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www.yaharapridefarms.org
Farmers across generations are working towards water quality goals and a treatment of our waters as a certification program.

Upcoming Events

WP Recovery Farms Winter Conferences

“Managing Nutrients: More for the Plant, Less Leaching”

The Professional Plant Nutritionists Conference, Winter Wellness Teslim, will host four events to engage farmers and provide them with the tools and resources they need to manage nitrogen more effectively and sustainably.

Certification Program Gaining Momentum in Watershed

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The Yahara Pride Farms (YPF) certification program is gaining momentum, with more farmers and businesses embracing the principles of sustainable agriculture and biodiversity stewardship.

Farmer Uphoff: Why is the program valuable?

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BU: Agriculture is not always talked about in a positive way, especially on farms that are highly productive like Uphoff Ham & Bacon. It is good to think of the farm as a business and to walk (or not work) on paper. It’s another thing to walk over the farm and see what is really happening on the farm.

BU: Why do you think it is critical to have a Yahara Pride Farms certification?

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BU: The most beneficial part of the program is, again, having the second pair of eyes coming from off the operation to look at the farming system and nutrient applications (rates, placements, and timing). This is a very key part of the program and should be part of every farm management plan. It is not an evaluation of compliance with regulations, but an evaluation of whether or not the farming system will be sustainable.

The CRM will also evaluate your SNAP nutrient management plan. The CRM will conduct site visits, based on the criteria established in the program criteria. The CRM will also assist with developing and implementing nutrient management plans (NMPs) that will meet the goals of the program. The CRM will also assist with developing and implementing nutrient management plans (NMPs) that will meet the goals of the program.

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and rural entities need to work together to ensure the sustainability of farming systems and need to be the lead in identifying high-risk situations and practices that need to be modified. Strong farmer-farmer, farmer-ag, and ag-supplier relationships are key to the success of the program.

Why is it important?

Agriculture and Julianne Motsinger Williams throughout Wisconsin can undergo tremendous pressure to respond to new sources of competition and demands. To add to this, there is an increased focus on the good of our environment as we face a growing world population. This increase in focus has led to varying levels of non-point sources of pollution entering the lakes. It is important to understand how this affects the quality of water and the future of the lakes. The Clean Lakes Alliance (CLA) has seen a need to help farmers understand these changes and take steps to modify our farming systems to be as protective of the environment as possible, while educating the non-farm public and agencies on the importance of taking action now. To better understand the impact of non-point sources of pollution, the CLA decided to partner with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to design and implement the Yahara Pride Farms program. The program is designed by farmers, for farmers, to improve the non-point farming systems and the reduction of pollution entering the lakes. To make the process work, we need to identify the non-point sources of pollution, the impact on the lakes, and what the best practices are and demonstrate that we can do it. The Yahara Pride Farms program is designed to do just this. It is an evaluation program that helps farmers to identify areas of improvement that could be made, determine how to modify their farming practices, and establish the application of nutrients through the assessment and further identifies areas of improvement that could be enhanced. The farm visits allow the farm owners and operators to work with professionals in the field, while the second pair of eyes will allow for an unbiased view of the farms. The farm visits also serve to highlight areas of improvement, provide opportunities for education, and establish a network to work together. The result is an evaluation program that helps farmers to establish and implement the application of nutrients through the assessment and further identifies areas of improvement that could be enhanced. The farm visits allow the farm owners and operators to work with professionals in the field, while the second pair of eyes will allow for an unbiased view of the farms. The farm visits also serve to highlight areas of improvement, provide opportunities for education, and establish a network to work together. The result is an evaluation program that helps farmers to establish and implement the application of nutrients through the assessment and further identifies areas of improvement that could be enhanced.
Sponsor Profile:
Diamond t Ag, LLC.

Contact Paul Deckard, Owner of Diamond t Ag, LLC. with any questions at 608-279-3521.

Who we are
We’re repairing the soil with biological farming methods. By using our tested systems of carbon-based agriculture, microbial life thrives in our soil’s atmospheric nutrition. Therefore, we grow healthier crops and achieve better yields.

We developed biological farming methods to lower the use of nitrogen. For Carbon to be effective, it has to be put into the ground. When placed on top of the soil it becomes ineffective because it reverts back to nitrogen. We developed Carbon Cal and DTA CAL compost that helps in the exchange of water, bacteria and enzymes that live in this atmosphere. The biological action in our compost creates a powerful soil atmosphere where nitrogen, calcium and many other minerals become available to the plants. Diamond t Ag has been around for 4.5 years now and continues to be successful because of our performance and cost.

