

SAVING TOMORROW'S AGRICULTURE RESOURCES

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S.T.A.R. REWARDS PILOT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The **S.T.A.R. Initiative** is offering a modest incentive to Illinois farmers willing to implement new in-field management practices that increase their STAR rating through a partnership with the American Farmland Trust.

Payments will be made directly to farmers based on the **overall increase in their STAR score and associated STAR rating as described below**, with a \$5/acre bonus to farmers who implement practices that improve their ratings more than one STAR level (i.e. if a farmer jumps from 1 to 3 STARs, they would be eligible for a \$20/acre payment, calculated as the highest rating increase from 2 to 3 STARs = \$15/acre + the \$5/acre bonus).

S.T.A.R. is an exciting initiative developed by farmers and soil and water conservation professionals that offers farm operators and land owners a simple, free, and confidential tool to evaluate their conservation land management practices. The goal of S.T.A.R. is to encourage the continued adoption of conservation practices, and recognize farmers for their commitment to sustainability.

Incentive Structure –



1 → 2 STARs
\$10/acre



2 → 3 STARs
\$15/acre



3 → 4 STARs
\$20/acre



4 → 5 STARs
\$25/acre

Eligibility Criteria –

- Farmers must fill out the crop year 2020 Field Form and agree to implement new practices on fields not currently enrolled in other state and federal cost-share or financial incentive programs. **Funds to be distributed on a first come, first serve basis, though farmers who participated in the S.T.A.R. Program in 2019 will be given priority.**
- **Enrolled growers must increase their S.T.A.R. rating through implementation of new practices over the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 Crop Years**, with a cap of 200 acres or \$2,000 per farmer depending on the STAR rating increase and associated tiered payment schedule. Funds to be allocated by March 2021.

American Farmland Trust
SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US



Get S.T.A.R.ed today: visit starfreetool.com to learn more and complete your free S.T.A.R. field forms! Contact STAR Coordinator

Nick Longbucco. | (248) 807-2235 | Nick.Longbucco@AISWCD.org

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