Yahara Pride Certification

Yahara Pride Farms launched its certification program this year with the purpose of having farmers look at their operations through a water quality lens. The program was developed with the help of Dennis Frame of UW Discovery Farms in an effort to raise the awareness of good conservation practices already in place and any opportunities to improve practices to reduce runoff.

Seven farms have gone through a thorough “whole farm walk-over” to date and the process is both detailed and enlightening. In many cases, good conservation practices are already in place and the standard of farming is very high. But in any operation, there are issues that go unnoticed and this process simply identifies them. No mandates. No fines.

What do we look at?
Cropland, pastures, woods and wetlands are analyzed for storm water management and erosion. On a field-by-field basis, growers ride along with our Yahara Pride Resource Managers to take a close look at the whole system. Nutrient management plans are analyzed for effectiveness and maintenance. As a team – farmer and resource managers – we look at ways to help adapt to climate changes and the new challenges of winter runoff and heavy rains. Facilities get a look as well to see if feed and manure handling are meeting recommendations for good conservation.

Our “Resource Managers”
Dennis Frame, now retired from UW Discovery Farms and Joe Connors, a retired agronomist are under contract with Yahara Pride Farms to implement the certification program throughout the watershed, as well as serve as a resource for any questions, concerns or special projects that arise with area producers. This team of professionals is at the service of all Yahara Pride members to assist in anyway they can to grow and sustain their business.

Response is great
Area producers have been lining up to go through the certification. It will be administered on a first-come-first-served basis because the process must be run in a short spring-early summer window. As Yahara Pride builds its support base from agribusiness, we will be growing our capacity of field people to better execute the certifications. Best to get your name in now with Joe at jconnors@mhtc.net

Process
At the end of the process, producers are given a full report on their operation including maps indicating strong conservation practices and areas to watch or in need of immediate attention. A simple grading system is used to guide future planning. Green for Good. Yellow for Caution. And Red for needs immediate help. If a producer chooses to make any adjustments in the future, Yahara Pride Farms is here to assist in anyway it can with planning, funding, permitting, etc.

We’re in this together and all of us would like to see agriculture in Dane County begin to receive the recognition and positive impression it deserves. With the cooperation of this farmer-led approach, we are on the right path.

Conservation Resource Managers, Dennis Frame & Joe Connors, discuss Farmer Jeff Endres’ conservation plans.
Badgerland Financial is proud to support the efforts of the Yahara Pride Farms Conservation Team. Farmers completing Yahara Pride’s Certification Program will be eligible to receive the following rewards from Badgerland Financial.

**REWARD #1**
$500 off Badgerland Financial Loan Servicing (Processing or Approved Fees)

**REWARD #2**
$250 off Badgerland Financial Tax or Farm Accounting Services

**REWARD #3**
$250 towards registration fee at their annual industry meetings and conferences

**About Badgerland Financial**

With a network to cultivate prosperity for agricultural and rural communities alike, Badgerland Financial provides a full suite of financial services, competitive financing and related financial services to its member-owner farmers and other rural businesses. Part of the nationwide cooperative farm Credit Union System, we proudly service farmers in Wisconsin and beyond.

Badgerland Financial is the proud partner of Yahara Pride Farms and Yahara WINs, which contribute to the marketing, training and educational efforts of the Yahara Pride Farms Conservation Team. Yahara PRIDE has more rewards thanks to Badgerland Financial!

**Yahara PRIDE CERTIFICATION**

Thanks to our partners!

Yahara Pride Farms

**Grant/Funding Updates**

University of Wisconsin-Extension Dane County: "We see the findings about cover crops and disease management provide valuable data, which could be used to make the orchestrate farming for 2015 planning."

"It is encouraging for the farmers that Badger is going to be a cover crop donor, since added benefits of reduced weeds and disease, decreased nitrogen leaching, and increased profitability can be obtained."

**Upcoming Events - Save the Dates**

**Yahara Pride Farms Summer Retreat 2014**, June 20th-22nd

Kachel, Wisconsin

Badgerland Financial Loan Servicing, 877.780.6410

**Yahara Pride Farms Mavere Management Workshop**

In partnership with Harvest Public Media, Yahara Pride Farms will dedicate one more reason to consider adding cereal rye into your normal practices."

"It's a way to get a fibrous root system in, scavenge nitrogen from the soil, and prepare the ground for a better next year and for better roots next year at the same time." - Benoit said. "You've got a pretty good yield potential you can get for this foliage living during the year."

In January of 2014, Yahara Pride Farms was awarded a $7,700 grant from the National Wildlife Federation. The award targets local and regional cover crop leaders who can provide region-specific information and farming knowledge to farmers and crop advisors. It also gives Yahara Pride Farms access to a network of conservation professionals and outreach organizations in the agricultural community.

