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PRESS RELEASE

WWF awards Danish farmers for outstanding efforts to reduce nutrient runoff to the Baltic Sea

Danish farmers Kristian and Maria Lundgaard-Karlshøj will today be presented with the WWF Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year Award at a ceremony in Warsaw, Poland. The international jury is impressed by the diverse range of measures employed at the large-scale farm to reduce nutrient runoff, as well as by the farmers' dedication to pursuing new strategies for sustainable and future-proof agriculture. The award was created by WWF in 2009 to recognize farmers who are taking exemplary steps to reduce nutrient runoff to the Baltic Sea.

The Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year Award competition selects national winners and one regional winner from eleven countries within the Baltic Sea catchment. This year, Kristian and Maria Lundgaard-Karlshøj and their farm in northwest Denmark were recognized as the most outstanding example. As the regional winner, they are receiving a grand prize of 10,000 Euros in recognition of their accomplishments.

"It is great to receive recognition for doing something that you believe in. Winning will definitely help us to do more of what we are doing and reach our goals," says Kristian Lundgaard-Karlshøj.

One of the key measures Kristian and Maria practice to prevent nutrient runoff is conducting farming activities at the right time and with good machine capacity. Additionally, all manure and plant waste are treated in an on-site biogas plant before field application to ensure a higher uptake of nutrients, while producing fossil-free fuel. Next year, the farmers are constructing a one-hectare wetland which is expected to reduce runoff to the local fjord by 744 kilograms of nitrogen per year.

Dedicated to continuous development, the farmers recently transitioned to organic crop production and have now begun the process of switching to raising organic pigs and free-range chickens. The farmers also take part in a pioneering research study, with The Danish Technological Institute, on the production of mealworms as a source of protein for human and animal consumption.

"Kristian and Maria want their farm to be sustainable and future-proof, and for this reason they work in all fields of environment, including climate, energy, nutrient management, self-sufficiency, and animal welfare," reads the International Jury statement.



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“This year’s regional winners show that large-scale farming can also be sustainable through diversification, modernization, and technology. We think they will be an exemplary farm for others in the agriculture sector to learn from to move sustainable agriculture forward in the region,” says Ottilia Thoreson, Director, WWF Baltic Programme.

An award for farmers who make a difference

The WWF Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year Award was launched in 2009 to highlight best practices and recognize farmers who are leading the way to reduce nutrient runoff on their farms. Applications are received from farmers across the countries within the Baltic Sea catchment who are practicing both organic and conventional farming, as well as many different types of agriculture. The national winners, chosen by juries in each country, receive a prize of 1,000 Euros. From these national winners, an international jury selects a regional winner who receives a grand prize of 10,000 Euros.

So far, around 70 farmers around the Baltic Sea have been awarded for their efforts and use of innovative measures. The countries participating in the award are Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and Sweden. Belarus and Ukraine are also among the countries participating in the award, as they too are part of the Baltic Sea catchment and have an important role to play to reduce nutrient runoff.

This year’s award ceremony will take place the 25 September at an agriculture and environment conference in Warsaw, Poland. In addition to recognizing this year’s winning farms from around the Baltic region, the conference will bring together key representatives from the agricultural and environmental field. A range of relevant topics will be discussed, ranging from sustainable agricultural practices to the reformation of the Common Agricultural Policy. The conference will also present a unique opportunity for attending farmers to exchange ideas, concrete solutions, and collaborative approaches for reducing nutrient runoff.

Resources

[Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year criteria](#)

[Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year website](#)

[Green Agriculture for a Sustainable Sea 2019 conference](#)

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