

# LITHUANIA

## Gintaras Bingelis



### ILZENBERG MANOR FARM COMBINES NATURE-FRIENDLY METHODS WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND A PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE.

The story of Ilzenberg Manor Farm begins over 500 years ago. Initially established by Germans, during the Soviet Union years it was expropriated and managed using intensive farming methods. In 2014, yet another chapter began when Gintaras Bingelis took over and reintroduced natural farming traditions. The farm became internationally certified as organic and biodynamic in 2017, and today produces over 100 different products.

“Only nature-friendly farming methods are sustainable and beneficial – not only to those who reap the harvest but also when it comes to maintaining a harmonic human-nature relationship,” says Gintaras.

Transitioning to organic and biodynamic methods has required a lot of learning and manual work. It was during this process that Gintaras ran into challenges related to nutrient runoff.

“We were still finding excessive amounts of nitrates in the fields due to previous intensive agriculture practices,” he recalls.

Excess nutrients were also showing up in the surrounding water bodies, especially during summer months.

“The desire to farm organically motivated us to look for solutions to the eutrophication problem,” Gintaras says.

Several measures have since been implemented on the farm. In addition to using organic agriculture methods free from chemicals, crop rotation is practiced to help maintain humus, increase nitrogen reserves, and decrease erosion risks.

Better manure management has also been a big part of the solution. Liquid manure reservoirs are covered and treated with biodynamic fermentation mixtures to help it decompose faster and to reduce ammonia nitrogen evaporation. The manure, along with any other fertilizers, is then applied to the soil at low rates, no later than within five hours. Protective boundaries have also been established along all water bodies.



Photos: Ilzenberg Dvaras

**“THE DESIRE TO FARM ORGANICALLY MOTIVATED US TO LOOK FOR SOLUTIONS TO THE EUTROPHICATION PROBLEM.”**

“The desire to farm organically motivated us to look for solutions to the eutrophication problem.”

Additionally, a GIS field and crop management system is used to monitor soil and field conditions. The data is included in fertilization and other activity planning. Feedback is also received from the Lithuanian Agricultural Advisory Service, which takes regular samples for soil composition research.

Since integrating these measures, Gintaras has noticed that nearby waters have already become less polluted compared to previous years. He’s also seen an increase in community support.

“The most important result is that there are only a few people left who call us strangers,” says Gintaras. “Most of the people we are in contact with respect what we do, and those who work here speak proudly of the farm.”

### Gintaras Bingelis, Ilzenberg Manor Farm

**Location:** Ilzenbergas Village in northeast Lithuania

**Type of farm:** Organic and biodynamic crop and livestock farm (450 ha)

**Main production:** Variety of cereal grains, poultry and bovine meat, milk and dairy products, fruits, vegetables

**National jury motivation:** “Ilzenberg Manor Farm provides a good example of effective farming and environmentally friendly solutions. They use fertilization plans in order to protect streams, drainage ditches and other open water bodies from nutrient loading. No chemical agents as fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides or other chemical compounds are used on the farmland. Liquid manure res-

ervoirs are covered and biodynamic fermentation mixtures are used. Modern technology and software solutions are used to monitor field and soil conditions. The farm cooperates with other farms to spread ideas and measures, and invites farmers to visit and learn about natural agriculture methods and solutions. They are highly motivated to take part in various environmental friendly activities and cooperate with environmental movements.”

**Key practices:** Composting, crop rotation, manure management, no chemical fertilizers or pesticides, precision technology, soil monitoring and analysis

# FARMER OUTLOOK

INSIGHTS AND LESSONS FROM THIS YEAR'S FARMERS

ON WHAT IT TAKES TO FARM MORE SUSTAINABLY.

## THE SUPPORT WE NEED

Farmers need more support and encouragement when it comes to holistic management solutions. They need better and more modern rural advice in emerging issues connected to regenerative agriculture, carbon farming, biodiversity restoration and other climate-friendly methods related to agriculture.

**Tage och Ulla Eriksson,  
Finland**

“We need more exchange of experience, and we need support from the general public – the more demand there is for the food grown on sustainable farms, the better it is for our budget, and the better it is for nature.”

**Elena Romanova and  
Vladislav Kirbatiev, Russia**

“The first transition year is the most difficult. Here, it would be very helpful to have support from the state, at least in the process of certification which costs 1,000 euros for large-scale production which is a pretty penny for the farmer. If the state becomes interested and supports organic farms during the transition period, more and more will appear.”