The three-year study, funded by the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program, looked at whether planting cover crops in the winter field following the growing season could reduce the amount of soil erosion and suppression of weed growth. Beyond those already well-documented, such as prevention of soil erosion and suppression of weed growth, the study aimed to find findings about cover crops and disease management gives valuable data, which could be used to make the orchard farmers' farming for 2015 planning."

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The no-till drill and planter designed for Yahara Pride Farm's cover crop research is more favor for the farmer but also provides recognition for those already doing great. The grant provides the opportunity to look at cover crops for a variety of crops and across different locations, seasons, and soil environments.

The study was completed by Yahara Pride Farms, Inc. with the assistance of the National Wildlife Federation and the University of Wisconsin. Yahara Pride Farms and the National Wildlife Federation, in partnership with Harvest Public Media, will present a webinar on the study findings on May 28th.

**For more information, contact:**

Bob Uphoff, Vice-Chair
Chuck Ripp, Secretary
Scott Maier, Treasurer

**3609 Niebler Lane

La Crosse, WI 54601

Phone: 608-783-1267

Email: info@yaharapridefarms.org"
Yahara Pride Farms Certification Benefits

- Value-added commodity prices
- Expedited permitting
- Certified

Additionally, the following benefits will soon be available to Yahara Pride Farms members:

- Discounted registration fees to attend industry meetings & conferences
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- Discounted Servicing, Processing

In addition, Yahara Pride Farms members will soon have access to a network of agricultural professionals and will be able to receive additional information and farming knowledge to farmers and crop advisors. It also gives Yahara Pride Farms access to a network of regional cover crop leaders who can provide region-specific information and insights to farmers.

Yahara Pride Farms is an educational program for farmers who want to plant cover crops and grow them in an environmentally responsible way. The program aims to increase the adoption of cover crops and improve the sustainability of agriculture. It is supported by a grant from the National Wildlife Federation.

For a detailed description of all certification components, please review our Certification Checklist on our website.

Mission: To develop and support an educational program for farmers who want to plant cover crops and grow them in an environmentally responsible way. The program aims to increase the adoption of cover crops and improve the sustainability of agriculture.

What products/services does PIP offer?

- Corn
- Soybeans
- Soft Red Winter Wheat
- Alfalfa
- Various specialty crops such as the Tillage Radish®

Our product line includes a comprehensive product line that is designed to be easy to use and to provide farmers with a comprehensive package of resources to be successful. We provide support for the entire process, from planning and planting to harvesting and marketing.

In January of 2014, Yahara Pride Farms was awarded a $7,700 grant from the National Wildlife Federation to support their efforts. The grant recognizes the value of Yahara Pride Farms' cover crop cost share programs and the efforts they have already made to support local and regional cover crop leaders. It also gives Yahara Pride Farms recognition for their efforts to promote the benefits of cover crops.

Not only does the grant and title give Yahara Pride Farms new recognition, it also provides resources to move forward, but also provides recognition for the hard work already done. The grant recognizes the value of Yahara Pride Farms' cover crop cost share programs and the efforts they have already made to support local and regional cover crop leaders. It also gives Yahara Pride Farms recognition for their efforts to promote the benefits of cover crops.

The three-year study, funded by the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education fund, studied 12 different crops and 4 different control groups. The results showed that the cover crops were effective in decreasing weed pressure and increasing soil health.

Research conducted in Illinois indicates certain cover crops are more effective at suppressing weeds when they are grown in combination with other crops. The study found that the cover crops were more effective when they were grown in combination with other crops.

The results of the study showed that the cover crops were effective in decreasing weed pressure and increasing soil health. The study found that the cover crops were more effective when they were grown in combination with other crops.

In addition to the benefits of cover crops, Yahara Pride Farms also offers training and education programs to help farmers learn how to grow cover crops effectively. These programs include workshops, webinars, and classes.

In conclusion, Yahara Pride Farms is an educational program that supports farmers in growing cover crops in an environmentally responsible way. The program aims to increase the adoption of cover crops and improve the sustainability of agriculture. It offers a comprehensive package of resources to farmers, including support for the entire process, from planning and planting to harvesting and marketing.

For more information about Yahara Pride Farms and their certification program, please visit their website or contact them at 608-255-6329.
Winter in Wisconsin is unpredictable. We can expect some combination of snow, frozen ground, ice, warmer periods, and periods of high rainfall. These conditions influence the volume and timing of runoff, but weather conditions in the local area play the most significant role.

The UW-Discovery Farms Program monitoring shows that when manure is applied one week or less before a runoff event, losses of nitrogen and phosphorus are significantly increased, even with relatively low application rates. This article outlines the key factors for runoff during the mid and late winter season of February, March, and even April. Farmers should be aware of these conditions and continually assess the situation in their fields before spreading manure.

