WWF BALTIC ECOREGION PROGRAMME

WWF BALTIC SEA FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2019

WWF, in cooperation with partners around the Baltic Sea, is launching its 2019 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.

The competition will select a national winner of the Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year Award from 11 countries in the Baltic Sea catchment area. The winners of each national competition will all receive a certificate and a nominal monetary award of 1,000 Euros.

The eleven national winners will serve as the nominees from which the international jury will select one main regional winner – to be the 2019 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 11 'winners' 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 eleven winning farmers, plus public and private sector representatives, to discuss ways in which to advance the application of environmentally friendly farming more widely and to announce the regional winner.

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.

For more information and nomination form, please visit panda.org/baltic_farmer

CRITERIA

NOMINEE

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

GEOGRAPHICAL CRITERIA

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

ECONOMIC 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

a. Nominee(s) 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. Nominee(s) cannot have any problems with fulfilling the minimum legislative environmental standards or have any judicial 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 nominee(s) should be able to be demonstrate the effect of these measures on reducing eutrophication. 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.

OTHER BENEFICIAL ASPECTS

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.

Examples of agri-environmental measures to reduce nutrient leaching

SOIL MANAGEMENT

Plant cover in winter

Minimal cultivation systems

Cultivate land for crop establishment in spring rather than autumn

Catch crops

Ploughing of ley on sandy soils in autumn

Controlled sub-surface drainage

FERTILISER AND MANURE MANAGEMENT

Fertilization plans and nutrient balances

Conversion from conventional to organic production

Reduced fertilization

Application techniques of manure

Integration of fertilizer and manure nutrient supply

Liming

Avoiding the application of fertilisers and manure to high-risk areas

Avoiding the spreading of fertilisers and manure during high-risk periods

Increasing the capacity of manure storage

Transporting manure to neighboring farms

Slurry separation

Composting solid manure

Biogas production from manure and other agri-waste biomass

Pelletisation

Incineration

ANIMAL FEEDING

Adopting phase feeding of livestock

Reducing dietary nitrogen and phosphorus intakes

Animal feed supplementation (phytase and amino acids)

Wet feed and fermentation

FARM INFRASTRUCTURE

Establishment of wetlands

Buffer zones

Converting arable land to extensive grassland