



# Become a STAR+ Producer

Improve the soil quality on your farm or ranch

Colorado Department of Agriculture's STAR+ program is a great tool to support innovation and experimentation to improve soil health on your farm or ranch. This flexible framework developed by farmers and ranchers for farmers and ranchers

- Evaluates your current production system
- Helps you incorporate soil health management practices
- Documents progress and shares your successes

The program reduces risk to you by connecting your local conservation district or other eligible entities and providing you with financial resources, technical help, and other producers.

Your management practices are evaluated and assigned points resulting in a 1- to 5 STAR+ Rating. A higher rating reflects a greater commitment to improving soil health, water quality, and availability through soil health principles.



Farmers enrolled in STAR+ receive

- \$75/acre (a minimum of \$1,000 and maximum of \$5,000) per year matching payment.
- Technical assistance partner.
- Receive two free soil tests (Years 1 and 3).
- Soil moisture monitoring
- Opportunities to attend field days to learn about soil health practices and research.
- Receive STAR+ Field Signs and marketing support.
- See the benefits of increased soil health like water retention, drought, and erosion resilience, decreased nutrient loss.
- **Become a conservation and soil health leader!**

## Soil Health Principles



Build Soil Armor

Minimize soil disturbance



Species Diversity

Continual live plant/root



Livestock Integration

**Enrolling now for Summer 2023!**

Interested? Contact your local conservation district or email [cda\\_soil@state.co.us](mailto:cda_soil@state.co.us)



McAfee Farm, owned and operated by MB and Chuck McAfee, comprises 2,300 acres of farmland and rough land. There is no irrigation. The McAfees have shifted from traditional row-crop farming and are practicing regenerative agriculture methods.

Additionally, they engage with two women ranchers, one running cattle and the other running goats.

They are closely monitoring biomass production and soil quality. STAR+ plays a crucial role in their soil quality work.

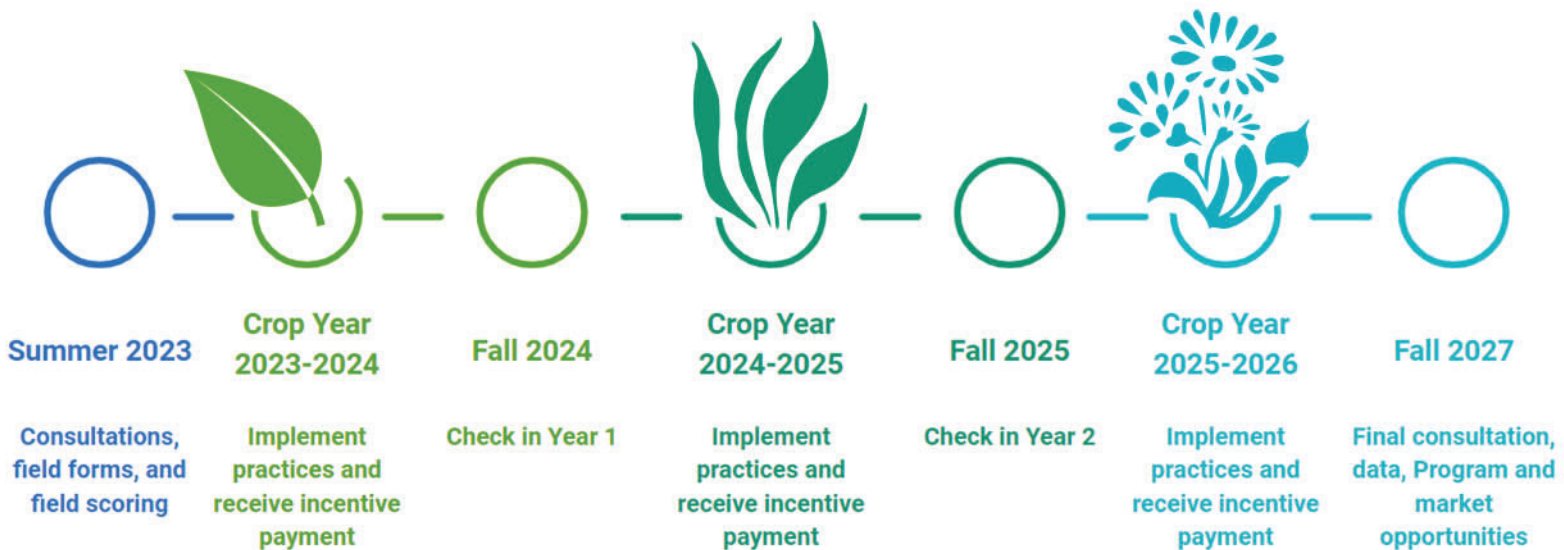
## Producer Responsibilities

STAR Plus is designed to be as flexible as possible while still creating lasting soil health improvement across Colorado. Farmers and Ranchers in the STAR Plus program are responsible for the following:

- Commit to enrolling one of your fields for three years.
- Commit to trying a new practice to improve your soil health.
- FSA federal funding eligible
- Develop and implement a plan in Year 1. There is some flexibility depending on conditions.
- Fill out required paperwork for “Check-in” and producer reimbursement forms each year.
- Track receipts and hours spent for reimbursement.

## What’s Next?

The STAR Program is launching a new enrollment phase in Summer 2023. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact [CDA\\_soil@state.co.us](mailto:CDA_soil@state.co.us).



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