

## Nature conservation and agriculture go hand in hand: Griese is awarded 50 companies

"Nature conservation and agriculture go hand in hand through the initiative, Nature Conservation Partnership in Rhineland-Palatinate," said Environment Secretary Thomas Griese today. The award was given to the 50 Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry of the Environment in Bad Kreuznach by 50 farmers as "Partnerbetriebe Naturschutz".



Environment State Secretary Thomas Griese with the excellent partner businesses conservation; © MUEEF

The project "Partnerbetrieb Naturschutz" ( "Partner Operation Nature Conservation") helps farmers to achieve sustainable management. "Together with agriculture, we want to preserve habitats of animals and plants in our diverse cultural landscape in Rhineland-Palatinate and to promote biodiversity," says Griese.

Through a free consultation offer from the Ministry of the Environment and the Service Center Rural Areas, farmers can identify nature conservation potentials and jointly develop tailor-made strategies for implementation. Conservation targets can vary greatly from region to region. Therefore, the focus is always on the question of which animals and plants can be protected on the operating areas. In addition to the conservation of species rich in grassland, the application of flowering strips on the field edge or of lark windows, the management of arable strips without fertilizers can also be a suitable measure for the creation of habitats for animals and plants such as wild herbs, small birds, insects and insects.

The Ministry of the Environment has awarded the award for "Partnerbetrieb Naturschutz" for the fourth time. After the consultation program was first offered in 2010, the Ministry has meanwhile distinguished some 190 farmers, fruit growers and winegrowers. For the recognition, they took part in a business-related consultation and elaborated an individual nature conservation concept. In order to be recognized as a "partner enterprise nature conservation", the companies have also committed themselves in a target agreement to provide defined nature conservation services. "With your application for recognition as part of the Nature Conservation Partnership, you have deliberately decided to enter a binding target agreement on nature conservation. You take responsibility for nature and the environment and I thank you for that," said Environment Secretary Griese at the solemn presentation of the award.

Photos from the event can at [press \(at\) mueef.rlp.de](mailto:press@mueef.rlp.de) be requested.