**Vitaly Belooky, Belarus**

“Financial support is crucial for sustainable agriculture, and even more so for organic farming. There should be financial support for organic farming and the following activities: Soil liming, co-financing for seed material for those plant species that are forgotten or very rarely cultivated ... building manure plates, home sewage treatment plants or slurry tanks, and non-returnable installations for Renewable Energy Sources.”

**Marta and Tadeusz Żerańscy, Poland**

“In our region, I believe that more dialogue between the authorities will help a lot – including the dialogue between the authorities and farmers. We all seem to have the same kinds of goals and we'll be able to reach them faster if we work together.”

**Kristian Lundgaard-Karlshøj, Denmark**

“Public recognition, fewer bureaucratic hurdles, and competitive prices.”

**Wilfried Lenschow,  
Germany**

# WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OTHER FARMERS

“These acts do not start from the farm. They start from the farmer’s home... So, our advice for farmers is to start doing things! Collect your garbage, make investments in better equipment and buildings to start working properly with minimum input. Invest in your animals and their health, as they are doing the job you are going to get credit for it. Don’t make decisions overnight – think through all the plans and investments thoroughly. And mainly, set your goals and start working towards them.”

**Ivar Baumann & Maarja Maksimov, Estonia**

“For anyone who wishes to get into sustainable farming, I say – Go! Don’t waste any more time, because the sooner you start the better off you will be. Working with the environment will also help you prepare and deal with the climate change that is already here.”

**Rihards Kadirovs, Latvia**

“Practice crop rotation properly (with a period of 7 years), use cover crops, apply siderites, and compost manure and apply it during the recommended periods.”

**Oryshyn Ihor Yaroslavovych, Ukraine**

“A very good step is to visit an environmentally friendly farm and discover the answers to your current questions. We really want to encourage those who are in doubt to take up this challenge and start farming in an environmental friendly way, because nature will reward them and people will also appreciate eating their products.”

**Gintaras Bingelis,  
Lithuania**

“My advice is that you should do what you can, based on the conditions of your own farm, to achieve circular agriculture. This is to preserve fertile soils and good conditions, as well as to enable sustainable agriculture for the future.”

**Holger van der Woude, Sweden**

# POLAND

## Marta and Tadeusz Żerańscy



**RESPECT FOR NATURE AND “QUALITY OVER QUANTITY”  
IS THE FOCUS ON THIS NATURA 2000 ORGANIC FARM.**



Photos: Anna Sosnowska / WWF-Poland

**A**longside the twisting Narew River, in a picturesque landscape that has not changed since 1925, is a third-generation farm run by Marta and Tadeusz Żerańscy. Half of the 50 hectares are dedicated to organic agriculture, while the other half – consisting of 100-year-old forest stands, dunes, meadows, and wasteland – is left to nature and a diverse population of wildlife.

Marta and Tadeusz have long respected the sensitive relationship between their farm and the immediate environment – not least due to their proximity to natural water resources. The farm is bordered by the Narew River and contains two lakes, a pond, and several water reservoirs. It is also located within NATURA 2000, the European Union’s network of nature protection.

The decision to abandon pesticides and mineral fertilizers, and switch to organic agriculture, occurred in 2001. The first revelation came after learning about organic methods from agricultural advisors. The second after watching a TV program about the devastating effects of eutrophication. Once Marta and Tadeusz had made up their minds, they received support during the transition period through small subsidies.

“We were very pleased when we noticed that the use of organic fertilizers alone is enough to achieve a certain yield and improve soil fertility,” says Marta.

When it comes to nutrient management, one of the key changes the farmers have made was inspired by their son who was studying at agriculture school. He told them that their way of storing

**“OUR SON MOBILIZED US AND PERSUADED US TO BUILD A MANURE PLATE AND A SLURRY TANK.”**

manure was harmful to the environment since heavy rains could easily leach nitrogen into the surface and groundwater.

“Our son mobilized us and persuaded us to build a manure plate and a slurry tank,” recalls Marta. “From that moment on, we’ve been managing fertilizers rationally.”

Among other methods used today, Marta and Tadeusz practice precision fertilization, crop rotation, conservation tillage, and have catch crops and mid-field margins. Ash is added to the compost to further enrich the soil. They also maintain over 13 hectares of permanent grassland.

