

## **BIMAG:** translation into English of <https://www.vlinderstichting.nl/bimag>

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### *Farmers count butterflies themselves*

**Since 2019, LTO Noord, BoerenNatuur and De Vlinderstichting have been working together within the project Boeren Insecten Monitoring Agrarisch Gebied (BIMAG). Within the project, 115 enthusiastic farmers have counted moths and butterflies on their farms in recent years. They collected important information about the butterfly population in the countryside. BIMAG will be continued in the coming period and we want to monitor butterflies with 150 agricultural companies every year.**

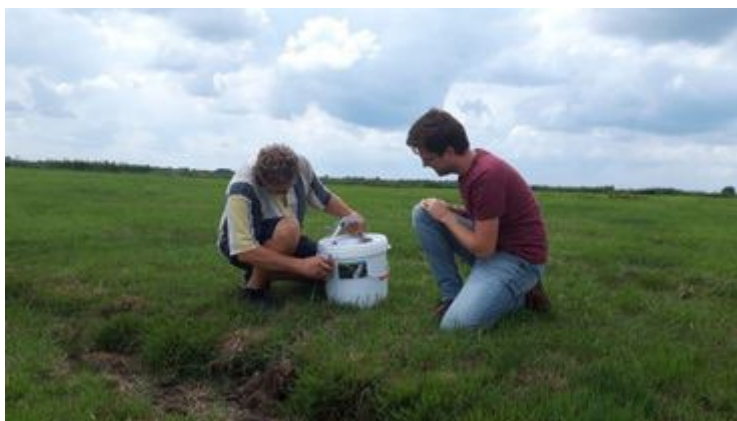
### *First results*

The aim of BIMAG is twofold. By setting up fixed measuring points in the agricultural area and counting butterflies in a standardised manner, we gain a better insight into the development of the butterfly population in the agricultural area. In addition, the participants monitor moths on the farm, on intensively managed plots and at locations with a nature measure, which gives us a better picture of the effectiveness of the measures taken. The [first results](#) show that nature measures have a positive effect on the numbers and species of moths.

### *Better insight into biodiversity*

#### *Project Farmers Insect Monitoring Agricultural Areas (BIMAG)*

The starting point of the BIMAG project is that butterflies and moths are counted in agricultural areas together with farmers. With this project, farmers are enabled to participate in multi-year research into insect populations in agricultural areas. In addition, by carrying out counts themselves, the perspective of the farmer is included in biodiversity restoration.



*Figure 1. Farmers measure moths themselves using a special LedEmmer (Photo: LTO Noord)*

### *Why do agricultural entrepreneurs participate?*

Many agricultural entrepreneurs are already taking action for biodiversity on the farm. It is not yet clear what positive effects these measures have on insect populations. By means of monitoring, agricultural entrepreneurs gain better insight into what works well for biodiversity on your farm and plots. The Butterfly Foundation and the CBS are affiliated with the project to



## **Variation in the amount of moths per night**

Three LedEmmers are placed per company. There is a lot of variation in the amount of moths that are caught per night. Factors that play a role in the amount of moths in the trap include:

- Light competition: With a lot of light pollution, for example artificial light or the moon, fewer moths are found in the LedEmmer. With cloud cover you often count more moths. The moon is not visible then and the temperature often remains higher.
- Temperature: Moths are cold-blooded. This means that they first have to warm up before they can fly. They do this by first moving their wings vigorously. This costs energy and the moths therefore fly less under certain temperatures. The warmer it is, the less energy it costs and the more moths will end up in your LedEmmer.

## *Volunteers wanted!*

The following farmers are looking for a volunteer to help them count the (night) moths on their property. Would you like to help count?

[Please contact Rik](#) .

### **BIMAG Manuals**

- [BIMAG search card for butterflies](#) (pdf)
- [Checklist butterflies BIMAG](#) (pdf)
- [BIMAG 2022 Manual](#) (pdf)
- [BIMAG Manual - input via telephone](#) (pdf) (pdf)
- [BIMAG Manual - input via the website](#) (pdf)

### **Instructional videos**

[Explanation of entering moths via the website](#)

[Explanation of how to enter moth counts by telephone](#)

[Explanation of how to enter butterfly counts](#)

### **Read more about BIMAG**

- [BIMAG brochure data 2020](#) (pdf)
- [Farmers Insect Monitoring Agricultural Area - Results 2022](#) (pdf)
- [Farmers Insect Monitoring Agricultural Area - Results 2023](#) (pdf)
- [Fun and educational butterfly watching in Bimag](#) (pdf)