ISA & STAR REWARD PROGRAM

Funded by Illinois soybean checkoff dollars

STAR Background

The STAR Tool is a simple online questionnaire created by farmers, for farmers that evaluates conservation management practices on a 1 to 5 STAR rating scale.

Reminder to Apply Early!

The ISA-STAR Producer Rewards Program opened on October 15, 2026. The program has a cap this year, which is expected to be reached quickly. This is first-come, first-served, so make sure you are ready to apply ASAP! The timeline is shown here: >

If you are new to using STAR, get started by visiting www.STARtool.ag and setting up a profile for your fields! Contact your STAR Navigator with any questions about the Tool.



Eligibility Criteria

All fields in Illinois are eligible if soybeans are currently grown or in the rotation in the last 5 years. The farmer/participant must complete a Grower Agreement AND use the STAR Tool to get a STAR Rating on the fields listed in the Grower Agreement. STAR provides each field a confidential rating of 1 to 5 STARs. The program will be for Crop Years 2026 and 2027. Until 200 acre per year cap is reached, producers receive payments as follows:

1. Receiving and maintaining a 5-STAR Rating (the highest rating) OR
2. Demonstrating improvement in initial STAR rating over a two-year period.

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-STARs	$10
2 >> 3-STARs	$15
3 >> 4-STARs	$20
Flat Incentive (can receive multiple years)	**Payment Per Acre**
5-STARs	$25

Improvement is measured from previous STAR Rating, including Crop Year 2025
Improvement payments are made at the rating level reached (a change from 1 to 3 STARS is paid $15/acre)
A field is paid only once for a given improvement level
Payments are limited to 200 acres per producer per year

Get In Touch Email: Bruce@starconservation.org Website: illinoisstar.org/isa-star-reward

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REWARD PROGRAM

ILLINOIS SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION
FUNDED BY THE CHECKOFF PROGRAM.

How To Apply

Step One: Get a STAR rating for each field at www.startool.ag

★ Make sure you complete a STAR field form for **ALL** fields that you would like to submit

Step Two: Complete a Grower Agreement with all fields listed for consideration.

★ FSA Farm/Tract/Field ID numbers **MUST** be included in the application

How To Create a STAR Account

How To Draw a Field Boundary

How To Get a STAR Score

Up to $5,600 Payment Possible per Producer!!!!

(200 acre payout cap per farmer per year)

Which fields should I list on my Grower Agreement? Three Routes to Payment
1.) Select 5-STAR fields first!
2.) If you don't have any of 5-STAR fields but used STAR in CY25, select the fields that improved the most in 2026!
3.) If you don't have either of those, select fields that you think could improve the next year to possibly receive a payment in the future!

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