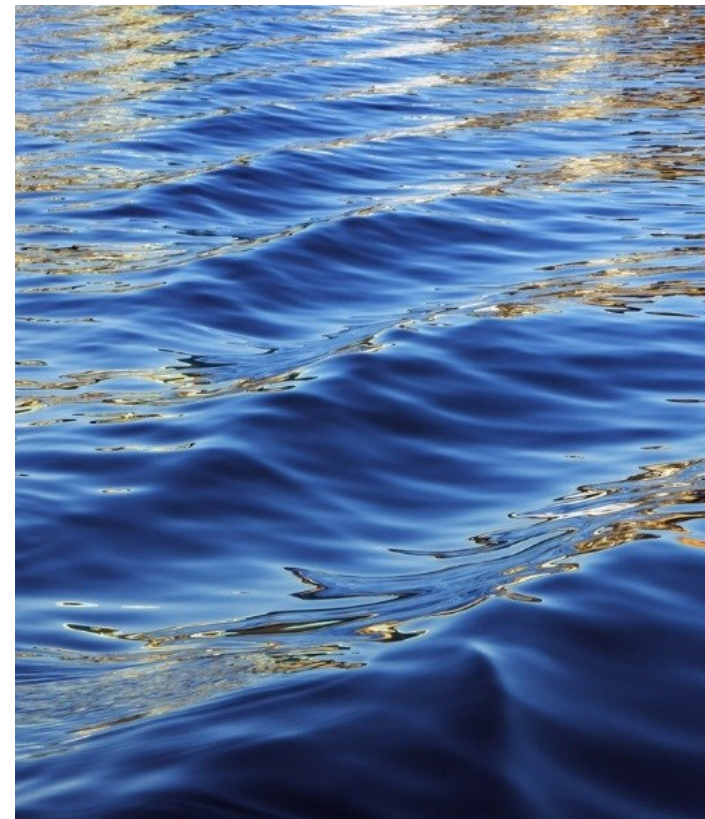




# Conservation Updates for Farm Managers and Advisers

DeKalb County SWCD  
Jeff Woodyatt - Resource Conservationist



# Topics

**Partners for Conservation (PFC) State Cost-share Program**

**IDOA Fall Cover for Spring Savings**

**STAR Program**

# Partners for Conservation (PFC) Cost-share Program

What is the PFC program?

Issued by IL Department of Ag and administered through local SWCD's, the Program provides financial assistance for the construction or adoption of projects that address resource concerns that:

- ✓ Reduce soil erosion and improve water quality
- ✓ Improve Soil Health and Pollinator Habitat
- ✓ Water Well Decommissioning projects (WDP)
- ✓ Special projects that address unique resource concerns

Funding is limited and varies year to year.

Cost-share rate = 75%

# 2023 COST-SHARE SIGN UP

## DeKalb County SWCD

### Deadline February 24th

#### Practices Include:

- ✓ Grassed Waterways - 75% cost-share
- ✓ Cover Crops - \$40/ac. (up to 80 ac.)
- ✓ No Till/Strip Till - \$30/ac. (up to 105 ac.)
- ✓ Conservation Cover (Pollinators) up to 10 ac.
- ✓ Well Decommissioning
- ✓ Filter Strips
- ✓ Saturated Buffers
- ✓ Bioreactors
- ✓ Raingardens and more!

Accepting  
Applications



*For practice information and applications call or email:*

*815-756-3224 ext. 3*

*[dekalbswcd@gmail.com](mailto:dekalbswcd@gmail.com)*



# Partners for Conservation (PFC) Cost-share Program

How to apply for PFC assistance? *(Brief overview)*

1. *Client contacts us interested in a conservation practice or has an issue*
2. *We gather information and often setup a field visit*
3. *Develop a "Conservation Plan" and cost estimate for the project*
4. *Client agrees to move forward, and the project gets ranked during a sign-up or presented directly to the SWCD Board for approval.*
5. *Client signs contract*
6. *Project is implemented/constructed and certified by SWCD*
7. *Client provides receipts and final paperwork for payment is generated*
8. *Client gets paid and practice is maintained for agreed upon length of time*







# IDOA Fall Cover for Spring Savings



# IDOA Fall Cover for Spring Savings

“Cover Crop Premium Discount Program” – 140,00 ac. statewide 2022

## Overview

- Participants sign-up acres planted to cover crops in previous fall on cropland that will be planted to an insurable crop the following year.
- Eligible applicants receive a \$5/acre insurance premium discount on **the following year's crop insurance invoice** for every acre of cover crop enrolled and verified in the program.
- Application requirements include applicant contact information, **current FSA 578 with verified cover crop acres, crop insurance policy number(s)**, acres of cover crops seeded to each field, farm, tract, common land unit (CLU)/Field #, and legal description of fields/acres seeded to cover crops in fall.
- **Sign-up historically opens in early December.**
- Cover crop acres must be outside of state and federal program incentives (e.g., EQIP, CSP and state cost share)