Factors for runoff
- Warming temperatures and more intense solar radiation. Pay attention to the amount of snowpack present and the weather forecast.
- Conditions that encourage infiltration of melting snow include soil and landscape influence the volume and timing of runoff. When soil is at or near saturation, additional water from precipitation or liquid manure application cannot infiltrate, and thus begins to run off from the soil surface. Logistically, this period when the soil is saturated makes it hard to bring equipment out to the field. There is increased risk of soil compaction, causing runs in the field, or even getting stuck. Targeting fields that are relatively flat and dry out more quickly are good ways to manage runoff risk when saturated soil conditions are present.
- Concrete frost or ice crust. The amount and type of frost present in the soil is one of the primary factors that influence the amount of surface runoff generated by snowmelt or winter rainfall events in any given year. These conditions in the soil vary widely across the state, and even in local areas. Whether it is solidly frozen soil, referred to as concrete frost or a layer of ice on the soil surface, rain, melting snow, or manure from a recent application cannot infiltrate into the soil in these conditions. Some evidence exists that fields with vegetative cover through the winter freeze less solidly. In a must-spread situation, target fields that have had vegetative cover throughout the winter freeze less solidly. In a must-spread situation, target fields that have had vegetative cover throughout the winter and try to get the manure onto the ground surface if possible when a snowpack is present.
- Saturated soil. It is impossible to know exactly when the ground will finally thaw, but the soil conditions during this transition usually switch from frozen to saturated just as the rainy spring starts. Aside from February and March, the spring months of May and June are the biggest contributors to the annual runoff in Wisconsin. Therefore, timing of manure applications during this period can be tricky. For farmers with storage, make sure that your storage is empty enough earlier in the winter to avoid spreading in February and March. If you don’t have storage or must spread to avoid an overflowing storage, work with advisors to identify the low risk fields for this high risk time period and watch the weather for a rain or melt event in the forecast. If possible, find areas with little snow cover or plow an area to try and get the manure as much contact with the soil as possible.
- Rain on frozen/snow-covered ground. Rain events during the winter time have strong potential to quickly generate surface runoff. If rain occurs on frozen ground with no snow, concrete frost in the top several inches of the soil can inhibit water from entering the soil profile. Discovery Farms data shows that almost all winter runoff events in December and January (75%) are the result of a rain event on frozen or snow-covered ground. During February and March, warmer temperatures during the day lead to more frequent rain events than earlier in the winter. Pay special attention to whether rain is forecasted within the week, as even a small amount of rain (less than ¼ of an inch) can cause runoff when the ground is frozen or snow covered.
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Management Recommendations
- It is clear that late winter is when most of the annual runoff in Wisconsin occurs. Therefore, timing of manure applications during this period can be tricky. For farmers with storage, make sure that your storage is empty enough earlier in the winter to avoid spreading in February and March. If you don’t have storage or must spread to avoid an overflowing storage, work with advisors to identify the low risk fields for this high risk time period and watch the weather for a rain or melt event in the forecast. If possible, find areas with little snow cover or plow an area to try to get the manure as much contact with the soil as possible.
- Don’t start planning for winter manure application in February. Start tweaking your system and develop a strategy much earlier to that if an emergency situation arises, you have gone the extra mile to protect yourself and the water quality around your farm as much as possible. The key to reducing nutrient loss during winter manure application is to understand the local conditions and have a winter spreading plan in place.

Environmental Benefits of Digester
- One of the main purposes of the Dane Community Digester is to help manage phosphorous levels in the Yahara Watershed. By separating the digested manure, the majority of phosphorous is tied up in the fiber solids and can then be removed from the local ecosystem. Another benefit of anaerobic digestion is the capture of methane from the manure that would normally be emitted into the atmosphere. The immediate processing of the animal waste also greatly reduces odor.
- The energy produced by the facility is also environmentally friendly. By providing Alliant Energy with electricity generated from a clean, renewable resource, Clear Horizons (owner/manager of the Waunakee facility) displaces the fossil fuel used to generate electricity by the utility power plants, and therefore displaces harmful greenhouse gas emissions. The electricity they produce is enough to power 2500 Wisconsin homes annually.
Winter in Wisconsin is unpredictable. We can expect some combination of snow, frozen ground, ice, warmer periods and even a bit of rain on any given year. Every year, details about how much and when runoff water moves across the land differ slightly. Factors including soil and landscape influence the volume and timing of runoff, but weather conditions in the local area play the most significant role.

The UW-Discovery Farms Program monitoring shows that when manure is applied one week or less before a runoff event, losses of nitrogen and phosphorus are significantly increased, even with relatively low application rates. This article outlines the key factors for runoff during the mid and late winter season of February, March, and even April. Farmers should be aware of these conditions and continually assess the situation in their fields before spreading manure.

