

**2015 VERTICAL MANURE INJECTION
1-YEAR PILOT PROJECT
(Yahara River Watershed Area)**

Purpose: In efforts to reduce the runoff of manure and nutrients from entering surface waters within the Yahara River Watershed the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department in collaboration with Yahara Pride Farms, Clean Lakes Alliance, and Yahara WIN's is offering a cost-share assistance program to producers for the purchase of Vertical Manure Injection (VMI) equipment. This program is available to producers who own or operate land located in the Yahara watershed that are currently either surface applying or incorporating manure. The program is intended to help offset some of the cost for producers to purchase the equipment that allows manure to be applied in a manner that greatly reduces its risk of entering nearby surface waters.

Funding Assistance: Funding is available for a wide range of equipment with maximum cost-share assistance provided below:

- VMI tool bar including hoses – 50% of the total cost not to exceed \$16,000.
- Flow meter and corresponding sensors – 25% of the total cost not to exceed \$7,000.
- GPS mapping and equipment – 25% of the total cost not to exceed \$2,000.
- **Total Funds Not to Exceed \$25,000**

Eligibility: Any Dane County producer with land located in the Yahara River Watershed that would receive implementation of this new practice. All VMI equipment requesting cost-share assistance must be approved by the Yahara Pride Farms Board.

Requirements:

- Producer or producers must agree to use the VMI equipment;
 - on a minimum of 150 acres/year for at least 5 years or
 - in applying 75% of the total volume of manure applied each year for at least 5 years.
- All land receiving VMI must comply with an approved conservation plan.
- If a manure application occurs in the fall the producer agrees to use the VMI equipment in the following manners:
 - A VMI application with no other tillage occurring in the fall.
 - A VMI application with low disturbance subsoil tillage followed by the seeding of a cover crop.
- Producer is responsible for maintaining all of the equipment.
- Enrolled land must be inventoried; soils sampled, and have a PI value calculated as part of the Yahara River Watershed project.
- Producer will share their experiences using the VMI equipment with Yahara Pride Farms

(Continued on Back)

Ranking: Priority will be given to those applications where more than one producer will be using the equipment. Priority will also be given to those applicants that plan to implement the practice on a greater number of acres.

Agreement Process:

- Staff assists producers to identify and run SNAP Plus on cropped fields that are eligible for the VMI Program.
- Staff verifies that a PI reduction would result in implementation of the VMI equipment using SNAP Plus
- Producer signs a cost share agreement for identified acres.
- Cost share agreement is approved by Land Conservation Committee.
- Producer receives 40% of the cost-share funds for purchase of the equipment
- Producers contacts LCD once identified fields have received the VMI manure application.
- Staff field verifies VMI application.
- Producer receives a payment of 20% of the cost share agreement each year for 3 years once staff verify VMI application.
- Equipment cannot be purchased before a signed agreement is in place between Dane County and the producer.