



# Overview of STAR Verification Process

The STAR Verification Process is designed to ensure the accuracy and integrity of conservation practices reported by participants through the STAR field forms. By using a randomized selection system, STAR verifies a representative sample of field submissions each year to confirm that the reported practices have been implemented as reported. As stated on the Field Form, STAR participants acknowledge that their fields may be randomly selected for Verification.

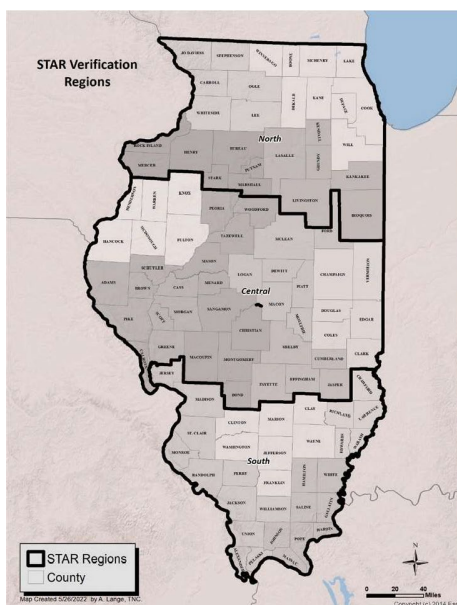
Independent verifiers review supporting documentation provided by participants and communicate with them to resolve any discrepancies. Verifiers are overseen by a State Verification Committee, which reviews and reports aggregated and anonymous results in an Annual Report. Verification may be completed as a desktop exercise through the STAR Tool platform that includes phone conversations between Verifier and STAR Participants or could include a site-visit. The information gathered will be private and confidential with only aggregated data shared beyond the Verifier, STAR Staff, and the Verification Committee.

## Timing

Verification for Siemer Milling Company's pay-for-performance program will occur **in late 2024**. A grower selected for Verification can expect the process to take a total of **one to two hours**, including being notified, collecting documentation, and speaking with the Verifier.

## Field Selection

All Field Forms are grouped into distinct geographic regions in Illinois (Figure 1), along with any other participating states' field forms (IN & KY) added to the appropriate region. The square root of the total number of STAR fields from each region determines the number of fields to be randomly selected for Verification.



## Verification Process

(for a participant whose field is selected)

1. **In early November**, a STAR participant will be notified by their region's STAR Verifier that their field has been selected for Verification. **Verifiers are often SWCD employees who have experience administering STAR in their own counties**. Selected fields are also tagged in the STAR Tool Producer Dashboard.
2. Participants submit evidence (photos, records, or other documentation) for reported practices through an upload feature in the STAR Tool or by sending evidence directly to their Verifier. A variety of evidence can be used to document a practice, depending on the type of operation and records available. See the form on the next page for a list of acceptable evidence for each section of the Field Form. The type of evidence provided is at the discretion of the STAR participant.
3. The Verifier will work with the STAR participant to complete a STAR Verification Report for each selected field. The state STAR Verification Committee will review the Verification Reports.
4. Participants have the right to appeal verification decisions. Disputes are reviewed by the state Verification Committee.
5. Any participant who is unable to provide adequate evidence for Verification will be included in Verification in the next crop year.
6. The Verification Report and collected evidence documenting reported practices serve as the record of Verification. All verification records, including supporting documentation, are securely stored in the STAR Web Tool for 7 years.



