



LAND & WATER
RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Waunakee Digester: Community Manure Management

May 20th, 2026

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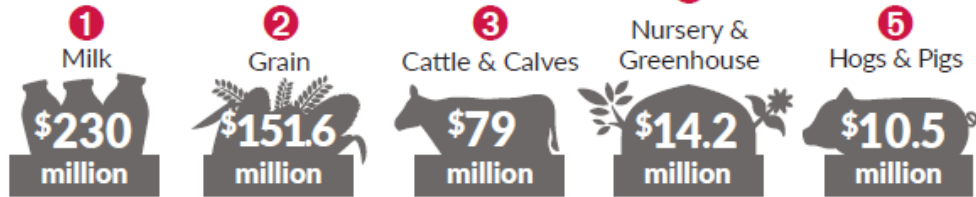


Madisonmom.com

Economic Impact

Agriculture's annual impact:

WHAT DO OUR FARMS PRODUCE?



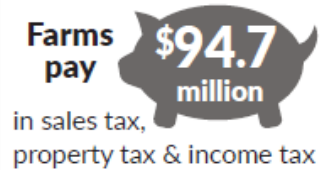
HOW MANY PEOPLE DOES AGRICULTURE EMPLOY?



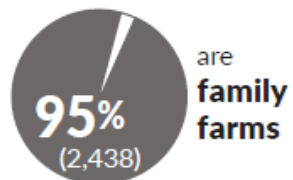
WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT?



HOW MUCH TAX DOES AGRICULTURE CONTRIBUTE?



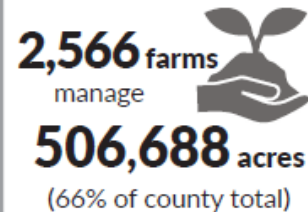
WHO OWNS THE FARMS?



HOW MUCH IS SOLD LOCALLY?



WHO TAKES CARE OF THE LAND?



