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.

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 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 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.

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

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