

IL STAR – 2026 Non-Wheat Field Form



Please review the instructions on Page 3 before completing

Farmer/Owner Information

Name: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____
 Street/City/Zip _____ / _____ / _____
 Field name: _____
 2026 crop: _____ Acres: _____
 County where field is located: _____ Lat/Long coordinates (optional): _____
 FSA Farm #: _____
 FSA Tract #(s): _____
 FSA Field #(s): _____

Do you own or rent this field? Own Rent Is this field irrigated? Yes No
 Are livestock and crops (i.e., cover crops and/or crop residue) integrated on this field? Yes No

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

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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

Crop	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
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 2025 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 2025-Fall 2026). 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/Summer (March-July) for the following crop year
- Sampled every 4 years or less in the Fall/Winter (August-February)
- GPS sampled (by grid or zone)

5. Fall/Winter Tillage (After harvest of the 2025 crop-February 2026). Check all that apply.

Note: Vertical tillage should be treated as full width tillage.

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

6. Spring/Summer Tillage (March-July 2026). Check all that apply.

Note: Vertical tillage should be treated as full width tillage.

- 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/Summer tillage
- Any full width operation, limited to a single pass, where **no Fall/Winter tillage** was performed
- Any full width operation, two or more passes, where **no Fall/Winter tillage** was performed
- Any full width operation, one or more passes, where Fall/Winter tillage was performed

7. Fall/Winter Nutrient Management (August 2025– February 2026)

- 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 – July 2026)

- 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
- No nitrogen was applied in this time frame, but did have prior Fall-February nitrogen
- 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

IL STAR – 2026 Non-Wheat Field Form Instructions

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

IMPORTANT! Read these instructions before completing the form. Accurate responses help ensure your field is awarded the correct point total and STAR rating.



- **Crop year:** Document field activities beginning immediately after harvest in 2025 and ending with 2026 harvest. Cover crops interseeded prior to the 2025 harvest should be included.
- **Read all options under each question in detail.** More than one or none of the selections may apply. Others have several criteria that must be met.
 - *Example: If you planted a cover crop mix of cereal rye and tillage radish, select “Winter hardy - single species” and “Winter kill - single species” in the Cover Crops section.*
 - *Example: Spring/Summer Tillage section - “Any full width operation, limited to a single pass, where no Fall/Winter tillage was performed.”*
- **Section 1. Crop Rotation.** Place an “X” in the appropriate crop row for the year grown or write in your crop in the “Other” line if not listed. Select the crop you intended to grow if a prevent plant scenario or crop failure occurred on the field. **Don’t record cover crops here.**
- **Section 2. Program Enrollment.** If the field is enrolled in a conservation program other than PFC, write the program name on the line provided. Common options include:

Federal (NRCS/RCP)	State (IDOA)	Market/Certifications
EQIP	Partners For Conservation (PFC)	Siemer Producer Reward Payment Program
CSP	Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)	Precision Conservation Management (PCM)
CRP	I-COVER	FS Cover Crop Assurance Program
Lake Decatur RCPP		Delta Institute Project
FLASH Group Batch & Grow Program		Soil & Water Outcomes Fund (SWOF)
Other		USDA Organic, Grassfed, Regenified

- **Section 3. Cover Crops.** Any cover crops established in 2025 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 4. Soil Sampling.** Be sure to read through each item and check all that apply. If a respondent simply marked “Sampled every 4 years or less in the Fall/Winter (August-February)”, they may have missed points if they didn’t indicate if GPS was used.
- **Section 5 and 6. Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer Tillage.** Reference these definitions:
 - No Tillage:** No tillage equipment used; minimal to no surface disruption
 - Fertilizer toolbars:** Low-disturbance toolbars are scored as no-till unless shank-type
 - Strip Tillage:** Strip tillage, shank type fertilizer toolbars, or spring strip tillage fresheners limit soil disturbance. However, strip tillage on Highly Erodible Land (HEL) should be considered as full-width tillage.
 - Full width:** Includes vertical tillage or shallow tillage done to incorporate manure or cover crop planting. Select options based on depth and # of passes. Do not count tillage done in small areas to repair ruts or issues outside of the normal tillage system on the field.
- **Section 7 and 8. Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer Nutrient Management.** 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 section 7 & 8.