

Yahara Pride Farms Request for Increase Funding

Yahara WINS Executive Committee Meeting 12/16/2025.

Background: As part of the 2026 budget, Yahara WINS committed \$525,000 toward the Yahara Pride Farm cost-share program that is intended to fund a variety of cost-share conservation practices throughout the watershed.

In the recent cost share enrollment for the work under the 2025 agreement, there was an increase in the number of acres that signed up for the conservation opportunities that are funded by the 2025 agreement. This follows the same trend we saw from 2020-2024 where Yahara Pride Farm has requested additional monies to support the cost-share program above the Yahara WINS budgeted amount.

- FY 2020 – base agreement budget \$150,000; the Executive Committee gave \$37,000 added funding to Yahara Pride Farms for a total of \$187,000.
- FY 2021 – base agreement budget \$150,000; the Executive Committee gave \$100,000 added funding to Yahara Pride Farms for a total of \$250,000.
- FY 2022 – base agreement budget \$170,000; the Executive Committee gave \$184,000 added funding to Yahara Pride farms for a total of \$354,000.
- FY 2024 – base agreement budget of \$425,000, the Executive Committee gave \$113,600 added funding to Yahara Pride Farms for a total of \$538,600

Note that the FY 2025 budget reflected a line item of \$525,000 to Yahara Pride Farm for the 2024-2025 cost share program. This was an increase of \$100,000 over the amount budgeted for FY 2024.

[As part of the FY 2024 approved increase funding request](#), the Executive Committee requested that Yahara Pride Farms develop a plan that they will implement in 2025 and beyond to manage the budgeted amount of cost share funds. The Executive committee also indicated that requests for supplemental funding during FY 2025 and beyond should not be expected to be automatically available.

The Yahara Pride Farm Board meeting, minutes from the November 2024 meeting, shows how the Board addressed the WINS Executive committee request:

- The Yahara Pride Farm Board approved to prorate any late sign-ups that would move them over the dollar amount WINS committed to protect against going over the budgeted allotment resulting in requesting more money from WINS.
- The Yahara Pride Farm Board committed to continuing discussions on how to better manage the cost share program dollars that they receive from WINS and set a discussion for February 2025.

The Yahara Pride Farm board is requesting an additional \$221,000 above the 2026 budgeted amount for the 2025-2026 cost share program that is funded through the 2026 Yahara Pride Farm agreement. If the request is granted in totality, this would bring the total amount of the 2026 agreement to \$746,000.

The Yahara Pride Farms board is committed to continuing and expanding the phosphorus reducing cost share program in the Yahara watershed. Yahara Pride Farms has recently planned to contract a Resource Coordinator to help with verifying practices and soliciting new farmers to help expand practices in the watershed. Yahara Pride Farm has grown the number of acres the program has enrolled throughout the past years without soliciting new farmers. Contracting with a Resource Coordinator will allow Yahara Pride Farms to concentrate on

growing the number of farmers in the cost share program in the targeted areas of stream reaches to be identified by the WINS watershed prioritization study. This individual will also work with existing farmers in the cost share program to expand more acres of their farm into practices that Yahara Pride Farms cost shares. It should be noted that the requested increase in funds is not intended to be used specifically for the Resource Coordinator, as the Cost Share funding agreement will allow up to 18% of the total agreement cost to be used for administrative work at Yahara Pride Farms discretion.

Attachment: The Yahara Pride Farms board has created a document to support this funding request. The document shows the additional funding request and shows the previous year's Yahara Pride Farm expenses for the cost share program, the cost per pound of phosphorus for the reductions reported in previous years, and the contribution provided by WINS for the cost share program in previous years and cost-share participants contributions in previous years.

Request: The Yahara Pride Farm board is requesting an additional \$221,000 above the 2026 budgeted amount for the 2025-2026 cost share program that is funded through the 2026 Yahara Pride Farm agreement. If the request is granted in totality, this would bring the total amount of the 2026 agreement to \$746,000.

Recommendation: The executive committee will commit to funding the budgeted amount of \$525,000 in 2026 for the 2025-2026 Yahara Pride Farm cost share agreement.

Option 1: The executive committee will commit to funding the total request of \$746,000 in 2026 for the 2025-2026 Yahara Pride Farm cost share agreement. The added funds will come out of the underspent line items in the 2025 budget, and the existing operating surplus from underspending in 2020-2025.

Option 2: The executive committee will commit to funding a portion of the total request of \$746,000 in 2026 for the 2025-2026 Yahara Pride Farm cost share agreement. The added funds will come out of the underspent line items in the 2025 budget, and the existing operating surplus from underspending in 2020-2025.

Option 3: Option 1 or 2 except the added funds will come out of the WINS cash reserve balance.

YAHARA PRIDE FARMS
 WIN's 2025-2026 FUNDING REQUEST
 as of OCTOBER 16, 2025

COST SHARE PAID BY YPF	<u>PAID</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	
2020-21	321,000		
2021-22	375,000	54,000	
2022-23	386,000	11,000	
2023-24	490,000	104,000	
2024-25	508,000	18,000	INCREASE LIMITED BY FUNDING AVAILABLE- FARMERS PUT IN \$548,000 OF UNFUNDED PRACTICES
2025-26	ASK	600,000	92,000

2025-2026 FUNDING REQUEST

ESTIMATED 2025-2026 PAY OUTS	600,000
SHORTFALL FROM 2024-2025	<u>34,000</u>
TOTAL FOR PRACTICES	634,000
INCREASE FOR 15% ADMIN	<u>112,000</u>
TOTAL REQUEST	<u><u>746,000</u></u>
ROUNDED	<u><u>750,000</u></u>

2024-2025 COST PER POUND CALCULATION

YPF	farmer	total
<u>Cost</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>cost</u>
507,837	48%	52% 1,056,344
pounds	548,507	33,252
cost/lb	15.27	31.77

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