

2022-2023 Yahara WINS Phosphorus Reducing Practices Agreement with Yahara Pride Farms

This grant agreement (the "Agreement") is made and entered into this day of October 1, 2022 by and between the Yahara watershed improvement network (Yahara WINS) and Yahara Pride Farms (Yahara Pride) and covers the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

1. Recitals

- a. Yahara WINS is pursuing an approach to address reductions of phosphorus in the Yahara Watershed through an Adaptive Management Project
- b. Yahara Pride is a farmer-led, not for profit organization working to improve soil and water quality
- c. Yahara Pride is working with farmers in the Yahara Watershed to put phosphorus lowering practices on the farms, is engaged in associated outreach and education efforts, is implementing a farmer certification program, and is advancing projects aimed at practices that reduce nutrient losses
- d. Yahara WINS desires to support these efforts with the goal of reducing phosphorus losses in the Yahara Watershed

2. Scope of Work

- a. Yahara Pride Farms shall perform the following services:
 - i. Provide outreach to our farmers with the latest technologies and practices in conservation through our field days, conferences and in our newsletter.
 - ii. Provide a minimum of one farmer outreach initiative held in the lower or southern part of the Yahara River watershed.
 - iii. Continue to promote and explore expanding the cost-share program to new farmers while assessing the feasibility of establishing annual targets for new farm participation in the cost-share program.
 1. Provide cost-share assistance to improve the adoption of cost-effective conservation practices such as cover crops, low disturbance manure injection, headland stacking of bedded pack manure and reduced tillage and combination of these practices, with the goal of helping farmers adopt these practices into their farming system to reduce phosphorus losses from participating farms.
 - iv. Expand the windrow composting program to reduce nutrient losses from winter spreading of solid manure while providing organic sources of nutrients, and showcase the economic opportunities of composting, selling and/or buying composted manure.
 - v. Expand the use of headland stacking to determine the viability of this management practice in a variety of farming systems.

3. Use of Funds

- a. A minimum of 85 percent of the funds provided under this agreement will be used for supporting a cost-share program aimed at implementing conservation practices (e.g., cover crops, low disturbance manure injection, headland stacking of bedded pack manure, reduced tillage) that have the potential for reducing phosphorus losses, with the goal of helping farmers adopt these practices into their farming system. Yahara Pride Farms will work to engage new landowners and continue working with existing participating farms. Yahara Pride Farms agrees that payments to producers under the cost-share program will not be made until

after Yahara Pride Farms confirms that SNAP-Plus information used to calculate phosphorus reductions has been received from the participating farmer. Yahara Pride Farms also agrees that farmers receiving funds under this agreement will not receive additional funds provided by Yahara WINS through any other agreement for the same practices during the same cropping year.

- b. A maximum of 15 percent of the funds provided under this agreement will be used for supporting activities, including field data collection and analysis, SnapPlus modeling to determine phosphorus reductions, report development, farm evaluations conducted as part of the Farm Certification Program, farmer outreach, and related activities.
- c. Yahara Pride Farms agrees to return any uncommitted funds to Yahara WINS at the end of the agreement period or if Yahara Pride Farms is dissolved or no longer has legal standing.

4. Deliverables

- a. Yahara Pride Farms will provide Yahara WINS with a **preliminary report on or before January 31, 2023** summarizing practices and activities undertaken and funded under this agreement.
- b. Yahara Pride will provide Yahara WINS with a **final report by June 1, 2023 that includes:**
 - i. Total acres of each conservation practice, organized by TMDL stream reach
 - ii. Modeled phosphorus reductions, organized by TMDL stream reach
 - iii. Unit cost information for phosphorus reduction, expressed as \$/pound of P reduction and total pounds of P reduced organized by TMDL stream reach
 - iv. Narrative outlining the steps taken by Yahara Pride Farms to ensure to the best of their ability that acres of conservation reported to Yahara WINS are not under cost-share agreements with other partners
 - v. A summary of participating farms phosphorus index trends as seen over the time period of participation in the cost-share program
 - vi. Information on the number of farms and farmers worked with under the certification program and any other relevant summary information
 - vii. A detailed accounting of disbursements made under this agreement, including hours associated with supporting activities
- c. Yahara Pride Farms will provide a report that summarizes cost-share program progress to be shared with the Yahara WINS partners
- d. Yahara Pride Farms will maintain internal records as required by Yahara WINS adaptive management plan, available with advance notice to ensure regulatory compliance
 - i. The estimated change in the phosphorus index (PI) and changes in soil loss on a field-by-field basis using SNAP-Plus, organized by TMDL stream reach
 - ii. Whole-farm phosphorus index for each farm, recorded annually starting no later than 2023

5. Payment

- a. Yahara WINS agrees to provide a total of \$425,000 to the Yahara Pride Farms Conservation Board in consideration of and subject to the above. Payments will be made as follows:
 - i. \$40,000 after January 1, 2023.
 - ii. \$100,000 upon receipt of the preliminary report (Due on or before January 31, 2023) with confirmation that acreage and farmer participation requirements have been met.
 - iii. Remaining balance upon receipt of the final report (June 1, 2023)

6. Modification of the Agreement

- a. The terms of this Agreement may be modified if agreed to in writing by Yahara WINS and Yahara Pride Farms.

7. Complete Agreement

- a. This agreement constitutes the complete and entire agreement between the parties and supersedes any previous communications, representations, or agreement, whether oral or written, with respect to the subject matter hereof.

For the Yahara Pride Farms:



Jeff Endres, Yahara Pride Farm Board Chair

10-11-22
Date

For the Yahara WINS:



Martin Griffin, Yahara WINS executive Committee President

10-18-2022
Date



Jeffery Rau, Yahara WINS Executive Committee Treasurer

10/19/22
Date