

Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources



STAR WAS DEVELOPED BY FARMERS, FOR FARMERS

Farmers deserve recognition for their commitment to land stewardship and soil health. STAR allows farmers to evaluate their current production system, identify areas for improved management, document their progress and share their successes.

Steve Stierwalt and Joe Rothermel, farmers in Champaign County, IL, developed the STAR tool in 2017

WHY STAR?



EASY, FIELD-LEVEL SELF-ASSESSMENT



INFORMED BY LOCAL RESEARCH



ROADMAP TO DECREASE NUTRIENT AND SOIL LOSS



RECOGNITION FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES



CONNECTION TO LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

HOW IT WORKS

The STAR evaluation system assigns points for management activities on an annual basis. Participants answer a series of simple questions about their crop rotation, tillage, nutrient applications, and use of conservation practices to generate their overall field score. STAR relies on the expertise of a local science committee, made up of university researchers, conservation professionals, and farmers, to assign the highest point values to practices identified to address local resource concerns. Scores are converted to a STAR rating of 1 to 5 STARS, with 5 STARS indicating commitment to a suite of practices proven to improve soil health and water quality.



Across the board, conservation practices have made our farm more profitable. Our system, as a whole, is more efficient than it ever has been before.

**FRANK RADEMACHER
GIFFORD, ILLINOIS**

MOST COMMON 5-STAR PRACTICES

Below are the most common practices implemented on Illinois 5-STAR fields in Crop Year 2019.



used no-till or strip till management



planted a winter hardy cover crop



applied P & K based on soil tests or removal rates



used variable rate technology

ENVIRONMENT



- Cleaner water
- Healthier soils

CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS



- Benchmarks for assessing progress toward local environmental & conservation goals
- Entry point to engage farmers in soil health conversations

As of 2020, IA, MO, and CO have all adopted the STAR Initiative.

**STAR
BENEFITS
ALL**

NON-OPERATING LANDOWNERS



- Pathway to increased farm resiliency and improved soil health
- Connection to local farmers committed to conservation

INDUSTRY PARTNERS



- Simple tool to document continuous improvement and provide client recognition
- Creation of common language across the supply chain

FARMERS & RANCHERS



- Quick & confidential self-assessment
- Opportunity to share your story

Interested in getting STARted today? Contact us below!