The results of the farmers’ efforts are evident in the rich biodiversity on the farm, as well as the clean and non-eutrophic water bodies. Marta and Tadeusz have even noticed a growing interest in their farm products.

“We have the great satisfaction that everyone comes back to us to buy products that are healthy, tasty, and organic,” says Marta.

### Marta and Tadeusz Żerańscy, Żerańscy farm

**Location:** Chelsty Village in east-central Poland

**Type of farm:** Organic crop and livestock farm (50 ha)

**Main production:** Winter rye, oats, buckwheat, various vegetables, and dairy products

**National jury motivation:** “The jury mainly took into account the sustainable management approach which contributes to the protection of waters against pollution. The Żerańscy family implements environmentally friendly practices that allow to limit nutrient losses from the farm. Natural water reservoirs have survived intact

for decades without signs of eutrophication, which testifies to the rational use of crop rotation and fertilization. The farmers promote the idea of management in accordance with respect for the surrounding environment. This farm and its approach to animal and crop production is undoubtedly a pattern worthy of respect and imitation.”

**Key practices:** Buffer zones, catchment water bodies on property including water reservoirs, ponds, and lakes; covered soil, crop rotation, manure management, minimum tillage, no chemical fertilizers or pesticides, permanent grasslands, precision fertilization, preservation of trees

# RUSSIA Elena Romanova and Vladislav Kirbatiev



**THESE FARMERS RE-BIRTHED THE LAND OF PREVIOUSLY ABANDONED VILLAGES USING ORGANIC, LOW-IMPACT METHODS.**

In 2008, a small union of farmers came together to restore the agricultural lands of three abandoned villages. Elena Romanova and Vladislav Kirbatiev are among those collaborating for this vision. Using low-impact, organic methods, they produce fruits, vegetables, honey, and an ancient herb which was unexpectedly discovered during restoration.

“While we were clearing the fields from small trees, shrubs, and fireweed *Chamaenerion angustifolium*, an idea came to mind – the fireweed was traditionally used for the preparation of the tea-like product Kiprey tea,” recalls Elena.

The rising popularity of the traditional tea combined with the fact that the herb was flourishing on otherwise unproductive land was a good sign that the farmers should try adding it to their agricultural mix. Today it has become one of their most distinguishing products.

Combining modern measures with a traditional approach, Elena and Vladislav are committed to farming in a way that is as respectful to nature as possible. And they’re aware that staying true to this commitment requires thinking beyond property lines.

“Organic farming is not neutral in any way in terms of nutrient runoff,” says Vladislav. “While we don’t use commercial chemical pesticides and fertilizers, we realize that there can be some runoff from the soil anyway.”

To prevent nutrient runoff, Elena and Vladislav have enclosed their land with hedges and trees. They also work to maintain a good nutrient balance in the soil through crop rotation, and by applying fertilizing compost consisting of a mix of turf, manure, and food waste. Instead of using chemical pesticides, the farmers attract specific birds to the farm that hunt destructive insects. To further boost crop productivity and support local bee populations, a variety of



Photos: Personal collection of Elena Romanova and Vladislav Kirbatiev

**“THE AGRICULTURAL LAND WAS NOT THIS PRODUCTIVE WHEN WE STARTED 11 YEARS AGO.”**

plants and fruit trees with high nectar production are kept on the property.

“The agricultural land was not this productive when we started 11 years ago,” says Vladislav of the results.

Elena and Vladislav’s efforts are also bringing a sense of community back to life in the villages. Their community already collaborates in several ways – including by sharing compost, and by organizing rubbish and recycling collection in their region which otherwise does not benefit from waste management services. They are currently introducing the concept of self-sustaining “environmentally friendly villages.”

“People joining our community agree that this kind of farming is how agriculture should look in the region,” says Elena.

## Elena Romanova and Vladislav Kirbatiev

**Location:** Sheltozero Village and Grishino Village in northwest Russia

**Type of farm:** Organic and bio-dynamic crop farm (3 ha)

**Main production:** Fruits, vegetables, Kiprey tea, and honey

**National jury motivation:** “The primary jury motivation this year is that Elena and Vladislav implement a good combination of basic how-to practices that help the group of farmers re-develop abandoned farmlands. These measures include planting hedges around fields to prevent wind-

blowing of upper soil level, crop rotation with use of leguminous plants, composting of organic waste from the farm which is used as fertilizer. These indeed are very basic measures but they are organic and support re-birth of old villages. Furthermore, this farm is a good example of how a cluster of small farms can collaborate to achieve both a low environmental impact and better production sales.”

