Sales Representative from Hiniker, who presented on strip tillage equipment, which is a type of precision minimum tillage. He explained the economic, agronomic and environmental benefits of utilizing this method. Through the use of this tillage system, yields are maintained and often improved, while input costs are reduced. When equipped with fertilizer metering technology, Hiniker claims that the new tillage system not only uses less fertilizer but also minimizes fuel cost, which saves the producer time and money.

Plans for the upcoming Yahara Pride Farms Fall Field Demonstration Day were also discussed. Thanks to our proactive sponsors, McFarlanes’, Carl F. Statz & Sons and Kalscheur Implement Co. Inc., area producers will be given the opportunity to test strip tillage equipment this fall. The date of the Fall Field Demonstration Day will be posted to our website once confirmed.

The meeting featured an update from Dennis Frame and Joe Connors, Yahara Pride Farms Conservation Resource Managers, on the Certification Program. To date, the Conservation Resource Managers have evaluated seven farms, covering a total of 3,711 acres. (See page 4 for a detailed, up-to-date summary of the certification program progress).

Additionally, two informative presentations were given by guest speakers on manure management machinery. First was VTI owner and entrepreneur Phil Reed from Washington, IA who shared his original Vertical Till Injector. He explained that his machine is capable of injecting manure into the ground with high crop residue as well as through pasture ground, bean stubble, corn stalks, rain, snow, and two inches of frost. Other advantages he described included; significantly faster application, dramatically reduced fuel consumption, flexibility to apply manure in variable conditions and crop residues, increasing the time available for hauling.

The second speaker was Gene Vincent, a Sales Representative from Hiniker, who presented on strip tillage equipment, which is a type of precision minimum tillage. He explained the economic, agronomic and environmental benefits of utilizing this method. Through the use of this tillage system, yields are maintained and often improved, while input costs are reduced. When equipped with fertilizer metering technology, Hiniker claims that the new tillage system not only uses less fertilizer but also minimizes fuel cost, which saves the producer time and money.
Madison, WI, August 6, 2013 — Wisconsin soybean farmers are measuring their sustainability performance through a soy-checkoff-supported initiative that will inform consumers how soy and new soy-based products are grown and produced.

In a collaborative effort with a network of national and state soybean organizations, the University of Wisconsin – Madison is leading the National Soybean Sustainability Initiative (NSSI). This Initiative will allow U.S. soybean growers to maximize global utilization of U.S. soy in the feed, food, industrial and energy markets.

State Soybean Extension Specialist, Shawn Conley, Ph. D., of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, outlines how the National Soybean Sustainability Initiative (NSSI) can help soybean farmers self-assess their sustainability performance, which can help them meet customer demands and expand markets.

Conley discusses how farmers must address the three pillars of sustainability in order to meet customers’ expectations:

• Social Aspects, includes human resources, waste management, recycling, community involvement and maintaining lands for farming.

• Environmental Aspects, includes developing conservation plans, fertility management and water management.

• Economic Aspects, includes cost of production and net returns, working with financial or business advisors, insurance and disaster plans and farm succession.

“Our goal is to identify the junction of all three pillars and improve the sustainability performance of U.S. soybean production as a whole,” says Conley. “The goal of this Initiative is to develop a roadmap of soybean management systems that will help growers to achieve verifiable sustainability outcomes, improve the environmental services and productivity of their farms, help their rural communities thrive, and satisfy performance expectations of the soybean value chain.” Wisconsin soybean growers are committed to improving the environmental footprint as a part of the U.S. soybean industry. The state’s 11,000 soybean farmers grow twice as much food as they did 30 years ago, using less land, energy and water.

Press release and photo provided by Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board
The soybean growers of Wisconsin stand in support of Yahara Pride Farms,” says Mike Cerny, president of the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board and soybean grower from Sharon, Wis. “Yahara Pride is a unique collaboration of Dane County farmers and community members working together to self-regulate, self-recognize and self-incentivize, to ultimately improve water quality and protect the farm heritage in the Yahara Watershed for generations to come.”

Temperatures keep rebounding higher around Wisconsin this week - but farmers are asking “where’s the water?”.

