



Colorado Soil Health Program

The Colorado Soil Health Program supports farmers and ranchers in improving their soil quality. CDA collaborates with conservation districts, CSU, and other local partners to provide financial and technical assistance to producers.

Producers can enroll at any stage of their soil health journey and will receive support to implement new and innovative soil health practices in enrolled fields. The program covers various crop types and farm sizes, ranging from small market gardens to large multigenerational ranches.

To ensure the long-term adoption of new practices, participants gain familiarity and expertise with them and an increased understanding of the environmental and economic outcomes associated with implementing them.



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

Benefits to Producers

- Participate in a Colorado-based program that helps producers have the tools to better navigate unique agricultural challenges
- Receive local support to experiment with building healthy soil across multiple growing seasons
- Receive incentive payments for new and innovative practices
- Access to Technical Assistance from local subject matter experts
- In-depth laboratory soil health analysis and understanding of soil moisture through monitoring
- Farmer-to-farmer discussions to share ideas

Created by producers for producers, the STAR field evaluation tool utilizes science and experience to target solutions for local natural resource concerns.

The tool serves as a roadmap to show producers where they are on their journey toward improving soil health for future generations. STAR serves as an initial step for Colorado producers, encouraging further practice implementation and providing access to additional conservation opportunities.



Soil Health Benefits

Healthy soil is the foundation of sustainable agriculture. It allows for high yields, high quality crops, and long term cropping potential. It can also help reduce erosion, improve nutrient cycling, and save money on inputs.

Soil Health Principles

Building Soil Armor



Minimizing Soil Disturbance



Increasing Species Diversity



Maximizing Living Roots

Integrating Livestock



Between 2021 and 2024, the CDA and partner organizations worked with over 400 farmers and ranchers across over 50,000 acres in the Colorado Soil Health Program.

Enrolled producers will receive:

- Annual reimbursement payments for implementing at least one new practice.
- Assistance in developing and implementing a multi-year management plan from soil health experts.
- Benefits of healthier soils include water retention, drought and erosion resilience, and increased soil fertility.
- Technical assistance, including support services such as discussions with dedicated soil health specialists, in-depth soil analysis, in-field soil health assessments, and soil moisture monitoring, ensures that producers have the necessary tools and guidance to improve their soil health.



Interested?

[Contact a partner in your area](#) or email cda_soil@state.co.us