



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Marian Viney, communications
Yahara Pride Farms
(608) 219-7922 | communications@yaharapridefarms.org

Yahara Pride Farms to hosts Twilight Meeting

August 19, 2023 —Yahara Pride Farms hosted a Twilight Meeting on August 9, 2023, at Laufenberg Farms, 7015 Riles Road, Waunakee. Hosts included Dave and Kate Laufenberg, Fred and Mary Laufenberg, Kurt Laufenberg, Emma Laufenberg, and Luke (YPR board member) and Zoe Laufenberg.

The twilight meeting included a robotic milking tour, a meal sponsored by Insight FS, and presentations by Crop Consultant Eric Birschbach, and Agronomist Kim Meyer. More than 60 Yahara Pride Farms members enjoyed a meal catered by Mission BBQ.

Birschbach shared that he is most proud of his field collaborations with the UW for the benefit of Wisconsin farmers. He encouraged farmers to have a vision of where your operation is going and to ask what role do cover crops have in that vision? He highlighted Dan Smith's research work at the University of Wisconsin Nutrient and Pest Management Program with fall seeded winter rye followed by spring no till seeded alfalfa.

Birschbach also shared observations from this season on the reduced weed pressure in areas that had cover crops and said that this year is an excellent year to evaluate your own crop management successes.

Meyer provided highlights from the 2022 Yahara Pride Farms Phosphorus Report and described the 10 incentive programs offered in the Yahara Watershed. Meyer outlined the original phosphorus accounting method that had been used since 2012 when the Cost Share Program had started. She described a new phosphorus account method that was used for 2022.

“The 2022 numbers will be significantly lower than in 2021,” said Meyer. “However, farmers are still having the same impact as they were before. Same practice, same water quality outcome, different number.”

She presented the 2022 statistics: Due to efforts by the farmers in the Yahara Watershed 28,464 pounds of phosphorus were kept on farmland by Cost Share Program conservation practices; total acres: 25,566.

“And farmers spent 126% more than they received in cost-share,” added Meyer.



Thank you to our sponsors: Clean Lakes Alliance, Compeer Financial, Edge, Farmers for Sustainable Food, Insight FS, Lake Ridge Bank, The Nature Conservancy, Yahara WINS, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

About Yahara Pride Farms: Established in 2012, Yahara Pride Farms is a farmer-led 501c(3) non-profit organization that strives to preserve agricultural heritage while simultaneously encouraging farmers to engage in proactive environmental stewardship within the Yahara Watershed. Participating farms employ practices that result in the preservation and enhancement of soil and water resources for today, and for generations to come.

###