**Key practices:** Buffer zones, crop rotation, manure composting, no chemical fertilizers or pesticides, preservation of trees and shrubs



# SWEDEN

## Holger van der Woude



**THIS FARM SHOWS HOW A CIRCULAR APPROACH CAN HELP PAVE THE WAY TO FERTILE SOILS AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.**



Photos: Erik Olsson

One of the first biodynamic farms in Sweden, Yttereneby gård has been run as a biodynamic and organic dairy farm since the 1960s. Today, the tradition continues with farmer Holger van der Woude who is committed to maintaining a balance between crops and animals, and what the farm gives and receives as it interacts with the environment.

“It has always been important to me to be able to stand for what I do and work so that in the future, it will be possible to run agriculture sustainably,” says Holger.

Holger has known about the problem of eutrophication for a long time. It was one of the issues covered during his university studies, in a program focused on organic and biodynamic agriculture.

“Already then, I was fully determined to reduce my negative environmental impact as a farmer,” recalls Holger.

Yttereneby gård employs a number of measures to prevent nutrient runoff, while also supporting efforts to maintain a closed-loop ecosystem on the farm. No chemical fertilizers are used but instead, composted manure and straw are spread during low-risk periods. The farm practices minimum tillage and the soil is structurally limed, which helps to reduce surf water runoff of nutrients. All animal fodder is produced on the farm. The farm also maintains permanent grasslands, buffer zones, and a constructed wetland to absorb excess nutrients and encourage biodiversity.

**“IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN IMPORTANT TO ME TO BE ABLE TO STAND FOR WHAT I DO ...”**

The farm also participates in several external research projects. In one study with the Baltic Sea project BERAS (Building Ecological Regenerative Agriculture and Societies), it helped demonstrate that converting to circular farming can help reduce nitrogen and phosphorus leakage to the Baltic Sea. Measured nitrogen leakage from the farm’s fields was 7-9 kilograms of nitrogen per hectare, which is 70-75% lower compared to other agriculture in Sweden during the same time period. In a current project, the Biodynamic Research Center is studying how 15 years worth of accumulated sediments and nutrients in the farm’s constructed wetland can best be emptied and recycled as nutrients on the fields.

Holger is hopeful that his farm can continue to serve as a good example of sustainable agriculture. When asked how others have reacted to his successful efforts, Holger says:

“It’s generally perceived as positive, but there is still a lot of work to do in terms of increasing society’s knowledge of what we actually do on the farm.”

### Holger van der Woude, Yttereneby gård

**Location:** Yttereneby in east Sweden

**Type of farm:** Organic and biodynamic crop and livestock farm (339 ha)

**Main production:** Milk, grass, and grains including oats and wheat

**National jury motivation:** “Holger is receiving this award for developing a well planned and diversified agricultural enterprise with grass, grazing, and ecological production; and for implementing a range of measures to protect the Baltic Sea – all of which have been well documented. All fodder (100%) is produced on the farm. To reduce nutrient leak-

age, Holger does minimum tilling in the spring, and maintains protected zones and catch crops. He has also constructed a wetland. Additionally, Holger participates as a test farm and in knowledge building activities within the framework of the Association of Swedish Farmers, the County Board, the agricultural school, and the Baltic Sea project BERAS.”

**Key practices:** Buffer zones, catch crops, closed nutrient cycle, cover crops, constructed wetland, manure composting, manure management, minimum tilling, no chemical fertilizers or pesticides, permanent grasslands, structural liming of soil

# UKRAINE

## Ihor Yaroslavovych



**MAINTAINING HEALTHY SOILS IS THE CORNERSTONE OF THIS FARM'S STRATEGY FOR REDUCING NUTRIENT RUNOFF AND ACHIEVING GOOD HARVESTS.**

In Soviet times, Turyнка Village was the site of a large collective farm whose natural pastures were plowed intensively for crop production. As a result, the soil did not yield the expected harvests and ended up taking many years to recover.

This is a piece of village history that farmer Ihor Yaroslavovych remembers well. It was then that he realized how easy it is to break the natural balance of the land. Today, Ihor and his family work consciously to maintain the health of the soil on their farm.

