

2024 Yahara WINS Phosphorus Reducing Practices Agreement with Yahara Pride Farms

This grant agreement (the "Agreement") is made and entered into this day of December 18, 2023 by and between the Yahara watershed improvement network (Yahara WINS) and Yahara Pride Farms (Yahara Pride) and covers the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. The 2024 agreement provides funding for a cost share program for practices that are signed up for in 2023 and verified that they are installed in 2024. The phosphorus reduction accounting for the practices verified in 2024 will be required under a 2025 agreement.

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 Pride primary way to advance projects that reduce nutrient losses is through a cost share program where farmers sign up in the fall for practices installed in that same year and those practices are verified the following spring
- e. Yahara WINS desires to support these efforts with the goal of documenting and accounting for 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 field days, conferences, newsletter or other outreach tools
 - 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.
 - iv. Provide cost-share assistance to improve the adoption of cost-effective conservation practices including but not limited to cover crops, low disturbance manure injection, headland stacking of bedded pack manure and reduced tillage, composting and combination of these practices, with the goal of helping farmers adopt these practices into their farming system and calculating a reduction in phosphorus losses from participating farms.
 - v. Identify new practices and underutilized practices (ex. composting program, headland stacking, other?) that will reduce nutrient losses from the Yahara River watershed. Recommend necessary actions and resources that will expand the implementation of these practices within the Yahara River watershed.
 - vi. Annually increase pounds of phosphorus reductions in the watershed by 5% over the previous year. If the annual 5% increase is not met, provide Yahara WINS in writing the reasons why the annual increase in phosphorus reductions did not occur.

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, composting, etc.) that have the potential for reducing phosphorus losses, with the goal of helping farmers adopt these practices into their farming system.

- b. A minimum of 7,000 acres of agricultural cropland using these conservation practices will be funded by Yahara Pride through the funds provided under this agreement to support the cost-share program.
- c. Yahara Pride Farms will work to engage new participating farm operations and continue working with existing cost share participants with a goal of increased participation in the southern part of the Yahara Watershed.
- d. Yahara Pride will increase the acres of cropland participating in the conservation cost share program by at least 350 acres over what was funded by Yahara Pride in 2023.
- e. 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.
- f. 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 year in which practices were verified.
- g. The funds available under this 2024 agreement for supporting a cost share program will be used to pay farmers who signed up in 2023 and whose practices were verified in the spring of 2024.
- h. 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.
- i. 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 **on or before January 31, 2024** with an **initial listing of cost-share participants** summarizing practices and activities signed up for in the fall of 2023 and anticipated to be funded under this agreement after verification in 2024.
- b. **Yahara Pride Farms will provide Yahara WINS with a preliminary report on or before April 1, 2024 summarizing phosphorus reductions funded under the 2024 agreement. These are practices that were installed in 2023 and verified in 2024.**
- c. Yahara Pride will provide Yahara WINS with a **final report by June 1, 2024. The report summarizes reductions due to practices installed in 2023 and verified in 2024 that includes:**
 - i. Total acres of each conservation practice, organized by TMDL stream reach
 - ii. Modeled phosphorus reductions, organized by TMDL stream reach
 - iii. A report for 10% of fields for each practice that shows the phosphorus index for each field before and after the practice was installed. (See Appendix 1 of the 2017 Yahara Pride Farms report to Yahara WINS)
 - iv. Unit cost information for phosphorus reduction, expressed as \$/pound of P reduction and total pounds of P reduced organized by TMDL stream reach
 - v. 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

- vi. A summary of participating farms phosphorus index trends as seen over the time period of participation in the cost-share program
 - vii. Information on the number of farms and farmers worked with under the certification program and any other relevant summary information
 - viii. A detailed accounting of disbursements made under this agreement, including hours associated with supporting activities
 - d. Yahara Pride Farms will provide a report that summarizes cost-share program progress to be shared with the Yahara WINS partners
 - e. 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 2024
- 5. Payment
 - a. Yahara WINS agrees to provide a total of \$425,000 to the Yahara Pride Farms Conservation Board in 2024 in consideration of and subject to the above. Payments will be made as follows:
 - i. \$100,000 after January 1, 2024 **initial listing of cost-share participants** summarizing practices and activities signed up for in 2023 and anticipated to be funded under this agreement after verification in 2024.
 - ii. \$200,000 upon receipt of the preliminary report (Due on or before April 1, 2024) with confirmation that acreage and farmer participation requirements have been met by summarizing practices and activities undertaken and funded under the 2024 agreement. These are practices that were signed up for in 2023 and verified in 2024.
 - iii. Remaining balance of \$125,000 upon receipt of the final report (June 1, 2024). The report summarizes reductions due to practices signed up for in 2023 and verified in 2024.
- 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.
- 8. Yahara WINS Adaptive Management Plan Phosphorus Accounting
 - a. The 2024 agreement provides funding for a cost share program for practices that are signed up for in 2023 and verified that they are installed in 2024. The phosphorus reduction accounting for the practices installed in 2024 will be required under a 2025 agreement. IF there is no 2025 agreement, YPF agrees to calculate the phosphorus reductions for the practices installed in 2024 and to bill Yahara WINS for the cost of doing the accounting work.

For the Yahara Pride Farms:



Jeff Endres, Yahara Pride Farm Board Chair

12-20-2023
Date

For the Yahara WINS:



Martin Griffin, Yahara WINS executive Committee President

12-20-2023
Date



Jeffery Rau, Yahara WINS Executive Committee Treasurer

12/22/2023
Date