



Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year Award Criteria and Application Form

WWF, together with Swedbank, and in cooperation with the Baltic Farmers Forum for the Environment (BFFE), and farmer organizations from around the Baltic Sea, is launching its 2010 annual competition to highlight best practices in "Baltic-friendly" farming and to recognize farmers who are advancing innovative measures to reduce runoff from their farms. The award contest is intended to convey a positive message, and inspire other farmers to move towards a more Baltic-friendly farming by providing excellent examples of best practice that others can learn from. It is also intended to promote cooperation around the region in order to further the application, and promotion, of good environmental practice in the agricultural sector.

The competition will select one main regional winner from a pool of nine national nominees, representing each Baltic Sea country. Nominees will be selected by each country around the Baltic who will then become their national winner 'National Farmer of the Year' – in order to be nominated for the monetary regional prize of 10 000 Euros.. There will therefore be 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 as their country's winning farmer. A conference will be held at the end of the competition inviting the nine winning farmers, plus public and private sector representatives with a focus on agriculture from around the region, to discuss ways in which to advance the application of environmentally friendly farming more widely. There, all national winners will be celebrated, and the regional winner announced. The winners of each national competition will all receive a certificate, a paid trip to the conference, and a nominal monetary prize of 1,000 Euros.

WWF will produce a website and conference publication highlighting the best practices provided by these farmers as well as the importance of sustainable agriculture to reduce the threat of eutrophication to the Baltic Sea.

WWF is now working with national contacts in each Baltic Sea country to promote this competition and organize national juries. An international jury is also being formed who will then select the top winner. National juries will review the applications for the national competitions and decide on the national winner whereas the international jury will decide on the top winner. WWF is accepting applications for the competition from individuals farmers, farmers organizations and other interested parties. The criteria for the competition follows:

Award Criteria

1. Geographical criteria

- a. The farmers(s) must operate within the Baltic Sea catchment area.

2. 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. Applicant farms may be kept organic or focused on conventional production. Farms with or without animals can apply.

3. 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”. 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.

4. Other

- a. The base criteria for the award focus on measures taken to reduce eutrophication. Other important issues related to farming such as reduction of the use of pesticides, measures that facilitate the conservation of biological diversity or reduce climate gas emissions while not a priority, will certainly be considered and appreciated as added benefits.
- b. It is important that both male and female farmers be nominated. The nominee does not have to be an individual; the nominee can also be a family/farm enterprise where several persons are involved in farming.
- c. The nominee should be prepared to demonstrate their farm and farming practices to serve as a model to be adopted in other parts of the region.

Application Form

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.

Application should be submitted to: balticfarmeraward@wwf.se

Applications must be received by 30 September 2010.

1. Applicant. Please fill in the name, sex, age of applicant(s) and contact details:

2. Geographical criteria.

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

- 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, the type of cultivation (conventional or organic) and if the farm includes animals or not (you may expand your answer on a separate page).

- b. Please briefly describe the organizational structure of the farm (i.e. company, 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 from the farm. This can include reduction levels of nutrient leaching to water and/or gaseous losses as ammonia emissions from manure (you may expand your answer on a separate page).

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

- 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).

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

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

5. Other

- a. If there are any other beneficial aspects of your farm that you would like to describe such as the reduction of the use of pesticides, measures that facilitate the conservation of biological diversity or reduce climate gas emissions, please do so here (you may expand your answer on a separate page).

- 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.