“Our farm cultivates 20 hectares of rented community land,” says Ihor. “That’s why we, more than anyone else, are interested in introducing sustainable methods. We want to convince the people who entrusted their lands to us that the technologies used by our farm do not cause harm, but favor soil fertility now and in the future.”

Also driving the use of sustainable methods on the farm is Ihor’s awareness of eutrophication, which he first learned about at a seminar. He immediately thought of the natural lake located near his farm’s pastureland, which provides drinking water for the farm animals and helps preserve the populations of many different species.

The maintenance of healthy soils has become the cornerstone of Ihor and his family’s strategy for preventing nutrient runoff on his farm.

“To improve soil aeration, we bought a special cultivator which enhances fermentation processes in the upper soil layer where a lot of microorganisms live,” says Ihor. “Healthy soils allow us the opportunity to get good harvests and make crops more resistant to disease.”

To further support the soil and reduce nutrient runoff, the family employs a seven-field crop rotation and applies composted manure as fertilizer during the right periods. They also use cover crops and maintain buffer zones along the edges of fields



Photos: Nataliya Cholovska

**“HEALTHY SOILS ALLOW US THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET GOOD HARVESTS AND MAKE CROPS MORE RESISTANT TO DISEASE.”**

where freely growing wild plants offer habitats for beneficial insects.

“The important task on our farm is maintaining the natural balance and minimizing environmental impact,” says Ihor.

The continued absence of eutrophication in local water bodies provides proof of the family’s good agricultural practices. And so does their successful harvests.

Ihor and his family actively share what they have learned about using sustainable agricultural practices with other farms in the region. In the future, they plan to develop agro-ecotourism on their farm to spread knowledge and inspiration to even more people.

### Oryshyn Ihor Yaroslavovych, Oryshchyn I.Y., family farm

**Location:** Turyнка Village in west Ukraine

**Type of farm:** Conventional crop and livestock farm (80 ha)

**Main production:** Volyn meat cattle, cereals, oilseeds, and legumes

**National jury motivation:** “In the opinion of the national jury, the special thing about this family farm is that it maintains permanent natural pastureland, upon which cattle grazes almost nine months out of the year. These pastures help to preserve biodiversity and keep more carbon in the

soil. The system for keeping livestock on this farm is different from industrial farming. To minimize the runoff of nutrients, the farm uses a seven field system of crop rotation, siderites, and post-harvest crops. These measures support natural balance of nutrients in the soil, resistance to disease, and weed control. Compensational territories along the fields support beneficial insects.”

**Key practices:** Buffer zones, cover crops, crop rotation, cultivation technology, manure composting, manure management, minimum tillage

# WINNING MEASURES THAT REDUCE NUTRIENT RUNOFF

Healthy soil, sustainable water management, and effective nutrient management are all central objectives in the effort to prevent eutrophication. The 12 measures identified here stand apart not only for their ability to effectively curb nutrient runoff, but for the environmental co-benefits they yield – such as biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation.



## MEASURES FOR HEALTHY SOIL

Soil erosion and degradation are common challenges on farms across Europe. When fertile topsoil is lacking, the risk of nutrient loading to nearby water bodies increases. Healthy soil has a porous structure, rich organic matter, good water retention, high biological activity, and enables more fruitful harvests.

### 1. Maintain year-round plant cover

On agricultural land, the highest erosion rates occur in crop systems where soil is left bare for extended periods of time. Maintaining year-round plant cover protects the soil against erosion and reduces runoff of phosphorus bound to soil particles. It also helps

“MORE ORGANIC MATTER IN THE SOIL CONTRIBUTES TO IMPROVED SOIL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION CAPACITY.”

to maintain organic matter in the soil and improves soil structure and microbiological activity.

### 2. Protect soil structure

Compaction adversely affects the air capacity, permeability, and water retention of the soil. It reduces root development and biological activity, and leads to decreased crop yields. Diversifying crop rotation, using lighter machinery, and working the soil in dry conditions can help prevent compaction.

### 3. Use catch crops or intercrops

Catch crops and intercrops are used to bind nutrients that have not been used by the main crops and are released from the soil after harvest. Sown together with the main crop or after the harvest, they are left to be buried in the soil, or to serve as plant cover over the winter. This can help maintain organic matter in the soil, and reduce nitrogen leakage by absorbing nitrogen and then releasing it for the benefit of the next crops.

