



LAND & WATER
RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Dane Demo Farms Farmer Outreach

Kim Meyer, Agronomist
March 11, 2023



Dane Demo Farms

Dane County received a \$1 million cooperative agreement from USDA-NRCS to establish a demonstration farm network.

Goals of the network include:

- Test effectiveness of conservation systems
- Provide transfer of technology and information on effectiveness of conservation systems
- Create opportunities for partners to test research, technical assistance and program implementation
- Implement outreach to share information and lessons learned
- Build interest and capacity to implement more conservation practices throughout the county
- Identify barriers to implementation of practices and explore solutions with input from farmers and others



Dane Demo Farms Project Manager

Began work with
Dane County on
March 20th



Certified Professional Agronomist

Certified since 2010

Masters Degree in Water Resource
Management



Previously employed at Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

Worked with Yahara WINS, assisted Yahara
Pride Farms, managed the Metrogro program



Connected to local agriculture and research

Grew up on family's small dairy in Dane Co.

Worked at a local farm cooperative

Past Assistant Superintendent at Arlington Ag
Research Station

Press Release

County Executive's
Office published the
Press Release on
April 21st



Shared with farmer-led groups

Yahara Pride Farms, Biological Farmer
Friends, Farmers for the Upper Sugar River



Picked up by local media and others

Local news outlet, a few local papers
NRCS shared information via email list



Created an application and informational document for farmer inquires

Distributed to farmer groups, farmers that
we met with, and those that called or
emailed

Farmer Outreach



Contacted farmer-led watershed group leadership

Provided information to be shared among their networks

- Met with two farmer leaders in Yahara
- Upcoming meeting planned with innovative farmer in Upper Sugar



Met with past field day farmer host

Met with innovative farmer who hosted a cover crop field day in the Black Earth Creek watershed.



Received phone calls and emails from interested farmers

All who inquired received the application and information document

- Interested farms added to list

Next Steps



Confirm commitments over the next two months

Target is to have a variety of farms participate from different regions of the county



Complete Agreements

Agreement has been reviewed by legal and is ready for next steps with farms that commit to the project



Begin planning research for each farm

Research committee includes Dane Co staff, UW Extension specialists and agents, and farmers agronomist





THANK YOU

Courtesy Shan Bartus



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Contact Information

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