

Yahara Pride Farms

2023-2024 Cost Share Program

Practice Explanations



**A 590-plan documenting practice implementation is required for ALL cost-shared acres.*

1. Strip Tillage: \$15 per acre, up to 100 acres (Maximum payment of \$1,500/ farm).

Strip tillage is a conservation system that offers an alternative to no-till, full-till and minimum tillage. It combines the soil drying and warming benefits of conventional tillage with the soil-protecting advantages of no-till by distributing only the portion of the soil that is to contain the seed row (similar to zone tillage). Compared to intensive tillage, strip tillage saves considerable time, fuel and money. Another benefit is that strip tillage conserves more soil moisture compared to intensive tillage systems. However, strip-tillage may in some cases reduce soil moisture and moderately increase the potential for soil loss.

2. Low Disturbance Manure Injection: \$25 per acre, up to 125 acres (Maximum payment of \$3,125/farm)

Minimum disturbance manure injection often uses a single large fluted coulter to cut crop residue and open a channel in the soil surface for manure placement. Significantly less soil disturbance occurs with this process, compared to either chisel or chisel/disk incorporation systems. LDMI equipment works well with no-till farming systems and allows farmers to experiment with new methods of preserving nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium to save fertilizer costs. Improved manure utilization benefits the environment by ensuring efficient nutrient use and improving soil and water quality. **To qualify no extra fall tillage is allowed other than low disturbance deep tillage or strip tillage.**

3. Cover Crop Options: Based on data collected over several years through the Yahara Pride Farms cost share program, the use of cover crops is most effective when targeted to specific fields and farming systems. Cover crops have a high potential to reduce soil erosion, phosphorus loss and improve soil health.

a) \$55 per acre, up to 100 acres of **over wintering crops**

Over wintering cover crops include winter rye, hairy vetch and winter wheat.

b) \$35 per acre, up to 60 acres of **non-over wintering crops**

Non-over wintering crops include oats, barley, brassicas and annual ryegrass.

c) \$35 per acre, up to 60 acres of **deferred fall killing of alfalfa until spring.** Requires waiting until spring to kill alfalfa (hay) in fields that will be rotated into other crops or re-seeded. Pre-planning this practice with your agronomist to select herbicide type/timing is an important step for successful implementation. These acres must be identified in the 590-plan.

4. Low Disturbance Deep Tillage & Cover Crop: \$55 per acre, up to 50 acres.

Cost share assistance is offered to farmers willing to implement low disturbance deep tillage practices when planting a cover crop. *In order to credit practice benefits (and make Cost Share payments), YPF is requesting nutrient plan writers provide a summary of fields where this was conducted and document the practice that it replaced.

5. Winter Headland Stacking: \$8/yard, up to 400 yards. Requires spring/summer application.

This cost share program pays farmers to stack manure in a safe location during high risk runoff periods and apply it when soil conditions are more favorable (non-frozen conditions). One inappropriately timed manure application can generate significant losses of phosphorus to surface waters, payment for this practice is intended to avoid such an occurrence. For this practice, spring is defined as when the ground is no longer snow covered or frozen.

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Practice Explanations, continued



6. Composting Manure: \$12/yard, up to 400 yards. Must be spread in spring/summer on non-frozen ground.

Composting manure avoids all of the nutrient runoff risks previously mentioned and offers the additional benefit of producing a drier, more nutrient dense manure. Well composted manure can reduce moisture and volume by more than half and double the nutrient concentration. This lighter, more compact manure can be hauled further and applied like a soil amendment versus disposal of manure. An additional benefit is the reduced risk of soluble phosphorus loss.

7. Adding Grass to Alfalfa (Hay) Seedings or Seeding Grass Forage Mixtures (Alternatives to Pure Alfalfa Stands) on Highly Erodible Land: \$25/acre, up to 50 acres.

Adding grass to previously alfalfa only forage mixtures can enhance the soil erosion reduction benefits of hay crops and improve soil health by increasing plant diversity. Planting a “grass only” forage mixture further increases the erosion and soil health benefits. These practices are specifically targeted at highly erodible fields with known soil erosion issues.

8. No-Till Planting into Alfalfa, Soybean Stubble, or Cover Crops: \$30/acre, up to 60 acres.

Planting made directly into, essentially, an unprepared seedbed. No-till planting can help to reduce erosion, conserve moisture and minimize compaction in fields, among other advantages. Planting into cover crops can effectively dry out the soil in spring and provide a good mulch. Fields enrolled in this practice will be verified in spring before the Cost Share payment will be made.

REMINDER:

**YPF Cost Share Program Applications are due
by Wednesday, November 1, 2023.**

**Please note, final cost share payments are dependent on available funds and enrollment numbers. Payments are paid out to the maximum acreage noted for each practice, not the total acres planted in a practice, if greater.*