



# Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources

## About S.T.A.R.

- S.T.A.R. is a **FREE** state-wide 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. The S.T.A.R. Science Committee, made up of experts and university researchers, reviews practices to determine the points and ranking system. Higher point values are assigned to those practices that align best with the NLRs science assessment and goals and will be updated annually to reflect the most current research. The star rating for a field can be anywhere from 1 to 5 stars.



## Potential Benefits of Using This Program –

- Increase net farm income
- Inspire other farmers and landowners to take action in helping to meet nutrient loss reduction goals for Illinois
- Promote a positive image of farmers and agriculture in the local community
- Decrease nutrient loss
- Promote producers for new farmland leases
- Assist producers in securing local conservation cost share
- Assist producers in securing market incentives for growing crops using conservation cropping practices
- Assist producers in obtaining documentation in support of water quality issues

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

No nitrogen applied in fall or spring, use of a winter hardy cover crop, no tillage in fall or spring  
**5-6 points**

Soil sampling every 3 years, a crop rotation that includes a small grain  
**4 points**

At least 75% of nitrogen applied in spring/summer, total nitrogen minimized, at least 50% of phosphorus applied was banded subsurface  
**3 points**

At least 25% of nitrogen side-dressed, winter kill cover crop, use of Triple Super, VRT, filter strips, waterways, etc.  
**2 points**

Continuous soybeans, written nutrient plan, limited tillage  
**1 points**

*\*Some practices reduce the total points! Not all management practices considered are listed above.*



**Champaign County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
2110 W. Park Court, Suite C  
Champaign, IL 61821  
P: 217-352-3536 ext. 3  
[www.ccswcd.com](http://www.ccswcd.com)  
f ChampaignCSWCD

If you want to learn more about the S.T.A.R. program, go to our website, or email [star@ccswcd.com](mailto:star@ccswcd.com), or call us.

For access to our portal that can be used for entries by phone or computer, go to [star.precisionconservation.org](http://star.precisionconservation.org).