

About S.T.A.R.

- The Stewardship Committee of the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District developed this FREE tool to assist farm operators and land owners in evaluating their nutrient and soil loss management practices on individual fields. The ultimate goal is to meet the goals of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.
- The S.T.A.R. evaluation program assigns points for each cropping, tillage, nutrient application, and soil conservation activity on individual fields. A "science" committee helped establish the recommended practices that determine the various points. The primary purposes being to reduce Nitrogen losses by applying it when it is needed and to reduce tillage to prevent soil losses. The rating can be anywhere from 1 to 5 stars.



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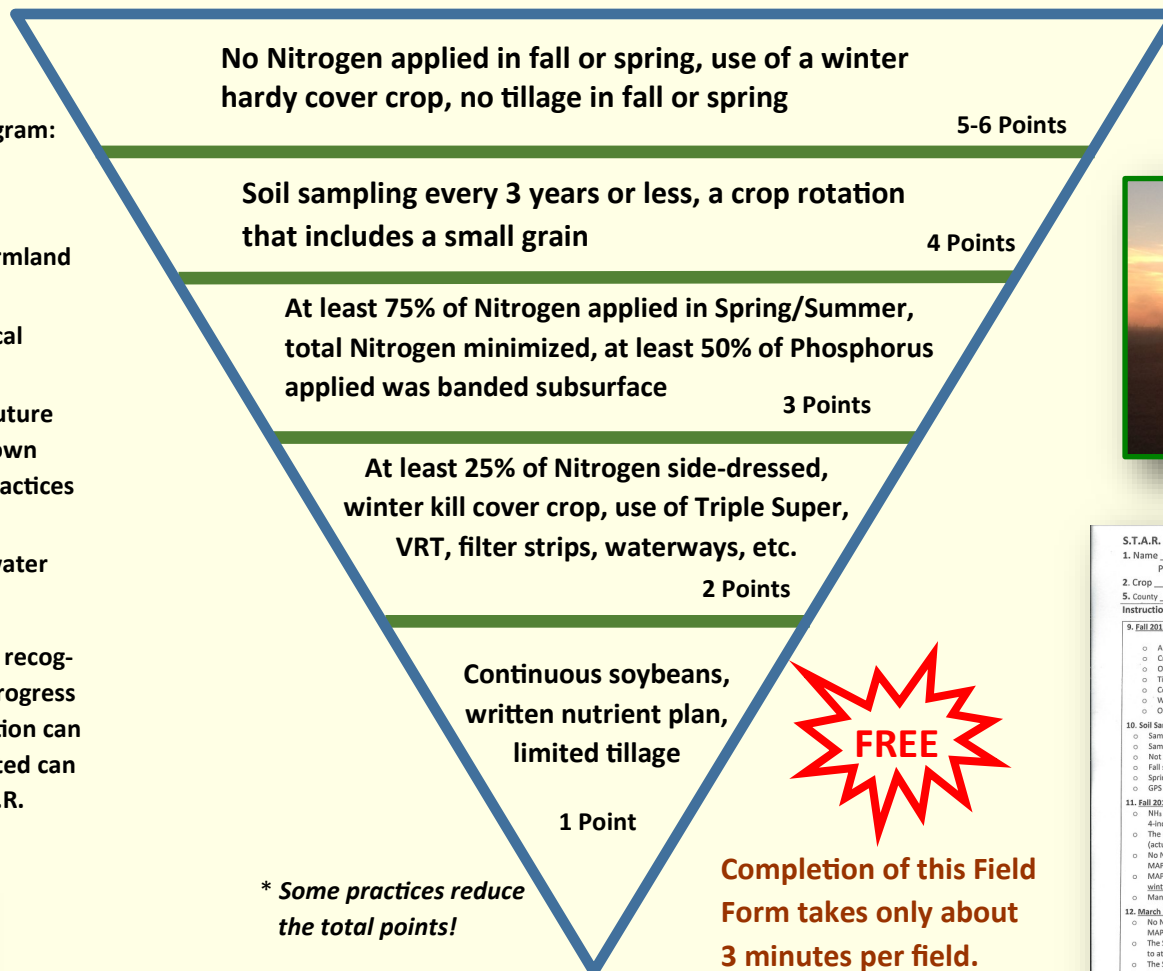
Listed below are some practices used in the rating system and the points that may be assigned: *



Potential benefits of using this program:

- Increase net farm income
- Decrease nutrient loss
- Promote producers for new farmland leases
- Assist producers in securing local conservation cost share
- Assist producers in obtaining future market premiums for crops grown using conservation cropping practices
- Assist producers in obtaining documentation in support of water quality issues

Participants of this program will be recognized by the community for their progress in showing that agriculture production can be sustainable. Each field that is rated can have a sign that indicates the S.T.A.R. rating.