Why did Diamond t Ag decide to partner with YPF?
Diamond t Ag is proud to support the efforts of Yahara Pride Farms (YPF) because we both share a common interest: cleaning the water and in a positive manner. YPF has a great approach: positive work, positive energy and no finger pointing. We also want to protect the Yahara River Watershed, while making it as economically feasible for the farmers as possible.

How do your services assist with the implementation of conservation practices?
Our services help farmers to buy less fertilizer, be less dependent on nitrogen and use more carbon. By using these practices, less nitrite will go into water, improving soil and water quality.

What discounts does Diamond t Ag provide Yahara Pride Farms certified members?
In the future we are looking to offer certified YPF members a dealer rate on composting costs. This will be confirmed in early 2015.

IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH, INCREASE YIELDS, STRENGTHEN SOIL AND BIOLOGICAL LIFE.

2014 YPF Farm Tour Recap
Perspective from a Yahara Pride Farms Intern, Ben Stacer

On Tuesday, August 26th, Yahara Pride Farms and Blue Star Dairy Farms hosted the second annual Yahara Pride Farm Tour. We had a great turnout, with many sponsors and community officials in attendance.

Growing up in California, and then moving to Minnesota at the start of high school, I had always lived close to farms, but I had never actually been on one. Needless to say, I was excited to see how such a vital part of our economy operates. The tour began in the calf barn, where we learned about the early life of the cows at Blue Star Dairy. I couldn’t believe how big the calves already were, even though some of them were only hours old. We then learned about Blue Star Dairy’s partnership with the Middleton manure digester and about their manure management plan. With nearly 500 cows, Blue Star Dairy generates almost 40,000 pounds of manure per day! I couldn’t believe that one farm could generate so much manure. This manure is hauled to the digester where it is heated to the same temperature as a cow’s stomach.

This process separates the solid manure from the liquid manure, and the liquid manure is transported back to Blue Star Dairy. This liquid manure is stored in two manure lagoons, and is then applied when the fields actually need it. This process of manure application greatly reduces the amount of nutrient runoff compared to conventional manure application (and it also greatly reduces the odor, too!).

After viewing the manure lagoons, the tour moved into free-stall cow barns where attendees learned about the daily lives of the adult cows at Blue Star Dairy. The cows were much bigger than I thought they’d be up close, but I was surprised to learn they were a little skittish despite being so big. After walking through the barn, we learned about other steps Blue Star Dairy has taken to reduce nutrient runoff. Catch basins, an essential part of agricultural water systems, were built near the manure lagoons to capture solids.

The amount of sediment is greatly reduced after water passes through the catch basin, allowing farmers to reuse this water for irrigation. Catch basins also help prevent sediment from entering waterways. We also learned about a retention ditch that is used to prevent runoff from entering fields. Finally, we got to see where the magic happens: the milking parlor. We learned about the delicate timing balance that is necessary to achieve the best results when milking a group of cows, a process that is much more complicated than I could’ve imagined.

This year’s Yahara Pride Farms tour was very educational. Every aspect of the tour, from the daily lives of the animals, to the conservation practices, to the milking process was extremely interesting. It was great to see that the conservation practices implemented at Blue Star Dairy are helping reduce their costs by creating a more effective manure implementation system, and by allowing them to reuse water from a natural source. Be on the lookout for information about the 3rd Annual Yahara Pride Farms tour scheduled for the summer of 2015.

A couple curious Blue Star Dairy calves.

Blue Star Dairy farmstead in Middleton, WI.

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In Madison, Wisconsin, the Yahara Watershed is an area that includes five lakes round the urban development of Madison, which flows through a series of five lakes, each showing signs of excessive nutrient and sediment loading. Living in the Yahara Watershed are under an even higher pressure to reduce their pollution, for the nutrients and sediments ending up in the lakes interconnected. The lakes are a vital water source for the area, and their health is crucial for sustaining farming systems and need to be the lead in identifying and addressing the problems facing the lakes.

The Yahara Watershed is a diverse area with a mix of urban, rural, and agricultural landscapes. It is home to a variety of industries, including agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing. The Yahara Watershed is also home to a significant number of people, with over 650,000 residents living in the area. The Yahara Watershed is an important area for the state of Wisconsin, and its health is crucial for sustaining the local economy.

The Yahara Pride Certification is a proactive program designed by farmers, for farmers, to increase the sustainability of agriculture in the region. It is a voluntary, non-governmental program designed to help farmers reduce their environmental impacts and improve their profitability. The program is designed by farmers, for farmers, to increase the sustainability of agriculture in the region and improve their profitability. The program is designed by farmers, for farmers, to increase the sustainability of agriculture in the region and improve their profitability.

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