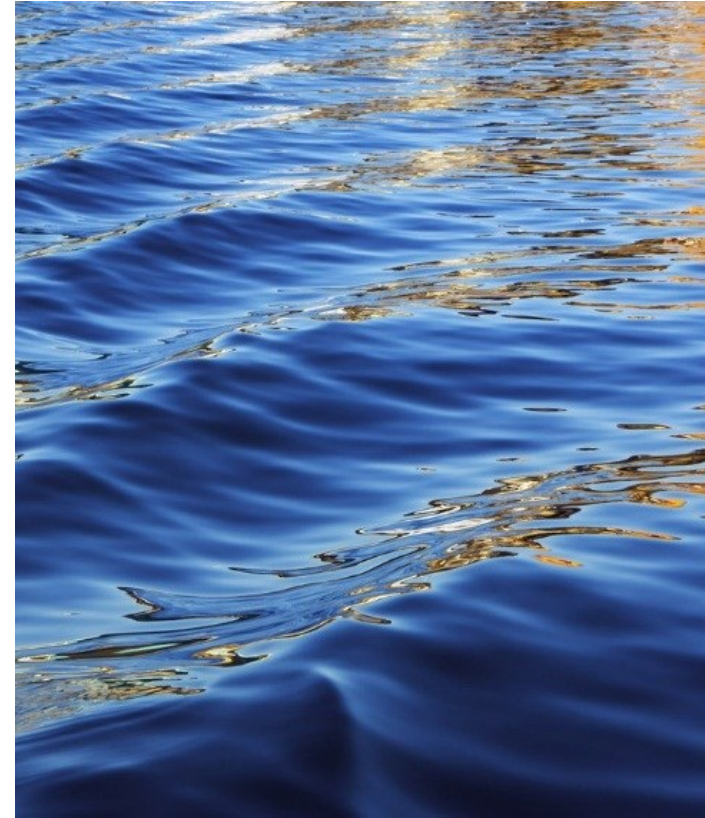


*DeKalb Co. SWCD – Field verification*



# S.T.A.R. Program

Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources



# STAR Program

STAR is an initiative developed by farmers and soil and water conservation professionals.

*"Offers farm operators and landowners a simple, free, and confidential tool to evaluate their conservation land management practices."*

**Goals:** Encourage the continued adoption of conservation practices and recognize farmers for their commitment to sustainability.

Two-page survey or WebApp – takes 10 minutes or less

Scores from survey 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.



# Illinois STAR Results

## 2021 STAR Participation and Results

STAR was created in Champaign County, Illinois. Since its inception, STAR has grown to cover 70% of Illinois counties. Although farmers can utilize the program anywhere in a state, entities within a particular county can sign up to be a STAR Licensee to administer the program locally and provide technical assistance to the growers in their county.

### PARTICIPANTS

**460**

### NUMBER OF FIELDS

**1,442**

### ACRES

**83,616**

### COUNTY LICENSEES

**69**

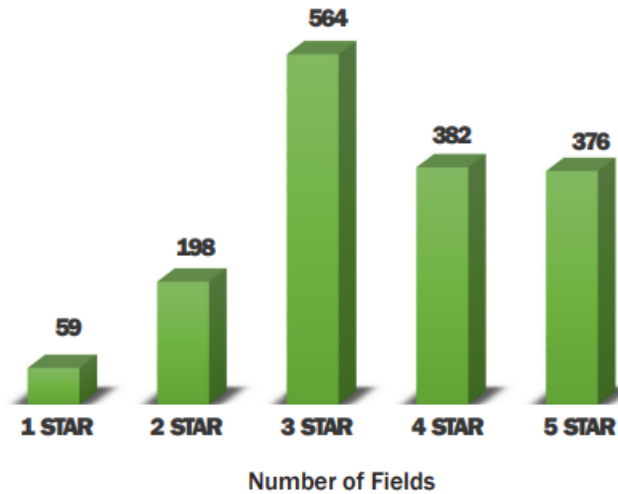
### 2021 FIELDS BY CROP TYPE

**Corn - 50%**

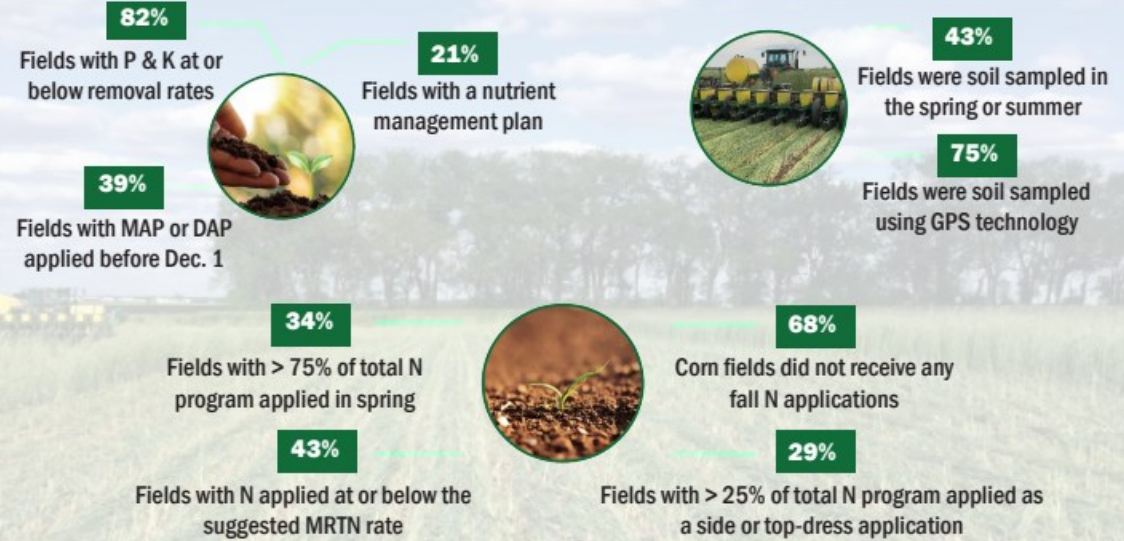
**Soybeans - 43%**

**Wheat/Forage/Other - 7%**

### Distribution of 2021 STAR Ratings



## Soil Sampling & Nutrient Management



## Cover Crops & No-Till



# Questions?