### 4. Add organic matter to the soil

More organic matter in the soil contributes to improved soil health and production capacity. It also helps to mitigate climate change by fixing carbon in the soil. Growing catch crops or intercrops, and mechanically adding dry cattle manure or compost are ways to incorporate more organic matter in the soil.

### 5. Maintain buffer zones

Buffer zones of perennial vegetation along major ditches, riversides, and lakes help to reduce erosion and the transport of nutrients and plant protection products to water bodies. These are especially useful on fields prone to erosion or flooding. Maintaining grasslands and other vegetation in riparian zones also enhances biodiversity.



## MEASURES FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT



Excess water in agricultural areas raises the risk of nutrient runoff, while water shortage can have a devastating effect on crop yields. Measures that control water movement can help retain water and capture nutrients, forming areas for flood water and storage for irrigation. These measures also support climate adaptation by preventing large fluctuations between water excess and dry periods.

### 6. Construct wetlands

Constructed wetlands can reduce nutrient runoff from the surrounding fields in its catchment by absorbing nutrients and storing them in biomass and sediments. However, effective nutrient retention is only possible if they are well dimensioned and well-managed, and if organic matter is regularly removed to avoid accumulation. Wetlands may also prevent flooding during heavy rain, store irrigation water and provide biodiversity benefits such as breeding habitats for birds.

### 7. Manage water

Effective water management helps ensure good yields, nutrient balance, and water protection. Measures such as controlled subsurface drainage, two-stage ditches, flood meadows, natural stream beds, and irrigation water storage help solids settle on the banks of ditches or streams and slow down water flow at high peaks to prevent over-flooding. Vegetation enhances this effect while also reducing erosion along banks.

## MEASURES FOR MANAGING NUTRIENTS

Employing measures that monitor the amount, timing, and methods of fertilization is key to reducing nutrient losses and improving nutrient use efficiency.

### 8. Practice balanced fertilization

Balanced fertilization is the key to good plant growth and the efficient use of farm resources. Soil analysis provides information on what is needed. Fertilization should be planned according to plant needs, yield potential, and the phosphorus status of the soil on the field. Nutrient balance calculations can help farmers estimate how efficient their nutrient use is during growth seasons. Over the course of several years, such data provides a valuable overview of fertilization plans so key improvements can be made.

### 9. Apply fertilizers at the correct time

When fertilizers are applied at the wrong time or in the wrong conditions, the risk of nutrient loss greatly increases. Manure and biogas digestate, similar to mineral fertilizers, should be applied to the fields during spring and early summer when growing crops directly take up nutrients. Adequate storage and spreading capacity are important factors that allow for this.

### 10. Use careful manure application techniques

When manure is spread there is a risk of nitrogen and phosphorous loss to the water and air. These emissions contribute to the eutrophication of water bodies, acidification, and can also have a negative impact on human health. This risk can be minimized through the use of incorporation, injection, or slurry acidification techniques. Manure spreading with incorporation or earthing equipment reduces the risk of



nutrient leaching to surface waters by moving nutrients away from the water flowing on the soil surface.

### 11. Use manure in plant production

The use of manure or manure-derived fertilizer products on plant production farms has the potential of substituting mineral fertilizers. Furthermore, it can increase and improve the organic matter content in agricultural soils for carbon storage capacity.

### 12. Practice precision farming

Uniform fertilization can lead to part of the field getting too much fertilizer, and another part too little. Precision agriculture equipment and techniques minimize resource use and the risk of over-application. By looking at data of different parts of the field, management activities can be adapted to local conditions. This type of site-specific farming has a great potential to increase nutrient use efficiency and reduce environmental impacts.

# FACTS ABOUT THE WWF BALTIC SEA FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD

WWF created the WWF Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year Award in 2009, together with farmers' organizations from around the Baltic Sea, to show support for the agricultural sector and highlight good examples in the region.

The purpose of this award is to inspire farmers from the Baltic catchment to take an active part in fighting eutrophication and contribute to a healthy Baltic Sea. Applications are received from farmers practicing both organic and conventional farming and many different types of agriculture. The national winners are selected by juries in each country and receive a prize of 1,000 Euros. From the pool of national winners, an international jury selects a regional winner who receives a grand prize of 10,000 Euros.



