

September 5, 2023

Dear Friends

Thank you for your continued support of Yahara Pride Farms (YPF). Without farmers like you, committed to trying and implementing various conservation practices, we would not see the continued improvement in water quality throughout the area.



The enclosed information outlines the **2023-2024 YPF Cost-Share Program** available to farmers in the Yahara Watershed. This program is designed to help minimize the risk associated with trying new conservation practices on your farm.

It's our hope that you will find value in the practices and implement these practices or combine practices for even greater environmental impact. The results from the 2022 Phosphorus Reduction Report indicated that farmers in the program reduced the risk of phosphorus delivery to the Madison Lakes and the Yahara River by 76,391 pounds if the accounting program used in past years was used compared to 61,706 in 2021. With the new accounting program that was used, **28,464 pounds of phosphorus was kept on farmland by Cost Share Program conservation practices.**

Enrollment is simple. Complete the enclosed form and mail it back using the enclosed envelope. We will follow up when we receive your form to determine if any changes or adjustments are needed. Our only requirement is that you submit a 590-nutrient management plan for the acres enrolled in the program. **Enrollments are due by Wednesday, November 1.**

From there, the acres you enroll in are verified against your 590-nutrient management plan. Payment amounts are calculated based on the verified number of acres per practice, up to the maximum number of acres as stated on the enclosed enrollment form and information sheet.

We applaud the efforts of so many of you who have planted more than those maximum acreage amounts and encourage you to keep that positive impact going. In the nine-year history of the YPF Cost-Share Program, we have paid out the maximum amounts stated on our enrollment form for all acres that have qualified. We strive to continue this level of payment into the future.

The target to distribute cost-share checks is in May 2024.

Your participation is crucial to the continued success of YPF, and our collective commitment to clean water, productive farms, and pleasant communities. The positive improvements we see are due in large part to the ongoing and impressive work by all of you!

We are honored to continue working with you and hope you will participate in the 2023-2024 YPF Cost-Share Program. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Endres".

Jeff Endres
Chair, (608) 279-8991, jeff.endres@yaharapridefarms.org