

ILLINOIS SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION PRODUCER REWARD PROGRAM
2026 GROWER AGREEMENT

ILLINOIS SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION's PRODUCER REWARD PROGRAM Grower Agreement ("Agreement") is made as of the _____ day of _____, 2026 between **Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District Foundation ("CCSWCDF")** and _____ ("**GROWER**").

1. PURPOSE

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) is providing funding for this program, which will be distributed to individual growers by the CCSWCDF. By entering into this Agreement, the **GROWER** is indicating their interest in being evaluated to potentially receive an incentive payment from **CCSWCDF** for improved or outstanding STAR Ratings for the 2026 crop year. This agreement does not guarantee payment, which is subject to the conditions below.

2. PRODUCER REWARD PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The ISA-STAR Producer Rewards Program is based on the STAR Conservation Innovation Reward Program structure. Growers receive a per-acre payment for:

- a. Receiving and maintaining a 5-STAR Rating (the highest rating), OR
- b. Demonstrating improvement in their initial STAR rating over a two-year period (Example: Year 1: A field's STAR rating is a 1; Year 2: A field's STAR rating is a 2)
- c. First time STAR users additionally may receive a \$3/acre completion bonus.
- d. STAR rating scale and compensation levels:

First Time User Incentive (one time only)	Payment per Acre
Any STAR Rating	\$3
Change Incentive (one time per Rating)	Payment Per Acre
1 >> 2-STAR	\$10
2 >>3-STAR	\$15
3 >> 4-STAR	\$20
Flat Incentive (can receive multiple years)	Payment per Acre
5-STAR	\$25

- e. There is a total annual acreage payment cap (200 acres/grower/year).
- f. Compensation is tied to acres, not bushels.

3. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- a. A grower must both obtain a 1-5 STAR rating on their fields by completing a field form using the STAR Tool at www.STARtool.ag AND submit this Grower Agreement. Fields must have soybeans included in their rotation within the last 5 years or currently be growing soybeans.
- b. Prioritization (if needed) will be first come, first served, using the date the signed Agreement is received. First time STAR Tool users and those not already involved in conservation payment programs will also be prioritized.

- c. If the grower is enrolled in/participates in other private, state, or federal conservation payment programs, you must disclose this information when submitting this agreement.
- d. STAR allows stackability of payment programs. Other private carbon market programs may have restrictions that prohibit additional producer payments for fields that are enrolled. Producers should check the rules of any other program they are participating in before committing to this program. Fields enrolled in publicly eligible programs, like USDA NRCS cost share programs or state-based conservation programs, are eligible, it is the grower's responsibility to check with specific programs to confirm.
- e. No backsliding: In subsequent years of the Producer Reward Program, fields will not be eligible for payment if they were previously rewarded for a specific STAR Rating Improvement. For example, if a field has already received payment for achieving an improvement from 2 to 3 STARS and the field returns to a 2-STAR Rating in a subsequent year, then returning to a 3-STAR rating in following year would not make the field eligible for another payment. The field would only be eligible for an additional incentive payment when it achieved a 4-STAR rating, or the flat payment for a 5-STAR rating.

4. **GROWER RESPONSIBILITIES**

The GROWER will agree to provide the following in order to be considered for the STAR Producer Reward Payment:

- a. Sign up for the program by submitting STAR Field Forms at www.STARtool.ag for all fields listed in the Agreement, completing the agreement, and sending to Bruce@STARconservation.org between Oct. 15 and December 31, 2026.
 - a. In the STAR Field Form, select the "Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) Producer Rewards Program" as a conservation program that the field is enrolled in.
- b. Commit to submitting the necessary information in an accurate and timely manner.
- c. Participate in the STAR verification process, if included in the random selection group, and provide required evidence.
- d. Ensure that the participating acres are not enrolled into or committed to any other sustainability or regenerative agriculture program that prohibits enrollment in other incentive programs.
- e. Complete table (below) stating which fields (field names, acres, location and STAR Field ID number) are being submitted for the Program.
- f. Complete conservation payment program disclosure (below) stating if applicant receives cost-share from other programs.
- g. This Agreement may be amended or modified in whole or in part only by written agreement executed by all parties hereto and making specific reference to this Agreement.
- h. This Agreement shall be governed by the law of the State of Illinois.

5. **CCSWCDF RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. If a GROWER's field is selected as eligible, CCSWCDF will send payment to the GROWER based on eligible acres following successful program verification.
- b. The GROWER is responsible for any tax implications resulting from receipt of the payment.

Do you receive payments on any of your fields, including those not submitted to this program, from conservation cost-share programs such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service's EQIP, CSP, CRP; the Illinois Department of Agriculture's PFC, CPRG, I-Cover; private programs like Siemer Milling Company, ADM ReGenerations, or carbon markets? Doing so does NOT automatically disqualify you from participating in this program (see program requirements for details).

Field Submission Form

[illegible]

GROWER ENTITY:

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

ADDRESS:: _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this **2026 Grower Agreement** to be effective as of the date first set forth above.

CCSWCDF

Sign:

Name: Jonathon Manuel

Title: CCSWCDF Chairman

Date:

GROWER

Sign:

Name:

Title:

Date:

SUBMIT

PRINT

SAVE