

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves participated in the 2007 Farmer of the Year Conference, where he greeted the assembled best farmers of Estonia, "Here are the people who bring good Estonian food to our table. The men and women, thanks to whom life in the countryside has is now on the upswing."

"You—the candidates for the title of Farmer of the Year—are definitely not just lucky people, who suddenly and unexpectedly succeed." said the Estonian Head of State. "Your current success is based on everyday labor and diligence. Farming is not real estate development, where it is—or at least was—possible to earn a tidy profit in one year with one project."

The competition jury chose pig breeder Ermo Sepp as the 2007 Farmer of the Year from among ten candidates. Sepp's farm breeds 2,200 pigs per year, and has annually invested in production expansion and modernization.

As a result of the Internet voting organized by the *Maaleht*, quail breeder Ülo Pullisaar was chosen as the "favorite of the people".

The Farmer of the Year competition is organized by the *Maaleht* and the Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce, and the title was awarded for the seventh time this year.

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