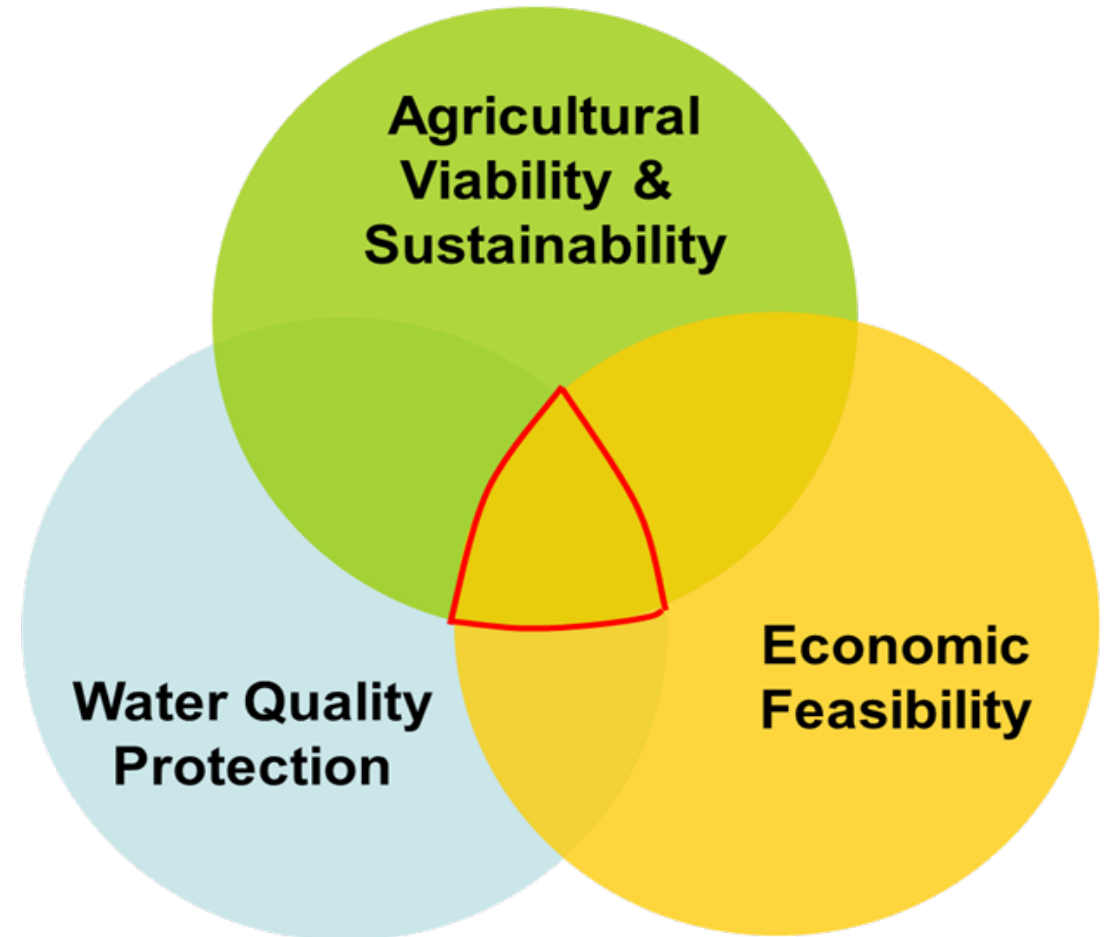
Environmental Impact

- Manure nutrients
- Agricultural runoff
- Water quality



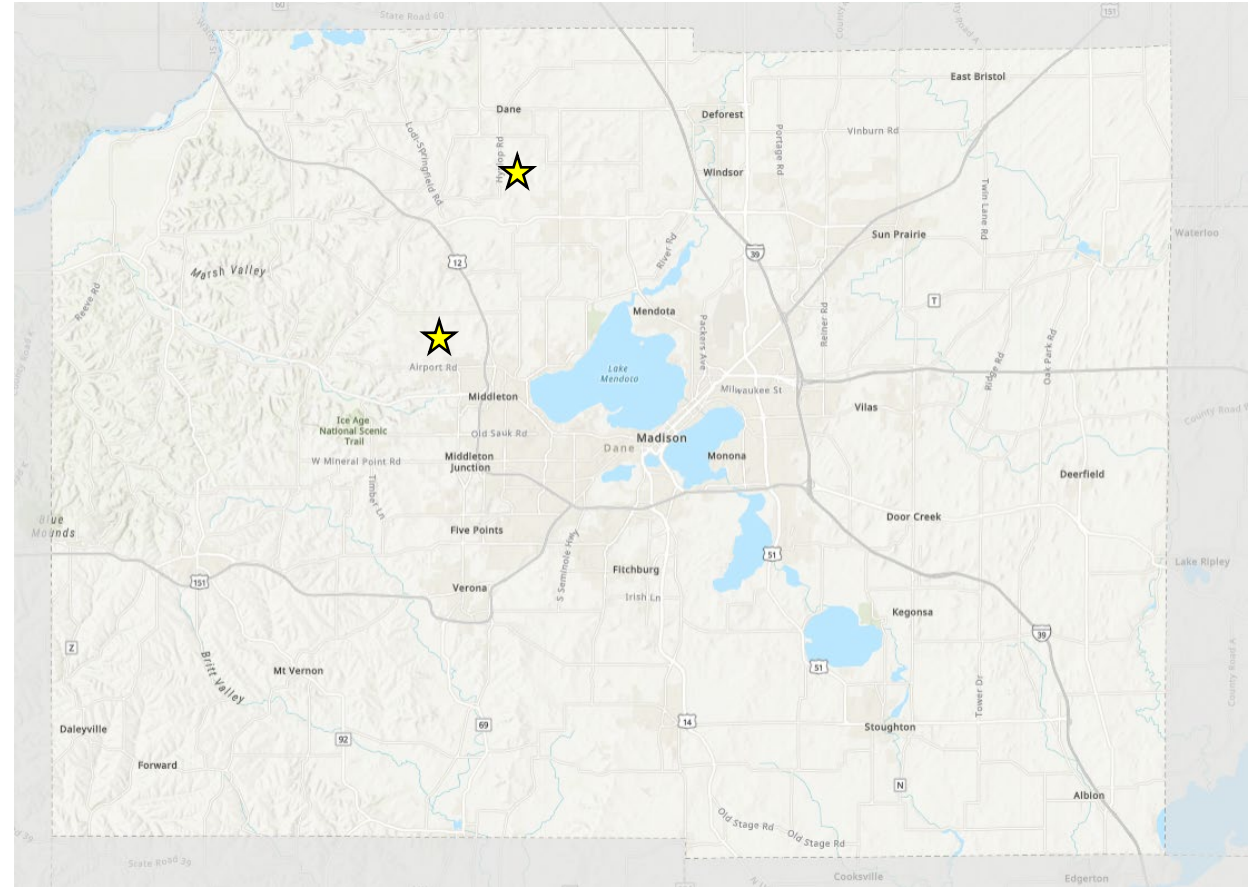
History

- 2008
 - Rock River Total Maximum Daily Load
 - Yahara Capital Lakes Environmental Assessment & Needs
 - Community Manure Management Feasibility Study