**Factors for runoff**

Warming temperatures and more intense solar radiation. Pay attention to the amount of snowpack present and the weather forecast. A rapid and dramatic temperature increase, clear sunny skies or a layer of ice over the soil often lead to higher runoff volumes during the winter months. However, a deep snowpack doesn’t always mean that a large amount of that water will end up as surface runoff. Conditions that encourage infiltration of melting snow include the absence of concrete frost in the soil, temperatures just above freezing during the day and cooler at night and foggy or overcast conditions. If spreading manure during these months, look ahead to forecasted within the week, as even a small amount of rain (less than ¼ of an inch) can cause runoff when the ground is frozen or snow covered.

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Yahara Pride Farms Certification

To a diverse group of stakeholders in the Yahara watershed, Badgerland Financial is more than a financial institution. Our commitment to supporting our rural communities is reflected in our partnership with Yahara Pride Farms. We are proud to provide financial services and resources to farmers and ranchers through our dedicated Ag Lending Department.

The Benefits of Certification

By becoming a Yahara Pride Farms member, you’ll gain access to benefits including financial services tailored to your unique needs. These benefits are designed to support farmers and ranchers in protecting agricultural land.

About Yahara Pride Farms

Yahara Pride Farms is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to protecting agricultural land in the Yahara watershed, a tributary to Lake Michigan. The organization promotes environmental stewardship through agricultural practices that protect quality soil and water resources for generations to come.

Why did Badgerland decide to partner with YPF?

Badgerland Financial is proud to support the efforts of Yahara Pride Farms and farmers across Wisconsin who take seriously their responsibility to promote environmental stewardship.

In addition, the unique expertise of our Ag Lending Department and their ability to provide financial solutions tailored to the needs of farmers is another reason for our partnership.

Of course, we pride ourselves on exceptional customer service. In January of 2014, Yahara Pride Farms was awarded a $7,700 grant and the title of outreach cover crop champions by the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program, looked at whether cover crops have environmental and economic benefits beyond those already well-documented, such as prevention of soil erosion and suppression of weed growth. The three-year study, funded by the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program, looked at whether cover crops have environmental and economic benefits beyond those already well-documented, such as prevention of soil erosion and suppression of weed growth.

A study conducted by Yahara Pride Farms in 2014 found that cereal rye and rapeseed were most successful at warding off diseases than the other species. According to Eastburn’s research, cereal rye and rapeseed were most successful at warding off diseases than the other species.

“Eastburn said. “To make them go through the last nine years.”

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For more details about Badgerland Financial, please contact us at 608-255-6329. Thanks to our partners!

Endres Berryridge Farms

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Additionally, the following benefits will soon be available to certified producers:

- Discounted registration fees to attend industry meetings & conferences
- Discounted Tax or Farm Accounting Services or Appraisal Fees
- Access to branding benefits as well as the following discounts:
  - Crop insurance, dairy and livestock insurance and life and disability insurance
  - Organic, local food and non-traditional ag loans

Our vast array of agricultural services includes real estate services, farm equipment financing, crop insurance, and much more.

In addition, we value the opportunity to support beginning and young farmers and ranchers. For a detailed description of all certification components, please visit Yahara Pride Farms. By becoming a Yahara Pride Farms member, you become a part of agriculture. Many of us grew up on farms. Some of us still work on the watershed? But all our farms create economic value and other disparities, for example, as long as the farmers live. This isn’t just about the farmers who work in the field, the farmers who work with the land. It’s about the farmers who work with the land.

Why did Badgerland decide to partner with YPF? We pride ourselves on exceptional customer service. One of our core values is to provide excellent service to our member-owners.

Badgerland Financial is proud to support the efforts of Yahara Pride Farms and farmers across Wisconsin who take seriously their responsibility to protect agricultural land. The initiative that Yahara Pride Farms has embarked on is to provide a reliable source of credit for the nation’s farmers. In 1916, the Farm Credit System was formed to provide credit to farmers and ranchers who were not served by traditional lenders. Since then, the Farm Credit System has grown to become the largest provider of credit to farmers and ranchers in the United States.

Vision:

Badgerland Financial continues to provide a reliable source of credit for the nation's farmers and ranchers.

Badgerland Financial is proud to support the efforts of Yahara Pride Farms. For more information about Yahara Pride Farms and its mission, please visit yayaharapridefarms.org.

Study: Cover Crops Can Ward Off Soybean Diseases

Peter Gray, Harvest Public Media

Research conducted in Illinois and Indiana indicates soybeans grow better when cover crops are planted immediately following the harvest of soybeans. In this study, researchers found that cover crops can help prevent soybean diseases.

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Tour Rock! For info, go to YPF website.

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