The latest survey of growers statewide showed that 88% of the corn was silking as of Sunday with 25% moving into the dough stage. That’s progress - but still well behind where a “normal” crop would be at this stage of August. Delays in spring planting continue to show up fields today. Reporters said that late plantings were short, yellow and showing stress due to the lack of moisture.

Soybeans were 86% blooming and 61% setting pods. Oats were 60% harvested for grain and most reporters said yields were good. Second cutting alfalfa was 97% harvested - third cutting about 49% complete.

Winter wheat harvest was wrapping up with slightly below average yields. Sweet corn and potatoes were also being harvested in Marquette and Portage counties.
Yahara Pride Farms is working with a private conservation team to conduct a conservation certification/verification program designed to work with area farmers and their agronomic management teams, to verify the conservation practices already implemented within the watershed and identify areas that would benefit from additional or alternative practices. That sentence really summarizes the goals of the project which are simply:

- Document practices that farmers in the Yahara Watershed have adopted into their farming systems that reduce the potential for nutrient and sediment loss;
- Evaluate conditions on the farm (both cropland and non-cropland) to identify the potential for nutrient or sediment loss and/or capture;
- Discuss and evaluate the agronomic farming system (tillage, fertility, cropping, etc.) to verify that it provides acceptable risks of nutrient and sediment loss while ensuring adequate levels of production; and
- Evaluate the conditions on the farmstead (buildings and facilities) to identify the potential for nutrient or sediment loss and/or capture.

This program has been designed and is being conducted by a private conservation team in order to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

Yahara Pride Farms has developed a Confidentiality Agreement to ensure that information gathered on individual farms cannot be disclosed. Information will only be shared in summary and must contain an adequate number of acres or farmers so that individual farms or fields cannot be identified.

What are the benefits of having your farm certified?
By becoming a branded Yahara Pride Farms certified member, producers will currently have access to branding benefits as well as the following benefits provided by our sponsor, Badgerland Financial:

- $500 off Badgerland Financial Loan Servicing, Processing or Appraisal Fees
- $250 off Badgerland Financial Tax or Farm Accounting Services
- $250 towards registration fees to attend industry meetings & conferences

Additionally, the following benefits will soon be available:
- Expedited permitting
- Value-added commodity prices
- Discounted agricultural supplies
- Sustainable agricultural producer label

The conservation team has already conducted several field evaluations. Currently the team has evaluated 3,711 acres on several farms within the watershed. We are seeking additional farms and will be conducting field evaluations as the crops come off this fall and early winter. We are currently working on the assessment information and putting it into a prioritized summary sheet that identifies the benefits and potential changes for each operation. This information is then reviewed with the farmer and his agronomic advisors to determine if changes could be implemented into the farming system. Anyone interested in getting more information or scheduling a visit should contact Joe Connors at 608-444-4702.

Over the next several months we will also be able to provide farmers within the watershed a web-based, self-assessment tool. While this tool cannot provide the level of detail necessary to achieve certification, it is designed to assist farmers in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of their farming system and to think critically about both agricultural production and resource protection. Self-assessment is often the first step before asking for a neutral party to assess your operation.

This certification/verification program has been developed to help farmers and their advisors document water quality protection practices already in place on their farms. It will also aid in the discussions about how to reduce nutrient and sediment loss because recommendations can be based on current information and not on assumptions or outdated information. The farmers in the Yahara Watershed have the potential to lead the discussions on conservation and water quality protection with real data and information. We all need to work together to protect not only our environment, but also our way of life.
Yahara Pride Farms is working with a private conservation team to conduct a conservation certification/verification program designed to work with area farmers and their agronomic management teams, to verify the conservation practices already implemented within the watershed and identify areas that would benefit from additional or alternative practices. That sentence really summarizes the goals of the project which are simply:

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**Consider Using a Cover Crop**

**UW-Discovery Farms**

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**About UW-Discovery Farms**

The UW—Discovery Farms Program, started in 2002, works with Wisconsin agricultural producers to identify the impact (both positive and negative) of a number of farming systems and settings around the state. Over the past nine years they have identified many of the positive contributions that farms have on the environment. They also conduct on-farm research that identifies practices that contribute negative environmental impacts and work with producers to implement practices which reduce these losses. This program is under the direction of an industry led steering committee, and they take a real-world approach to finding the most economical solutions to agriculture’s environmental challenges.

