The Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership is a coalition of organizations working collaboratively on agriculture programs that promote whole system conservation solutions focused on soil health and water management to reduce nutrient losses and meet sustainability goals.

SHARED RESOURCES

- Advanced Soil Health Training
- Advanced Conservation Drainage Training
- Cover Crop/Soil Health Specialists
- Conservation Drainage Specialists
- S.T.A.R. Farmer Recognition Program support
- Precision Conservation Management Specialists
- 5-year Soil Health Transition Plan
- Field Day/Training support
- Rainfall Simulator Equipment and Training
- Soil Health Comparative Demonstrations (slake test, etc.)
- Confidential Water Nitrate Testing
- Soil Pit Explanation Expertise
- Cover Crop Factsheets

Are you thinking of starting the journey to soil health? Or have questions about practices you've already started? Contact a soil health specialist near you: https://ilsustainableag.org/experts/

PROGRAMS

ADVANCED SOIL HEALTH TRAINING
An intensive classroom and in-field training model designed to dive into the science of soil health while implementing practical management on-farm. Topics include: soil health principles; cover crop selection, management and termination; planting equipment; and soil demonstrations training. The training is for advisors, producers, agronomists, and conservation staff. Trainees form a strong network that is relied on for years to come.

ADVANCED CONSERVATION DRAINAGE TRAINING
Provides intensive training for drainage designers, contractors, farmers, farmer advisors, retailers, and conservation practitioners to better understand the implementation and functioning of edge of field practices for tile drainage treatment.

ILLINOIS DEMONSTRATION FARM NETWORK
Combining agronomic and conservation practice demonstrations with water quality monitoring, these sites provide an opportunity to view practices ranging from nutrient management, cover crops, and conservation drainage practices (such as bioreactors and constructed wetlands).

PRECISION CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT
www.precisionconservation.org

The PCM platform is designed to capture and analyze agronomic and conservation information on a field-by-field basis. This farmer-led effort provides sustainability assessments, conservation planning, economic impact analysis and technical support of practice implementation.

SHARED EVENT CALENDAR
www.ilsustainableag.org/events/

5 YEAR SOIL HEALTH TRANSITION
This program GUIDES farmers through the intensive management changes required to transition from a conventional cropping system to a soil health focused system that includes cover crops, reduced tillage and improved nutrient management. Farmers in the program work one on one with Soil Health Specialists, beginning with cover crops on a 40-acre field in year one, with a goal of sustained system change at the whole farm level by the end of year five.

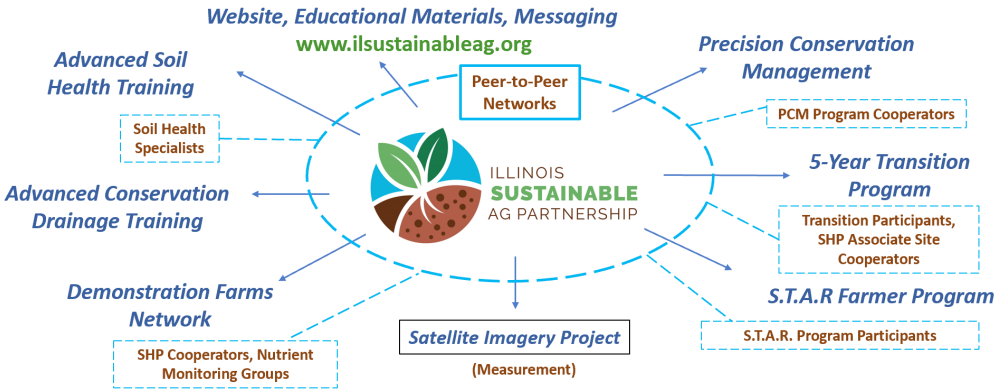
S.T.A.R. FARMER RECOGNITION
www.starfreetool.com

Farmers who are starting the journey to improved soil health can benefit from having a longer-term plan and clear expectations of the steps involved. The S.T.A.R. program provides a simple system for tracking and verifying practice changes at a county level. Farmers who voluntarily enroll in this program are recognized for their efforts with optional field signage.

THE CONSERVATION STORY MAP
www.conservationstorymap.com

Shares farmer success stories and connects farmers to programs through the Precision Conservation Management farmer engagement platform.

SATELLITE IMAGERY ANALYSIS
All of ISAP's programs are designed to increase the adoption of conservation practices and soil health systems in Illinois. To understand our effectiveness and breadth of impact, practice adoption must be measured. While program enrollment is one indicator of progress, it can't capture independent implementation resulting from other programs or broader educational efforts. We are partnering to complete a bi-annual assessment of buffers, cover crops and tillage practices across the state using analysis of high-resolution satellite imagery



ISAP VISION

ISAP partners envision Illinois as a leader in sustainable agriculture systems that produce increased soil health, improved water quality, profitable farm operations and thriving communities.

As a coordinated and consistent group, we focus on messaging, outreach, training and education for farmers and their trusted advisors as well as creating strong networks of experts and on-farm demonstrations to bring together and disseminate new information and lessons learned in plain, practical language specifically designed to reach the average farmer.

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Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership

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Supporting statewide collaboration to promote soil health systems and conservation drainage

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