



ESTONIA

NATIONAL JURY MOTIVATION

Since starting her work as a farmer Airi Külvet has had a keen interest in finding solutions to environmental problems, using sustainable farming practices and increasing biodiversity on the lands she uses. Her devotion to a more eco-friendly and holistic understanding of agriculture is well complemented by her active participation in different scientific research and cooperation projects with many farms in Estonia and abroad. Scientific findings, innovative methods and best farming practices are used in everyday farm production as well as actively advocated via training of other farmers and students alike.

The Estonian jury would like to highlight as particular strengths:

1. The farm uses very well thought out and carefully planned rotational grazing: only 2-3 days on one pasture and then the area rests for 30 days. This has increased the area's biodiversity and keeps plant primary production optimal and lush enough to mitigate GHG emissions and nutrient losses. The rotational grazing is well monitored and planned using IT-solutions.
2. Restoring ecosystems and preserving water quality is a natural part of food production in the Puutsa farm. The farm uses an array of organic farming methods to produce good quality beef.
3. Farmer Airi Külvet studies and uses environmentally sustainable and innovative methods in the farm. The number of scientific co-operations is vast and the willingness to try and pilot new methods impressive.
4. Farm makes continuous investments to ensure the winter feeding areas do not leak and composts all the manure - making sure there is enough straw to avoid nutrient run-off and keeping the manure stacks height optimal. The method has been monitored and nutrients measured during two years.
5. Airi Külvet has advocated for sustainable organic beef and restoration of seminatural grasslands for decades and continues her relentless work in Estonia and abroad. She is the key actor in creation of Estonian national grassland-fed beef quality plan/certification scheme and one of the farmers under the trademark Liivimaa Lihaveis/Nordic Meats.
6. The monitoring of soil health on the grasslands and restoring it with composted manure has a positive effect for a variety of species in the area and helps to avoid nutrient losses.
7. Airi Külvet is active and future-orientated in cooperating with other farmers, has deeper knowledge of nature around her and the challenges it faces, constantly researches and pilots solutions for better production of food, that goes hand-in-hand with ecosystems and increases biodiversity.

The Estonian jury is positive Airi Külvet, her farm and agricultural practices are fitting for the title “Batlic Farmer of the Year 2021”.

Jury members:



- **Aleksei Lotman**, Head of Marine Environment Programme, Estonian Fund for Nature
- **Eve Veromann**, Professor, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
- **Kuno Kasak**, Associate Professor in Ecotechnology, University of Tartu, Faculty of Science and Technology, Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences,
- **Aveliina Helm**, Member of Board, Estonian Seminatural Community Conservation Association (ESSCA), Senior Research Fellow in Botany, University of Tartu, Faculty of Science and Technology, Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences
- **Lii Sammler**, Senior Editor, Estonian weekly rural life newspaper “Maaleht”