Their overall goal is to demonstrate, with tangible data, a relationship between changes in land management and improvements in water quality.

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**Oats**

- **Recommended seeding date**: August to early September
- **Seeding rate -alone**: 1 to 2 bushels/ac
- **½ to 1 bushel/ac**: 26 to 40 lbs/ac winter peas
- **½ to 1 inch**: None, winterkills
- **Nitrogen credit**: Low seed cost

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**Oilseed**

- **Recommended seeding date**: Mid-July to early September
- **Seeding rate -alone**: 8 to 10 pounds/ac
- **4 to 5 pounds/ac**: 33 to 50 lbs/ac winter peas
- **¾ to 1 inch**: None, winterkills
- **Nitrogen credit**: Decays rapidly in spring

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**Winter Rye**

- **Recommended seeding date**: Mid-September to mid-October
- **Seeding rate -alone**: 1 to 2 bushels/ac
- **None**: 1.34 to 3.88 ton/ac
- **¾ to 1 ½ inches**: None
- **Nitrogen credit**: Germinates well with little moisture
Upcoming Events
Event calendar derived from Wisconsin Farm Report

Dane County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
Date: Thursday, September 5, 2013
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Rex’s Innkeeper in Waunakee
What: Annual meeting to help create policy resolutions and vote in elections for Farm Bureau county board directors. Guest speakers include Governor Scott Walker and Deputy Secretary of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Jeff Lyon
*All Farm Bureau members are encouraged to attend.

Landmark’s Crop Management Field Seminar
Date: Wednesday, September 11-Thursday, September 12, 2013
Time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Locations: Wednesday, September 11 - East Troy Answer Plot (Hwy 120 and Kniep Rd.)
Thursday, September 12 - Stoughton Answer Plot (Hwy N & Koshkonong Rd.)
What: Information on reaching maximum yield. Featuring Strategic Trading Advisors founder, Jody Lawrence, as a keynote speaker. RSVP by September 4th by calling 608-819-3126, emailing kristi.lange@landmark.coop or visiting our website at www.landmark.coop.

Yahara Pride Farms Certification Program

If you are interested in getting involved in our certification program, schedule a walk-through of your land with Joe Connors today. He can be contacted by phone at 608-444-4702 or by email at jconnors@mhtc.net. For a detailed description of all certification components, please review our Certification Checklist on our website.

By becoming a Yahara Pride Farms certified member, producers will currently have access to branding benefits as well as the following discounts:

Discounted Servicing, Processing or Appraisal Fees
Discounted Tax or Farm Accounting Services
Discounted registration fees to attend industry meetings & conferences

Additionally, the following benefits will soon be available to certified members:
• Expeditied permitting
• Value-added commodity prices
• Discounted agricultural supplies
• Sustainable agricultural producer label
Thanks to our partners

Yahara WINS

If you are interested in Yahara Pride Farms apparel please visit: ces.landsend.com/CleanLakes

To get a Yahara Pride Farms member sign (shown right at Endres Berryridge Farms) after completing the certification program, please contact us at 608-255-6329.

To become a member or to find more information about our organization: www.yaharapridefarms.org

608-255-6329

Yahara Pride Farms Participation Form

Name ____________________________________________
Street ____________________________________________
City_____________________________________________
State __________ Zip __________
Phone ___________________________________________
Email ____________________________________________

Type of Operation:
☐ Livestock    ☐ Grain    ☐ Combination

Yes, I’d like to participate in the following field demonstrations:
☐ Strip tillage
☐ Vertical tillage
☐ Vertical manure injection
☐ Fall cover cropping
☐ Aerial seeded
☐ Drilled
☐ Air flown
☐ Slurry seeded

Acres:

Please complete this form and return to:
Yahara Pride Farms
3609 Niebler Lane
Middleton, WI 53562