

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.**

MOST COMMON 5-STAR PRACTICES

Below are some of the most common practices implemented on 5-STAR fields in Crop Year 2021



STAR BENEFITS ALL

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.*

INDUSTRY PARTNERS



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

ENVIRONMENT



- Cleaner water
- Healthier soils

FARMERS & RANCHERS



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

NON-OPERATING LANDOWNERS



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