* Some practices reduce the total points!

Completion of this Field Form takes only about 3 minutes per field.



S.T.A.R. - Field Form - 2018 Crop Year (after harvest in '17 through harvest of '18) Farmer or Owner Information

1. Name _____ Street/City/ZIP _____
 2. Crop _____ 3. Field name _____ Phone (____) _____ Email _____
 4. Acres _____
 5. County _____ 6. Township & Range _____ 7. Section _____ 8. Owner _____

Instructions: Check ALL that apply or were used on this individual field.

9. Fall 2017 Cover Crops established with NRCS guidelines (must have some growth):
☐ Annual ryegrass *
☐ Crimson clover
☐ Oats
☐ Tillage radish
☐ Cereal rye *
☐ Winter wheat (even if intended for harvest) *
☐ Other species _____

10. Soil Sampling: use the previous 5-year history:
☐ Sampled every 3 years or less
☐ Sampled every 4 or 5 years
☐ Not sampled
☐ Fall sampled
☐ Spring sampled
☐ GPS sampled, either by grid or zone

11. Fall 2017 - February 2018 Nutrient Management:
☐ N15 (82-0-0) was applied with an inhibitor AND when the 4-inch soil temperature was below 50 degrees
☐ The N15 application was less than 50% of the total (actual N) Nitrogen Program
☐ No Nitrogen was applied in this time frame, other than MAP (11-52-0) or DAP (18-46-0)
☐ MAP or DAP was applied before December 1st AND a winter hardy cover crop was used
☐ Manure was applied

12. March 1st - Summer 2018 Nutrient Management:
☐ No Nitrogen was applied in this time frame, other than MAP or DAP
☐ The Spring/Summer application(s) of Nitrogen amounted to at least 75% of the total Nitrogen Program
☐ The Spring/Summer application(s) of Nitrogen amounted to 50% to 74% of the total Nitrogen Program
☐ A side-dress application was at least 25% of the total Nitrogen Program
☐ Manure was applied

13. Additional Nutrient activities:
☐ Nitrogen application on corn: No more than 200 pounds of actual Nitrogen was applied on first year corn (or 225 pounds on corn following corn)
☐ Phosphorus: At least 50% of actual phosphorus used was banded subsurface in fall or spring
☐ Used Variable Rate Technology application
☐ A fertilizer source (includes manure) containing Nitrogen and/or Phosphorus was broadcast on bare ground
☐ A fertilizer source (includes manure) containing Nitrogen and/or Phosphorus broadcast on snow covered ground

14. Crop Rotation: Use an "X" to indicate the crop history on this field for each year

Crop	2017	2016	2015	2014
Corn				
Soybeans				
Small Grain				

15. Tillage Practices: starting after harvest of the 2017 crop:
☐ Fall: Any full width tillage operation on corn stalks, where no fall tillage was performed
☐ Spring: Any full width tillage operation, where fall tillage was performed, one or more passes
☐ Spring: No-till or Strip-till operation was used

16. Conservation and Management Practices (check all that apply to this field):
☐ Saturated Buffers
☐ Bioresactor
☐ Terraces/contours
☐ Constructed wetland
☐ Grass Filter Strip
☐ Grass waterway
☐ Current HEL plan
☐ On-site agronomic trial (includes N rate studies, variety trials, or tissue/plant sampling)
☐ Pollinator planting (a 1/4 acre minimum)
☐ Attended soil or nutrient management meeting
☐ Have a written nutrient management program
☐ Enrolled in PCM, EQIP, or CSP
☐ Completed S.T.A.R. in 2017

To the best of my knowledge, this information is correct.
 Signature _____ Date _____



Not all management practices considered are listed above. If you want to learn more about the S.T.A.R. program, call us at 217-352-3536 ext. 3 or email info@ccswcd.com