nominees from which the international jury will select one main regional winner – to be the 2015 Regional Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year. The Regional winner will receive a certificate and a monetary award of 10,000 Euros. The competition will therefore produce 9 ‘winners’, or national nominees, who will demonstrate a range of best practices that will be showcased for the entire region as well as highlighted in their national media.

A conference will be held at the end of the competition inviting the nine winning farmers, plus public and private sector representatives, to discuss ways in which to advance the application of environmentally friendly farming more widely. All national winners will be celebrated and the regional winner announced.

# AWARD CRITERIA

WWF is working with national contacts in each Baltic Sea country to promote the competition and organize national juries that review the applications and decide on the national winners. An international jury then selects the regional winner, who becomes the Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year 2015. The competition accepts applications from both individual farmers, family farms and farm enterprises. The criteria for the competition follows:

## 1. Applicant(s)

It is important that both male and female farmers be nominated. The nominee does not have to be an individual, but can also be a family farm or farm enterprise.

## 2. Geographical criteria

The farmer(s) must operate within the Baltic Sea catchment area.

## 3. Economical criteria

- a. The competition will be limited to professional farmers – i.e. farmers who derive their income from agricultural production (i.e. animal husbandry and / or plant cultivation).
- b. A wide range of applicants are encouraged to apply – i.e. farms can be small to large scale farms focused on either traditional conventional production or kept organic. Farms with or without animals can apply.

## 4. Environmental criteria

- a. Nominees must have undertaken concrete measures to reduce nutrient emissions from their farm. Nutrient emissions include both nutrient leaching to water and gaseous losses as ammonia emissions from manure.
- b. Nominees cannot have any problems with fulfilling the minimum legislative environmental standards or have any juridical process ongoing concerning environmental protection, animal welfare, labour protection or other relevant legislation.
- c. The measures undertaken to reduce nutrient emissions should be innovative or even “extraordinary” with reference to national context and standard. The effect of these measures on reducing eutrophication should be able to be demonstrated. This means that the farmer:
  - i. may have invented, tested or practiced his/her own successful measures to reduce nutrient emissions and can demonstrate the benefits of this.
  - ii. might be using conventional, well proven measures but applying them in a large scale.
  - iii. may be able to measure the effects – or – be somewhat of a pioneer in his/her area for a new technique which is promising but not yet able to be measured.
  - iv. might not fit in perfectly to any of the criteria above but is a good ambassador for applying effective methods to reducing nutrient emissions from their farm.

## 5. Other beneficial aspects

- a. The base criteria for the award focus on measures taken to reduce eutrophication. Other important issues related to farming, while not a priority, will be given additional consideration and appreciated as added benefits in the contest. These can include the following:
  - i. reduction of the use of pesticides
  - ii. reduction of climate gas emissions or other climate adaption measures
  - iii. measures that facilitate the conservation of biological diversity
  - iv. educational efforts and/or serving as a positive example to inspire other farmers.

# APPLICATION FORM 2015

---

This form may be completed in English or your national language.  
All answers may be expanded in a separate document. The full application should not exceed 5 A4 pages. The application should be submitted to: [balticfarmeraward@wwf.se](mailto:balticfarmeraward@wwf.se) or national partner office contact.  
Applications must be received by no later than 17 April 2015.

**WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION FORM, PLEASE REFER TO THE AWARD CRITERIA FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

## 1. Applicant(s)

---

Please fill in the name, sex, age of applicant(s) and contact details of individual farmer or farm enterprise:

---

---

---

---

## 2. Geographical criteria.

---

a. Please state the location of your farm – the full address including country, region, municipality and town/village.

---

---

---

b. Please state the catchment area your farm is located in.

---

---

c. Please state the type of soils your farm has and generally describe the climatic conditions.

---

---

---

## 3. Economical criteria

---

a. Please briefly describe your farm – including the size and main production (crop/dairy/meat/other) and the type of cultivation (conventional or organic). Please specify types of crops and number of animals, when applicable. (You may expand your answer on a separate page.)

---

---

---

---

### 3. Economical criteria continued

b. Please briefly describe the organizational structure of the farm (i.e. private enterprise, family-based etc.) (you may expand your answer on a separate page).

.....

.....

.....

c. When was the farm established?

.....

### 4. Environmental criteria

a. Please describe in technical terms the measures that have been undertaken that go beyond the minimum legislative environmental standards to reduce nutrient emissions (for eg leaching to water/gaseous losses) from the farm. (you may expand your answer on a separate page).

.....

.....

.....

b. Please describe and provide measurable evidence of the effects of these measures to reduce nutrient emissions (demonstrated, indicated, measured or monitored effects) (you may expand your answer on a separate page).

.....

.....

.....

c. If possible, please provide references to third parties opinion of these measures (you may expand your answer on a separate page).

.....

.....

.....

### 5. Other beneficial aspects

a. If there are any other beneficial aspects of your farm that you would like to describe, please do so here (you may expand your answer on a separate page). These will be given additional consideration and can include the following:

- reduction of the use of pesticides
- and/or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or other climate adaptation
- measures that facilitate the conservation of biological diversity
- educational efforts and a positive example to inspire other farmers

.....

.....

.....

b. If you have additional information on your farm that you would like to share with the jury, please do so here (you may expand your answer on a separate page).

.....

.....

c. If you have a website or photos of your farm or any documentation you would like to share with the jury, please attach this to this application form.

.....