## Members of the national juries

### BELARUS

**Viktor Khalaydov**, agricultural enterprise of the OJSC "Nesyata-AGRO"  
**Ekaterina Kuznetsova**, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus  
**Viktor Yermolenkov**, the Department of Regional Development Management of the Academy of Management under the President of the Republic of Belarus

### DENMARK

**Brian Kronvang**, Institute for Bioscience – Catchment Science and Environmental Management, Aarhus University  
**Anne Sloth**, Centrovic  
**Irene Asta Wiborg**, SEGES

### ESTONIA

**Aveliina Helm**, Estonian Seminatural Community Conservation Association (ESSCA) and University of Tartu  
**Silja Kana**, Estonian Fund for Nature  
**Aleksei Lotman**, Estonian Fund for Nature  
**Lii Sammler**, Estonian weekly rural life newspaper "Maaleht"  
**Leho Verk**, Head of Advisory Service, Rural Development Foundation

### FINLAND

**Jenny Jyrkänkallio-Mikkola**, WWF Finland  
**Airi Kulmala**, Central Union of Agricultural Products and Forest Owners of Finland  
**Tuomas Mattila**, Kilpiä farm, national winner of the BSFYA 2018

### GERMANY

**Herwart Böhm**, Thünen Institute of Organic Farming  
**Michael Berger**, WWF Germany  
**Reinhold Stauß**, State Agency for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas of the German Federal State Schleswig-Holstein  
**Susanne Werner**, Bauernverband Schleswig-Holstein e.V. - Farmers' Association

### LATVIA

**Magda Jentgena**, Pasaules Dabas Fonds  
**Jānis Rozītis**, Pasaules Dabas Fonds  
**Kaspars Žūriņš**, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre

### LITHUANIA

**Artūras Kaučikas**, The Chamber of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania  
**Marek Krysztoforski**, Agricultural Advisory Center in Brwinów  
**Nerijus Zableckis**, Lithuanian Fund for Nature  
**Romualdas Zemeckis**, Agriculture Academy of Vytautas Magnus University

### POLAND

**Jacek Chmielewski**, A Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
**Anna Klisowska**, Ministry of Maritime, Economy and Inland Navigation  
**Weronika Kosiń**, WWF Poland  
**Marek Krysztoforski**, Agricultural Advisory Center in Brwinów  
**Monika Lesz**, Ministry of the Environment  
**Andrzej Podściański**, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
**Anna Sosnowska**, WWF Poland

### RUSSIA

**Yulia Danilova**, Baltic Fund for Nature  
**Evgeny Genelt-Yanovskiy**, Baltic Fund for Nature  
**Matteo Guida**, Four Seasons Hotel Lion Palace, St.Petersburg  
**Viacheslav Komov**, national winner of the BSFYA 2010, Poultry society, St.Petersburg and Leningrad Region  
**Marina Vilner**, Baltic Fund for Nature

### SWEDEN

**Anders Alm**, WWF Sweden  
**Cassandra Bjelkelöv**, Association of Swedish Farmers Youth  
**Martin H. Larsson**, Ministry of the Environment

### UKRAINE


**Tetyana Danilikova**, State Production and Consuming Service in Lviv Oblast  
**Dmytro Skrylnikov**, Bureau of Ecological Investigations (BEI)  
**Alla Voicikhovska**, Environment-People-Law (ICO)

## Members of the international jury

**MARKUS EEROLA**, BSFYA 2015 regional winner, Palopuro Agroecological Symbiosis  
**IVAN GAVRAN**, Organic standard LTD, Ukraine  
**BO GUSTAFSSON**, Baltic Nest Institute, Stockholm University  
**ALDIS KARKLINS**, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies  
**ENN LOIGU**, Water and environmental engineering, Tallinn University of Technology  
**DOROTA METERA**, Bioekspert Ltd & International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM)  
**KARIN STEIN-BACHINGER**, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research  
**TROELS TOFT**, Sector for Plants, Danish Agriculture and Food council



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# WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme

## COOPERATION

We promote constructive interactions to create awareness, spread ideas and stimulate discussion among stakeholders and partners

## DELIVERING RESULTS

We are an active and effective change agent for the conservation and sustainable management of the Baltic Sea



## INFLUENCE REGIONAL POLICY

We are a diligent watchdog that monitors how governments manage our common resource, the Baltic Sea

## REGIONAL NETWORK

We represent the largest membership network in the region and are present in every country surrounding the Baltic Sea



### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

[www.panda.org](http://www.panda.org)

Please contact us for more information!  
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