



IL STAR – 2025 Non-Wheat Field Form

Please review the IL STAR – 2025 Non-Wheat Field Form Instructions before completing

Farmer/Owner Information

Name: _____
Email: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____
Street/City/Zip _____ / _____ / _____
Field name: _____
2025 crop: _____ Acres: _____
County where field is located: _____
Lat/Lon coordinates (optional): _____
Field ID:
FSA Farm #: _____
FSA Tract #(s): _____
FSA Field #(s): _____

Do you own or rent this field? ☐ Own ☐ Rent Is this field irrigated? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I understand this field may be randomly selected for verification. To the best of my knowledge, this information is correct.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

1. Crop Rotation. Use an "X" to indicate the 5-year crop history on this field.

Crop	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Corn					
Soybean					
Small Grain: _____					
Hay/Forage: _____					
Other: _____					

2. Conservation and Management Practices. Check all that apply on this individual field.

Conservation Practices

- ☐ Constructed Wetland
- ☐ Terraces/Contours/WASCOBs
- ☐ Grass Filter Strip/Riparian Buffer
- ☐ Grassed Waterway
- ☐ Pollinator Planting (1/2 acre minimum)
- ☐ Windbreak
- ☐ Conservation Plan that reduces sheet/rill erosion to "T"

Management Practices

- ☐ Conducted nitrogen rate study
- ☐ Collected tile drainage water and sampled for water quality
- ☐ Attended a soil health or nutrient management meeting or field day within the last year
- ☐ Nutrient management plan and/or field is under CCA advisement
- ☐ Enrolled in Partners for Conservation OR
- ☐ Enrolled in another Federal/State/Local conservation program [Please provide name of program:] _____

☐ Completed the 2024 STAR evaluation for this field

For TILE DRAINED fields only, indicate the type of tile and any additional conservation practices that apply:

☐ Pattern tiles ☐ Random tiles ☐ Saturated Buffer ☐ Bioreactor

3. Cover Crops (Summer 2024-Fall 2025). Check all that apply. Cover crops must be established according to NRCS guidelines and must have some growth. Note: Wheat is not considered a cover crop.

- ☐ Winter hardy - single species
- ☐ Winter hardy - 2 or more species
- ☐ Cover crop was terminated AFTER spring cash crop planting
- ☐ Winter kill - single species
- ☐ Winter kill - 2 or more species



4. Soil Sampling for Nutrient Management. *Check all that apply. Use the previous 4-year field history.*

- ☐ Not sampled in the last 4 years
- ☐ Sampled every 4 years or less in Spring or Summer for the following crop year
- ☐ Sampled every 4 years or less in the Fall
- ☐ GPS sampled (by grid or zone)

5. Fall Tillage (Starting after harvest of the 2024 crop). *Check all that apply.*

- ☐ No tillage or low disturbance fertilizer toolbar
- ☐ Strip tillage on field classified as non-HEL
- ☐ Shank type fertilizer bar and no other tillage performed
- ☐ Any full width operation not exceeding a 3" depth
- ☐ Any full width operation exceeding a 3" depth
- ☐ Any full width operation on soybean stubble

6. Spring Tillage (2025 field operations). *Check all that apply.*

- ☐ No tillage or low disturbance fertilizer toolbar
- ☐ Strip tillage or strip freshener on non-HEL field, or shank type fertilizer bar and no other Spring tillage
- ☐ Any full width operation, limited to a single pass, where no Fall tillage was performed
- ☐ Any full width operation, two or more passes, where no Fall tillage was performed
- ☐ Any full width operation, one or more passes, where Fall tillage was performed

7. Fall Nutrient Management (Fall 2024– February 2025)

- ☐ No nitrogen was applied in this time frame
- ☐ No nitrogen was applied in this time frame other than MAP or DAP
- ☐ MAP or DAP was applied before December 1st
- ☐ No more than 50% of the total nitrogen program (from all sources) was applied as NH₃ with an inhibitor when the soil temperature was below 50 degrees
- ☐ More than 50% of the nitrogen program was applied during this time frame
- ☐ Manure/biosolid was injected or applied and incorporated when soil temperature was below 50 degrees
- ☐ Manure was applied, but not incorporated

