



**Pesticide
Action
Network**
Europe



**European Beekeeping
Coordination**

PAN EUROPE COMPETITION: TO FIND EUROPE'S BEST INTEGRATED PRODUCTION FARMER

BEE FRIENDLY IN THE YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY!

In recent years large numbers of bees have been dying, especially in the area of Europe covering Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands Poland, Romania, Spain, and some parts of the United Kingdom. Among the possible causes of bee deaths are pesticide-treated seeds, indiscriminate pesticide-spraying in fields, or the outcome of intensive agricultural practices.

PAN Europe and European Beekeeping Coordination are attempting to arrest bee mortality, but we feel it is also time also to increase awareness among those farmers who in intensive farming areas have decided to develop agro-ecological farm systems, which offers pollinators (including bees) a little rest in a highly stressed environment.

We are therefore launching a competition to identify the EU's most bee-friendly farmer. The competition is open to farmers who believe they deliver special benefits to bees in the above-mentioned countries. Since we believe that acting in an environmentally-friendly way should not be confined to organic farmers (who already operate measures which benefit bees) the competition is addressed just to conventional and integrated pest management-practising farmers.

By the end of April 2010, PAN Europe and European Beekeeping Coordination will post details online (www.pan-europe.info) of the national PAN Europe members and national beekeepers' organisations who will be making the national selection. There will be online competition information and the questionnaire for applicants will be available in various languages.

PAN Europe and European Beekeeping Coordination are appointing a selection committee of bee and agricultural experts who will identify Europe's most bee-friendly farmer. We plan to announce the winner during next year's Alternatives to Pesticides Week, between 20-30 March.

Entrance criteria for farmers

- Non-organic EU farmers may take part in the competition

Prize

- The winner will be announced in Brussels as part of the Alternatives to Pesticides Week activities between 20-30 March 2011, in the presence of the Brussels-based media. We shall invite the top five short-listed candidates to Brussels
- The winner will receive various prizes: See the website for further details

Deadline

National members will set their own national deadlines, but the details of the top five national candidates, who will compete with farmers from other EU countries, should be sent to the European selection committee by January 2011.

The Questions

Applications should be sent to the farmer's national association (posted on the website from late April).

The questionnaire should not take more than 45 minutes to fill in.

Farmer's name, postal address, telephone and e-mail address (if applicable)

Type of farm (acreage per crop/number and kind of animals)

Type of production (which crops/animals/fruits and vegetables)

Type of business (are you part of a cooperative or an individual farmer. How are your products sold?)

1. Biodiversity and business-related questions

- What changes have you made to your farm over the past 5-10 years which might benefit bees and other pollinators in your area (by increasing biodiversity, planting orchards, borders, etc)? What results have you seen?
- Have these changes increased your costs? If so, please give an approximative idea of increase
- Do you have a quality certification scheme or a farm label? If so please give details

2. Practical bee-related questions

- Do you use GMOs? Do you plan to introduce GMOs?
- Are any specific crop rotation schemes in operation on your farm? If so, what crops do you include and in which order? Do you use melliferous cultures in these rotations (eg legumes, cruciferes, rape seed) please give details
- Do you use alternatives techniques like pheromone traps or resistant varieties?
- How large a percentage of your farm do areas you consider pest and vermin-free occupy? How large a proportion do wild flowers occupy? Any hedgerow management? Does your farm possess a garden or meadows with bushes and mature fruit trees?
- How large a proportion of the farm is reserved for nature conservation? Are there trees and borders or permanent grassland on your farm? How do you manage these borders? Do you cut them every year? What is the combined length of these edges?
- Do wild animals have access to clean water (free from chemicals and toxins) on your farm? Please specify. Are you taking any measures to keep these water sources clean? If so, please give details
- Do you use any chemical products like pesticides on your farm? If so, what measures are you taking to prevent bees from coming into contact with chemicals? Do you contact nearby bee-keepers to tell them when you are planning to carry out chemical treatment?

- Do you use any bee-friendly agricultural chemicals and or specific timing of application to reduce the impact on bee colonies? If so which ones?
- Do you use bees for pollination on your farm? If so, do you contact bee-keepers or do you keep bees yourself?
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Your application should be accompanied by pictures supporting your replies. Please include a zoom-in overview of your farm from Google map.

Using a maximum of five sentences, please explain why you believe the committee should choose your farm.