# VERIFICATION EVIDENCE BANK – 2024 IL FORM

<b>Conservation and Management Practices</b>	
1	Cost-share program documentation
2	Enrollment verification in PCM, EQIP, CSP, etc.
3	Conservation Plan on file in the Service Center
4	Plans and results from trial(s)
5	Dated photo, aerial image, Google Map coordinates, GIS, etc.
32	Details from event/meeting/field day - name of event, date, location, topics covered, proof of registration/attendance if available (receipt, photo, etc.)
<b>Crop Rotation</b>	
6	FSA 578 or Crop Insurance APH summary
7	Planter or harvest log
<b>Cover Crops</b>	
8	Local person to confirm (SWCD or NRCS staff, retailer, neighbor)
9	FSA 578 crop acreage report or NRCS Cost Share
10	Receipts and seed tags
11	Dated pictures of growing cover crops
12	Dated drone imagery confirmation
<b>Soil Sampling</b>	
13	Dated copies of soil test results and maps
<b>Fall Tillage</b>	
14	Local person to confirm (SWCD or NRCS staff, retailer, neighbor)
15	Residue check
16	HEL compliance check
17	Dated drone imagery confirmation
<b>Spring Tillage</b>	
18	Local person to confirm (SWCD or NRCS staff, retailer, neighbor)
19	Residue check
20	HEL compliance check
21	Dated drone imagery confirmation
<b>Nutrient Management Fall</b>	
22	Dated spread maps as applied or application logs
23	Invoice of products and amounts billed
24	Manure application rate and sample test results
25	Copy of MRTN or nutrient management plan
<b>Nutrient Management Spring</b>	
26	Dated spread maps as applied or application logs
27	Invoice of products and amounts billed
28	Manure application rate and sample test results
29	Copy of MRTN or nutrient management plan
<b>Additional Nutrient Activities</b>	
30	Dated spread maps as applied
31	Copy of MRTN or nutrient management plan



# EVIDENCE BANK – 2024 IN FORM

<b>Conservation and Management Practices</b>	
1	Cost-share program documentation
2	Enrollment verification in EQIP, CSP, etc.
3	Conservation Plan on file in the Service Center
4	Plans and results from trial(s)
5	Dated photo, aerial image, Google Map coordinates, GIS, etc.
32	Details from event/meeting/field day - name of event, date, location, topics covered, proof of registration/attendance if available (receipt, photo, etc.)
<b>Crop Rotation</b>	
6	FSA 578 or Crop Insurance APH summary
7	Planter or harvest log
<b>Cover Crops</b>	
8	Local person to confirm (SWCD or NRCS staff, retailer, neighbor)
9	FSA 578 crop acreage report or NRCS Cost Share
10	Receipts and seed tags
11	Dated pictures of growing cover crops
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19	Residue check
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21	Dated drone imagery confirmation
<b>Nutrient Management Fall</b>	
22	Dated spread maps as applied or application logs
23	Invoice of products and amounts billed
24	Manure application rate and sample test results
25	Copy of MRTN or nutrient management plan
<b>Nutrient Management Spring</b>	
26	Dated spread maps as applied or application logs
27	Invoice of products and amounts billed
28	Manure application rate and sample test results
29	Copy of MRTN or nutrient management plan
<b>Additional Nutrient Activities</b>	
30	Dated spread maps as applied
31	Copy of MRTN or nutrient management plan



# EVIDENCE BANK – 2024 KY FORM

<b>Conservation and Management Practices</b>	
1	Cost-share program documentation
2	Enrollment verification in PCM, EQIP, CSP, etc.
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4	Plans and results from trial(s)
5	Dated photo, aerial image, Google Map coordinates, GIS, etc.
32	Details from event/meeting/field day - name of event, date, location, topics covered, proof of registration/attendance if available (receipt, photo, etc.)
<b>Crop Rotation</b>	
6	FSA 578 or Crop Insurance APH summary
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<b>Cover Crops</b>	
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<b>Nutrient Management Spring</b>	
26	Dated spread maps as applied or application logs
27	Invoice of products and amounts billed
28	Manure application rate and sample test results
29	Copy of MRTN or nutrient management plan
<b>Additional Nutrient Activities</b>	
30	Dated spread maps as applied
31	Copy of MRTN or nutrient management plan



# EVIDENCE BANK – 2024 IA FORM

<b>Conservation and Management Practices</b>	
1	Cost-share program documentation
2	Enrollment verification in EQIP, CSP, etc.
3	Conservation Plan on file in the Service Center
4	Plans and results from trial(s)
5	Dated photo, aerial image, Google Map coordinates, GIS, etc.
32	Details from event/meeting/field day - name of event, date, location, topics covered, proof of registration/attendance if available (receipt, photo, etc.)
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