

S.T.A.R. Brunch and Learn Series

Nick Longbucco, S.T.A.R. Coordinator, AISWCD



Agenda

- ▶ Brunch and Learn Introduction
- ▶ S.T.A.R. Pilot Incentive Program, Dr. Emily Bruner AFT and Q&A
- ▶ S.T.A.R. and other conservation updates
- ▶ Open feedback on SWCD related questions, comments or announcements
- ▶ Wrap up



Brunch and Learn Series

- ▶ What: Topics on S.T.A.R. and other conservation programs and events
- ▶ Why: Keep us connected and engaged during this period of distancing
- ▶ Where: Zoom, see reoccurring calendar invite
- ▶ When: First Wednesday of every month 11-12



A Pressing Demand for Conservation



SUPPLY CHAIN
SUSTAINABILITY DEMANDS



FARM PRODUCTIVITY



LEGAL/REGULATION
CONSIDERATIONS



CLIMATE CONCERNS



SOIL HEALTH RESOURCES



WATER RESOURCE
RESOURCES



Saving Tomorrow's Agricultural Resources (S.T.A.R.)

- ▶ Practice based evaluation system on individual fields
- ▶ Science based Field Form is locally developed and straight forward
- ▶ STAR Ranking system easy to understand
- ▶ Power of the SWCDs



Dr. Emily Bruner



- ▶ Midwest Science Director for American Farmland Trust
- ▶ S.T.A.R. Steering Committee
- ▶ Focused on accelerating adoption of soil health practices while simultaneously increasing the resiliency and productivity of Midwest farms
- ▶ Ph.D. Soil Science from Washington State University



S.T.A.R. REWARDS - Pilot Incentive Program

- Incentive to Illinois farmers willing to implement new practices that increase their STAR Rating



- Improvements from crop year 2019-2020 and 2020-2021
- Funds to be allocated March 2021
- Cap of 200 acres or \$2,000 per farmer
- Farmers who participated in S.T.A.R. in 2019 given priority



S.T.A.R. REWARDS - Application Process

- ID interested farmer and fields with 2019 or 2020 STAR Rating
- ID new practices farmers might try in 2021
- Check STAR Scoresheet to verify practices generate points to increase STAR rating
- Notify STAR Coordinator of willing participants
- Once approved, secure agreement that identifies practices that will achieve an improved rating
 - Agreements between AFT and Farmer Feb 2021
 - Allocate funds by March 2021



S.T.A.R. REWARDS - Application Process

S.T.A.R. Coordinators can help!

- Can provide list of 2019 and 2020 participants in your county
- Can work with you and the farmer on identifying practices and the points needed to improve STAR rating
- Will let you know if a farmer's application is considered and help establish agreements



Program Updates

- ▶ 2020 S.T.A.R. Field Forms are due February 1st!
- ▶ Partners for Conservation Funds require S.T.A.R. Field Form
 - ▶ Can use 2020 Field Form after Feb 1st
- ▶ Fall Covers for Spring Savings deadline January 15th
- ▶ Kankakee S.T.A.R. Raffle www.kankakeecountyswcd.org/star
- ▶ STAR WARZ



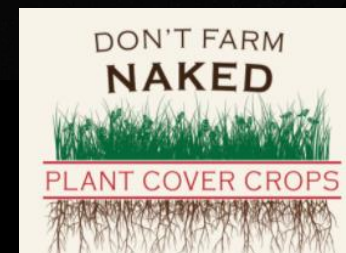
S.T.A.R. WARZ

The S.T.A.R. Licensee with the greatest number of NEW Field Forms will receive a gift basket of special prizes

Valid Field Forms must be:

- For the 2020 Crop Year and Submitted by 2/1/2021
- NEW fields only. Fields enrolled in Crop Year 2019 are ineligible.

*Winner will be announced on February 26, 2021. More information can be found at AISWCD.org



Next Brunch and Learn February 3 11-12

Carter Morgan: Advising Growers thru Cover Crops/No-Till this Spring

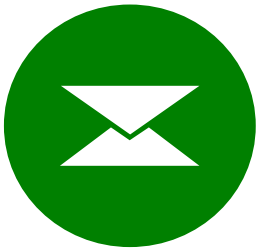


- ▶ Coordinates small networks and connects farmers
- ▶ Morgan Brothers LLC, 2,700 acres of 100% No-Till and 90% Cover Crop in central IL and IN
- ▶ B.S in Agriculture Systems Management



Questions, comments concerns?

► More questions email Nick.Longbucco@AISWCD.org



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