

Forward Farmer



Yahara Pride Farms Newsletter

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We're on the Web!

www.yaharapridefarms.org

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Overview of Yahara Pride Farms Lunch & Meeting

Yahara Pride Farms held a Lunch & Meeting on March 21st at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee, WI for all Yahara Watershed area producers.

The meeting consisted of three guest speakers to discuss the challenges producers are facing due to a changing environment, to talk about conservation practices that are available to overcome these challenges and to inform producers of new technologies that are available to them.

Bob Uphoff, Vice-President of Yahara Pride Farms, gave background on the Yahara Watershed over the last couple decades, the challenges producers have faced and continue to face and what is on the horizon if all producers don't take a proactive approach to these challenges.



Bob Uphoff, above, addresses the crowd about the history of work in the Yahara Watershed. Below over 100 producers gathered at the Yahara Pride Farms Lunch & Meeting.



Announcements

- ✓ Look for an invite to a Yahara Pride Farms watershed-wide producer meeting coming up in June 2013 for a discussion on cover crops and other field demonstrations.
- ✓ Find our sign-up form to become a member of Yahara Pride Farms on our website: www.yaharapridefarms.org/?page_id=629

Why Badgerland Financial Supports Yahara Pride Farms

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 taken to lead by example and actively work together with farmers, residents, business owners, “recreationists”, technical advisors and others to promote environmental stewardship is commendable.

As an agribusiness 100% committed to Wisconsin agriculture, Badgerland Financial values our partnership with Yahara Pride Farms and the opportunity to advocate for the preservation and enhancement of high quality soil and water resources for generations to come.

The voucher Yahara Pride Farm members, on right, will receive after completion of our Certification Program. This reward was generously created by Badgerland Financial.

Chesapeake Bay Farmer Shares Lessons Learned

Chip Bowling discussed the main sources of Chesapeake Bay pollution, bay restoration efforts, a timeline of agricultural events that occurred in his area and how Maryland stayed ahead of the game through a voluntary nutrient management plan in 1993.

Maryland producers took a proactive approach on the challenges they were facing before regulations hit in 1998 under the MD Water Quality Improvement Act.

A program called Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program (FSCAP) was developed in Maryland as a voluntary, proactive approach to recognize good agricultural conservation stewardship and encourage additional conservation practices.

The new Yahara Pride Farms Certification Program is very similar in its approach and anticipated outcomes.

Chip gave several suggestions for Wisconsin Farmers:

- Be Prepared.
- Establish a complete reporting system to track paid practices, expired practices, & voluntary practices.
- Consider initiating voluntary programs so you determine the framework should they become mandatory.
- Get involved, be proactive, review any established goals to ensure they are doable.
- Get your land-grants on board!

- Defend Current Practices
- Prove water quality benefit – no “one size fits all” in BMPs.
- All funding must come with adequate technical assistance – not expanded bureaucracy, qualified on-field support.
- Ramp up environmental policy efforts.

Thanks to Chip, our area producers have a better handle on the changes and structure needed to make a positive impact on our land and water resources.



Chip Bowling discusses agricultural concerns for producers.

Dennis Frame Presents Farm Certification Program

Dennis Frame is the developer and director of UW-Discovery Farms. Frame is involved in the day-to-day management of the program as well as teaching and speaking at numerous field days/workshops through the state and region.

UW-Discovery Farms was developed to gain a better understanding of the amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment leaving field. It was also created to identify the situations, practices and conditions that affect these losses and *engage producers in finding ways to reduce losses to acceptable levels.*

Dennis explained what UW-Discovery Farms has learned with regards to manure application, conservation practices and nutrient and sediment loss.

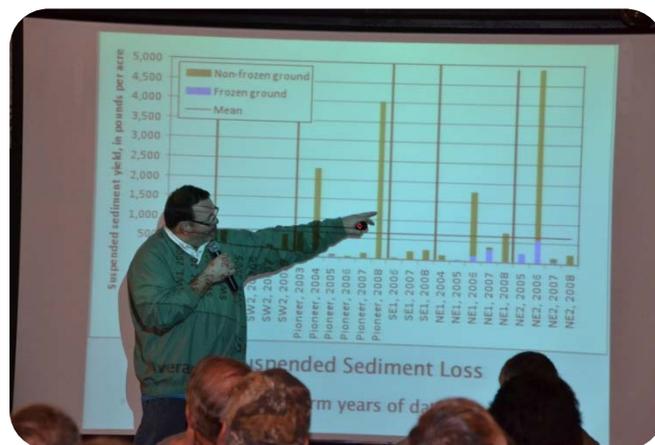
Dennis also provided Risk Reduction strategies for producers:

1. **Reduce runoff (Ave = 2.5" or 8% of precipitation)**
2. **Avoid critical runoff periods**
3. **Apply nutrients to meet crop needs**
4. **Identify critical areas on the farm**

UW-Discovery Farms' next step was to create an assessment of how their farms were operating which included field assessments, a nutrient management assessment and a facility assessment.

Individual aspects of the farm are evaluated on a scale using high risk, medium risk and low risk indicators and then suggestions are given indicating strengths and weaknesses of their conservation efforts. This has proven to be an effective tool in reducing phosphorus.

Dennis hits home the fact that water quality cannot be improved without everyone being part of the solution.



Dennis Frame discusses average suspended sediment loss.

New Technologies to Enhance Conservation Efforts

Kevin Kuehn from Environmental Tillage Systems came to the Yahara Pride Lunch & Meeting to discuss new technological advancements of agricultural equipment that will further advance conservation efforts. This equipment is useful when it is time to till the root mass created from cover crops.

Yahara Pride Farms cover crop program in 2012 was successful and

will be available again this year along with other new field demonstration practices such as the "Soil Warrior" Program.

We will use the information gathered from these programs to continue conservation and educational efforts within the Yahara watershed.



The Soil Warrior N available through Environmental Tillage Systems

Dane County Rural Practices Summary 2012

Dane County 2012 Rural Practices Implemented

Conservation Practice	2012 Units
Nutrient Management Plans (ac.)	5702
Manure Storage Structure Permits (no.)	2
Waste Management Systems (no.)	2
Contour Farming (ac.)	78
Contour Strip Cropping (ac.)	22
Clean Water Diversion (ft.)	313
Terraces (ft.)	6404
Streambank Protection & Restoration (ft.)	3985
Grade Stabilization Structures (no.)	1
Water & Sediment Control Basins (no.)	1
Roof Run-off Management Systems (ft.)	182
Wetland Restoration (ac.)	30
Grassed Waterways (ac.)	8
Grassed Buffers and Filter Strips (ac.)	21
Total P for 2012 = 2,678 pounds.	

This table summarizes the total units devoted to individual conservation practices within Dane County in 2012.

Upcoming Events

Saturday June 8th, 2013

35th Annual Dane County Breakfast on the Farm

Serving Food 7:30 am – 12:00 am

White Gold Dairy

6200 Maier Road

Waunakee, WI 53597

Event Admission

Includes parking, breakfast, and all entertainment and activities.

Ages 0 – 2 = Free

Ages 2-11 = \$4.00

Ages 12 and up = \$7.00

Breakfast Menu

Pancakes, Cheesy Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Cheese of many varieties, Ice Cream, Milk & Coffee. In addition, samples of other dairy products will be offered in the Expo



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