



## Rock County Land Conservation Department

440 N US Hwy 14

Janesville, WI 53546-9708

Phone: (608) 754 – 6617 ext 3

Cell: (608) 289-1356

baker@co.rock.wi.us

---

# YAHARA RIVER WATERSHED ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT ROCK COUNTY – 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## Best Management Practices Implemented in 2023

1. **2.1 acres** of cropland was planted to **perennial forage** mix consisting of grasses and legumes (not to exceed 50% legumes). The field is located in the Yahara River Watershed. Modeling (Snap-Plus) determined **4.97 pounds of phosphorus was reduced from entering the river system annually**.
2. **22 acres** of cropland was planted to **perennial vegetation** mix consisting of grasses and legumes (not to exceed 50% legumes). The field is located in the Yahara River Watershed. Modeling (Snap-Plus) determined **101.33 pounds of phosphorus was reduced from entering the river system annually**.

## 2023 Planning and Design Activities:

1. A barnyard runoff system was planned and the design started in 2021 and continued in 2022 and 2023 with the assistance of DATCP Engineering Staff. The barnyard resides within 300 feet of the Yahara River and houses on average 200 steers annually. Storm water runoff from the barnyard not only contributes high level of phosphorus but also is creating gully erosion that deposits sediments in the Yahara River.

This is a complex project due to the location with limited areas between the operation and the Yahara River. This, along with landowner preferences for operation and maintenance has led to a revised plan than implements solids storage, a vegetative filter area and filter area utilizing metal shavings to trap phosphorus chemically. This practice is not yet approved as a DATCP or DNR practice in Wisconsin but has been used with success in other states in the Midwest. Yahara WINS staff previously gave approval to proceed with this design providing modelling can be done to justify the practice. Final design is being completed by DATCP with a goal to install the system in 2024.

2. No additional planning and design activity was completed in 2023 due to high staff turnover (3 of 6 staff members retiring or moving on), including the staff person previously designated for this program. Rock County LCD is rebuilding staff and has received good guidance from WINS staff on the best way to continue identify projects for this program in 2024 and 2025.