8. Spring/Summer Nutrient Management (March 1st – Summer 2025)

- ☐ No nitrogen was applied in this time frame and no prior Fall-February nitrogen
- ☐ No nitrogen was applied in this time frame and no prior Fall-February nitrogen other than MAP or DAP
- ☐ Spring/Summer nitrogen application(s) amounted to 50-74% of the total nitrogen program (from all sources)
- ☐ Spring/Summer nitrogen application(s) amounted to at least 75% of the total nitrogen program (from all sources)
- ☐ In-season nitrogen application (top or sidedress) was at least 25% of the total nitrogen program (from all sources)
- ☐ Manure/biosolid was injected or applied and incorporated
- ☐ Manure was applied, but not incorporated

9. Additional Nutrient Activities

- ☐ Total nitrogen applied on corn that followed a different crop was 180 lbs or LESS/acre, OR corn-on-corn was less than 200 lbs/acre
- ☐ Total nitrogen applied on corn that followed a different crop was 181 to 205 lbs/acre, OR corn-on-corn was 200 to 220 lbs/acre
- ☐ Total nitrogen applied on corn that followed a different crop was more than 205 lbs/acre, OR corn-on-corn was more than 220 lbs/acre
- ☐ Phosphorus and/or potassium application was based on removal rates and/or soil samples WHENEVER applied (Note: this may mean that zero P or K was applied)
- ☐ At least 50% of total applied phosphorus was banded subsurface
- ☐ Used Triple Super Phosphate (0-45-0)
- ☐ Used Variable Rate Technology and did not exceed application rates recommended in the Illinois Agronomy Handbook
- ☐ Any fertilizer source containing nitrogen or phosphorus was broadcast on **frozen** or **snow-covered** ground

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“If you can’t measure it, you can’t improve it.” - Peter Drucker



IMPORTANT! Before proceeding, please review these instructions. Accurate responses will help ensure your field is awarded the correct point total and STAR rating.

General Guidance

- Crop year: This form documents field activities beginning immediately after harvest in 2024 and concluding with 2025 harvest. Cover crops interseeded prior to the 2024 harvest should be included in this timeframe.
- Read every item under each section. More than one selection may be possible, but sometimes no items will be selected depending on your specific field management.
 - *For example, if you planted a cover crop mix of cereal rye and tillage radish, you would select “Winter hardy - single species” and “Winter kill - single species” in the Cover Crops section.*
- Completely read each statement. Several have more than one qualifier that needs to be met. *For example: Spring Tillage section - “Any full width operation, limited to a single pass, where no Fall tillage was performed.”*

Section Guidance

- **Section 8. Crop Rotation**
 - **Example:** A field has been in corn/soybean rotation for over a decade. In 2025, it was planted to corn. Place an “X” adjacent to corn for the years 2025, 2023, and 2021. Soybean would have an “X” for 2024 and 2022. If your crop is not listed, i.e., Grain Sorghum, write your crop on the “Other” line and mark “X” in the year(s) planted. **Do not record cover crops here.**
- **Section 10. Cover Crops.** The time period varies slightly here. Any cover crops established in 2024 either prior to harvest or after a summer crop was harvested should be included. Examples: Aerial application into standing corn or drilling after wheat harvest. **Wheat is not considered a cover crop.**
- **Section 11. Soil Sampling.** This section is a good example of why you should read through each item and check all that apply where noted. If a respondent simply marked “Sampled every 4 years or less in the Fall.” they may have missed points if they didn’t indicate if GPS was used.
- **Section 12. Fall Tillage.** With numerous possibilities for soil preparation, we elected to keep the options fairly simple. No tillage and strip tillage are easily definable. Full-width tillage can be tricky. In the fall, focus on the depth of machine operation and also note if soybean residue was tilled. In the spring, how many passes were made and was fall tillage performed?
- **Section 15.** If you are growing soybeans on this field this year and did not apply nitrogen, be sure to select “No nitrogen was applied in this time frame” in both the Fall and Spring Nutrient Management sections.