Current Manure Treatment Facilities

- Two facilities
 - Waunakee
 - Middleton
- Private public ownership
- **Only digesters with water quality performance requirements**



Water Quality Requirements

Digesters

- 60% phosphorus removal

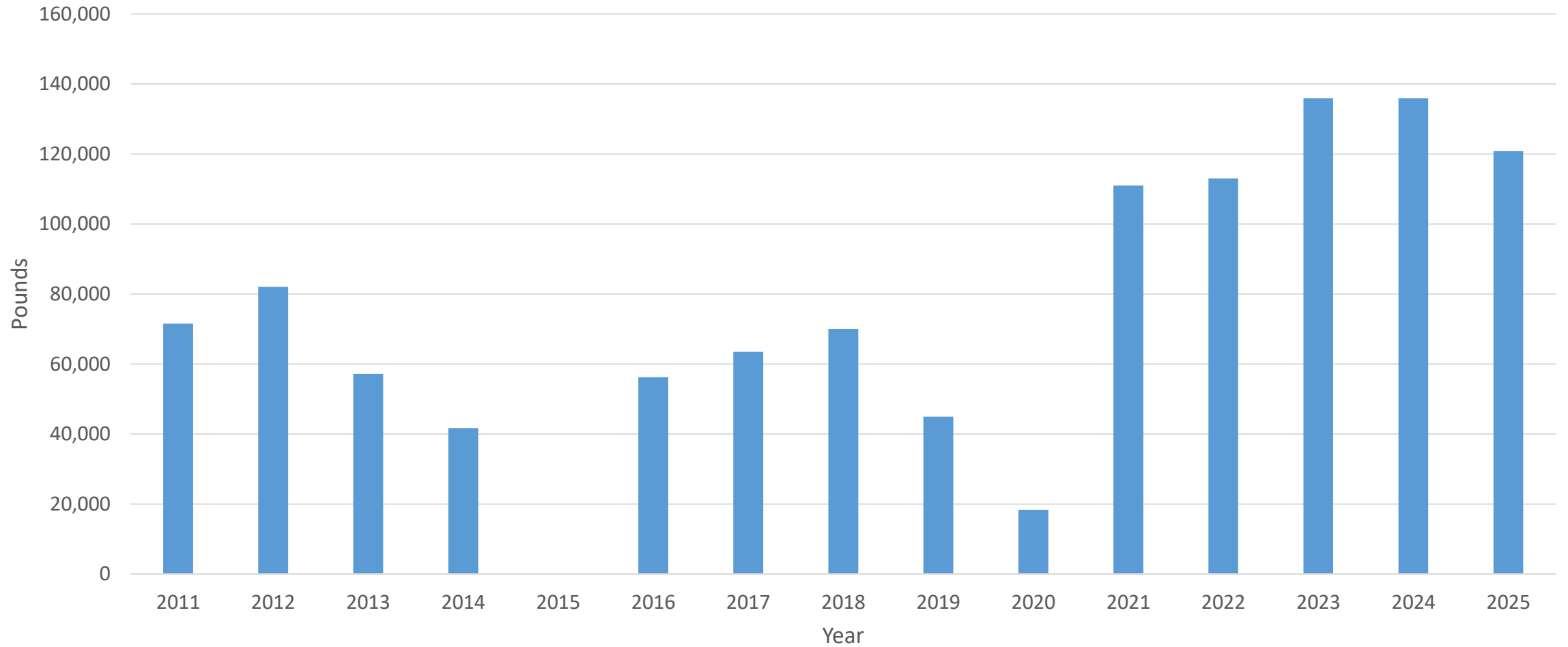


Farm participants

- Land spreading
 - Phosphorus based applications
 - No winter spreading
 - NRCS 590 & PI of 6



Performance



■ Phosphorus

Project Success

- Processed over 619 million gallons of manure
- Removed 1.1 million pounds of phosphorus out of the Yahara Watershed
- **Is one of the few actions removing the phosphorus source**



Watershed Impact

	Dane County	Yahara Watershed	North Mendota
# of Animals	155,000	79,000	60,000
Total Gallons of Manure	1,059,500,000	540,000,000	430,000,000
Total Pounds of Phosphorus	4,500,000	2,300,000	1,950,000

