

ISAP's COVER CROP INCENTIVE DIRECTORY

Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership's (ISAP) Cover Crop Incentives Directory provides an overview of cover crop incentive payment opportunities for farmers in Illinois. The directory also includes a "Stacking Matrix" so farmers can easily determine if they may be eligible to stack payments from multiple programs. Programs that are claiming a farmer's carbon asset will be marked with an asterisk (*).

ISAP does not endorse any particular program or company. Our aim is to facilitate data sharing among our farmer networks. This information was accurate at the time of publication (October 2022), but we encourage you to contact the lead organization of any specific program for the most up-to-date information.

Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership's Cover Crop Incentive Directory: Publicly Funded Programs (Federal, State, and Local)



Program Description	Geography	Lead Organization & Funding Source	Contract Length	Payment Details	URL	Sign-up Details
The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to help plan and implement conservation practices on agricultural land. EQIP can also help producers meet Federal and State environmental regulations.	Statewide	Local NRCS office USDA Farm Bill	Up to 10 years	Varies by payment scenario	Link	Applications are accepted year-round. Complete an application at your local NRCS office.
The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps producers maintain and improve existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. CSP pays for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment. CSP provides annual payments for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing practices; and supplemental payments for adopting a resource-conserving crop rotation.	Statewide	Local NRCS office USDA Farm Bill	5 years	Varies by payment scenario	Link	Applications are accepted year-round. Complete an application at your local NRCS office.
The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners who offer value-added contributions to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes.	Varies by project	Local NRCS office USDA Farm Bill	Up to 10 years	Varies by payment scenario	Link	Applications are accepted year-round. Complete an application at your local NRCS office.
The IL Corn Growers Association (ILCGA) has received 3 RCPP awards since 2015 to promote their efforts in leading the Precision Conservation Management and coordinated work focused on the Otter Lake watershed in central IL.	Otter Lake Watershed; State-wide in Illinois	Illinois NRCS and IL Corn Growers USDA Farm Bill	5 years with possibility of renewal	Varies by payment scenario	Link	Applications are accepted year-round. Complete an application at your local NRCS office.



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<p>The Lake Springfield RCPP will provide \$1.3M to producers in the Lake Springfield watershed, with an emphasis on building soil health and resiliency, decreasing input costs, installing structural practices to reduce erosion and treat drained water, and nutrient planning.</p>	Lake Springfield Watershed	<p>County NRCS/ SWCD Offices</p> <p>USDA Farm Bill, CWLP, private partners</p>	5 years with possibility of renewal	Varies by payment scenario	Link	Applications are accepted year-round. Complete an application at your local NRCS office.
<p>The Kinkaid Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination of NRCS and Kinkaid-Reed's Creek Conservancy District conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address natural resource concerns.</p>	Kinkaid Watershed	<p>Jackson County NRCS</p> <p>USDA Farm Bill and private partners</p>	5 years	Varies by payment scenario	Link	Applications are accepted year-round. Complete an application at your local NRCS office.
<p>The Partners for Conservation Program (PFC) is a program of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land and Water Resources. Eligible conservation projects emphasize soil erosion control and water quality protection including cover crops, nutrient management, and water well sealing.</p>	Statewide	<p>Local SWCD office</p> <p>Illinois DOA / State Allocations</p>	1 year; 3 years is encouraged	Payment within 60 days from submitting bills.	Link	Application period ongoing. Ranking and approval usually occurs in spring. Call your local SWCD to sign up.
<p>IDOA's Fall Covers for Spring Savings (FCSS) program is offered for cover crop acres outside of state and federal incentives. Eligible applicants will receive a \$5/acre insurance premium discount on the following year's crop insurance for every acre enrolled and verified.</p>	Statewide	IDOA	1 year	\$5/acre discount applied to crop insurance premium	Link	Sign-up period opens in December and is first come-first served. Must certify cover crop acres via Form 578.
<p>The Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP) provides \$5/acre insurance premium discount on the following year's crop insurance invoice for every acre of cover crop enrolled and verified in the program. (Program offering subject to new funding appropriation.)</p>	Statewide	<p>FSA</p> <p>USDA-Risk Management Agency</p>		\$5/acre discount applied to crop insurance premium	Link	Certify cover crop acres via Form 578 at local FSA office by March 15.
<p>The Champaign County Cover Crop Initiative (CCCI) was launched to incentive Champaign County farmers to grow cover crops using Champaign County's American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds.</p>	Champaign County only	<p>Champaign County Farm Bureau</p> <p>Champaign County ARPA funds</p>	1 year (year to year for 3 years)	\$33/acre	Link	Contact Champaign County Farm Bureau. Sign up by Sept. 1



Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership's Cover Crop Incentive Directory: Privately Funded Incentive Programs

Program Description	Geography	Lead Organization & Funding Source	Contract Length	Payment Details	URL	Sign-up Details
<p>The STAR Pay-for-Performance (PfP) Program allows companies up the value chain to incentivize conservation on the farm. Incentives are offered to producers who improve their fields' STAR Rating across growing seasons or maintain a maximum 5-STAR Rating. The aggregated environmental and programmatic outcomes of PfP participants are reported to the companies involved and can be utilized in communications to consumers.</p>	Macon & Douglas Counties	STAR / Midwest Row Crop Collaborative / Local SWCD	Year to year (1 year); at least 2 STAR years required for Change Incentive	Rate/acre dependent on STAR Rating, varies from \$5-\$20 Payments for crop years made the following March.	Link	Contact Douglas County SWCD or STAR. Sign up period July 17 - August 31.
<p>*The Illinois Cover Crop Initiative (ICCI) provides a \$10/ acre incentive for cover crops planted before Dec. 1, 2022. If farmers deliver to certain ADM locations, they may be eligible for incentive payments for no-till and nutrient management as well.</p>	Statewide	American Farmland Trust National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and ADM	1, 2, 3, or 4-year options	\$10/acre for cover crops	Link	Visit the website to fill out the inquiry form. Sign up as soon as possible in 2022 for this year's program
<p>*The PepsiCo Cover Crop incentive Program is open to any farmer in IL and includes 1 year of IL Corn membership.</p> <p>If not opting into cover crop incentive - the coupon can be utilized as in past years.</p>	Statewide	Illinois Corn Growers Association PepsiCo	No contract	\$200 towards cover crop seed; \$15/A New Cover Crops, \$7/A Old Cover Crops	Link	Complete W9. Must enter County, Acres, 2022 and 2023 crop. For PCM farmers, years field has been cover cropped, tillage used is required. ~10% of fields will be verified.
<p>*The Soil Health Incentive for PCM Farmers, funded by PepsiCo, provides incentive payments for existing and new acres for No-till, Strip-till, Cover Crops, and Nitrogen reduction.</p>	Existing PCM Regions in Illinois	PCM PepsiCo	Year to year (1 year)	Payments depend on repeat acres and/or combination of practices. Payments made in March each year.	Link	Via PCM - Speak with your local PCM Specialist




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<p>* The Soil and Water Outcomes Fund (SWOF) is an ecosystem service market outcomes-based payments through carbon and water quality credits for new conservation practice implementation</p>	<p>Select counties in Northern Illinois</p>	<p>Soil and Water Outcomes Fund</p> <p>Carbon Credits: Pepsi, Nutrien, Ingredion</p> <p>Water Quality Credits: NRCS</p>	<p>1 year</p>	<p>Up to \$40 / acre based on environmental outcomes. Half payment provided after contracting and half provided after practice verification.</p>	<p>Link</p>	<p>Contact Kevin Schabacker for assistance with enrollment or visit the website.</p>

Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership's Cover Crop Incentive Stacking Matrix

ISAP's Cover Crop Incentive "Stacking Matrix" is designed to demonstrate opportunities for farmers to stack payments from multiple incentive programs. Programs that are claiming a farmer's carbon asset will be marked with an asterisk (*).

These programs and the relationships shown on this matrix are acre-specific, meaning the same acres enrolled in EQIP on your farm are in-eligible to receive payments from other federally funded programs. However, you can enroll separate tracts on your farm in different federally funded programs and receive payments that way. For federal programs, acreage is only eligible for financial assistance if there is an unaddressed resource concern that may be mitigated by using cover crops.

	EQIP	CSP	RCPP	PFC	FCSS	PCCP	Champaign County Cover Crop Incentive	STAR Pfp	*ICCI	*PepsiCo Cover Crop Incentive Program	*PCM Soil Health Incentive	*SWOF
EQIP		X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
CSP	X		X	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
RCPP	X	X		X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
PFC	X	X	X		X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X
FCSS	X	X	X	X		✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PCCP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Champaign County Cover Crop Incentive	X	X	X	X	X	✓		X	✓	✓	✓	X
STAR Pfp	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X		X	X	X	X
*ICCI	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X		X	X	X
*PepsiCo Cover Crop Incentive Program	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X		X	X
*PCM Soil Health Initiative	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X		X
*SWOF	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	