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 1,000 Euros.

The nine national winners will serve as the nominees from which the international jury will select one main regional winner – to be the 2018 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.

WWF, in cooperation with farmer organizations from around the Baltic Sea, is launching its 2018 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.

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.
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 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 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 application details for the competition, please visit www.panda.org/baltic_farmer
WWF is working with national contacts in each Baltic Sea country to promote the competition and organize national juries that review the nominations and decide on the national winners. An international jury then selects the regional winner, who becomes the Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year 2018. The competition accepts nominations from both individual farmers, family farms and farm entreprises.

**NOMINATION FORM**

**NOMINEE(S)**

- Name(s)
- Sex
- Age
- Name of the farm
- When was the farm established
- Contact details
- Possible website/social media page

**GEOGRAPHICAL CRITERIA**

- Location of farm (full address, incl. country, region, municipality and town/village)
- Catchment the farm is located in
- Type of soils the farm has
- General climatic conditions

*For more information and application details for the competition, please visit www.panda.org/baltic_farmer*
ECONOMIC CRITERIA

• Organisational structure of farm (e.g. company, family enterprise)

• Number of people working on the farm

• Main production type

• Size of farm in ha

• Crop type(s)

• Number of animals (if applicable)

ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

• Is the farm part of the national agri-environment scheme?

• What measures have been undertaken on the farm to reduce nutrient emissions (N, P and ammonium) under the national agri-environment scheme or through projects?

• Are there measures undertaken on the farm outside the national agri-environment scheme or projects?

• Have the farmer(s) put research into practice, or pioneered innovative measures to reduce nutrient loading in their country?

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• Please describe and provide measurable evidence of the effects of these additional measures to reduce nutrient emissions (demonstrated, indicated, measured or monitored).

• Are there any other beneficial measures undertaken on the farm, relating for example to reducing the use of pesticides, reduction of climate gas emissions, biodiversity or environmental education?

• Is there cooperation with other farms regarding any of the measures undertaken?

• Please summarise the overall vision on nutrient use on the farm.

OTHER BENEFICIAL ASPECTS

• Is there anything you would like to add to your nomination?