

2023 Phosphorus Reduction Report



Yahara Pride Farms Board of Directors
May 17, 2024

Executive Summary

In 2023, there were 10 Yahara Pride Farm Cost Share Program practices offered within the Yahara Watershed. The 2023 conservation practices cost shared were:

1. Planting an over-wintering cover crop
2. Planting a non-over-wintering cover crop
3. Low disturbance deep tillage and cover crop
4. Low disturbance manure injection
5. Strip tillage
6. No-tillage (planting into soybean stubble, cover crops, or alfalfa only)
7. Deferred termination of alfalfa until spring
8. Seeding grass with alfalfa (eligible on highly erodible land only)
9. Winter headland stacking of manure
10. Composting of manure

Each of these practices offers unique benefits both from a P reduction standpoint as well as from an educational and confidence/trust building perspective within the Yahara Watershed.

This report provides an update on the number of acres, fields, and number of farmers involved in each of these Cost Share Program practices. The SnapPlus Water Quality Phosphorus Trade Report was used to determine the reduction in P loss and the P Trade Report is calculated using the Wisconsin Phosphorus Index (P Index) equation within the SnapPlus computer model.

This report provides the data and summary information for the **78 farmers, an increase from 68 in 2022**, who provided SnapPlus plans to Yahara Pride Farms for evaluation of the impact of its Cost Share Program. **In 2023, there were 13 new farmers in the program** as well as a few previous participants who decided not to participate this year.

The information provided in this report is based on the difference in predicted P loss from the adoption of a conservation practice. The 2023 data is based on the plans provided to Yahara Pride Farms by the farmers or their crop and nutrient management consultants.

The data presented in this report are derived from the individual farmer's nutrient management plan, which considers tillage, crop rotations, and nutrient applications from manure and fertilizer and crop yields. This is the best representation of what is happening on the farms that participated in the Yahara Pride Farms Cost Share Program. Each farm and field have unique characteristics that influence yields, the tillage system, and the risks for sediment and nutrient loss. That is why we see such a large variation in losses within this data set.

Additional work should be done to accurately reflect the cost that farmers assume in adopting these conservation systems. Protecting water quality is important to everyone, and everyone needs to be part of the solution.