

How farmers benefit

Climate-smart agriculture doesn't just benefit society. It helps farmers, too.

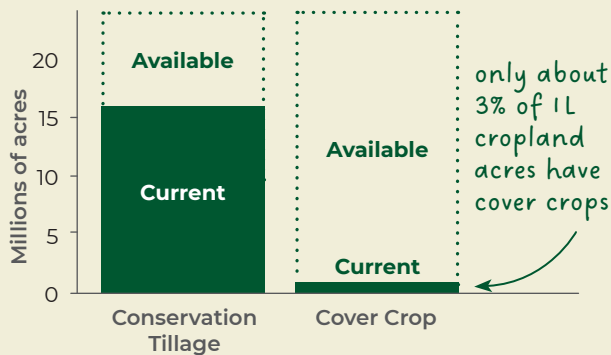


Farmers in Illinois are already facing more extreme wet and dry periods due to climate change.

Soil health practices rebuild soil structure and soil organic matter. These two characteristics **improve soil infiltration** and drainage during wet weather and **water storage** for crop use during dry weather. This also helps protect **water quality** and mitigate downstream **flood risk**.

Farmers benefit economically, too. By transitioning to cover crops and no-till, the net income of two family farms (each about 1,500 acres) growing corn and soybeans in Illinois **rose by an average of \$50 per acre, an average ROI of 126%**. Learn more [here](#).

Illinois has much greater potential for climate benefits from agriculture



Illinois farmers at a field day in a no-till and cover cropped field in early spring. (Photo by AFT)



(Photo by Kevin Keenan for AFT)

Illinois state leaders, agencies, and elected officials can increase adoption of soil health practices by channeling federal, state, and private funding to:

- ▶ Develop a **Natural and Working Lands Plan** to guide investments to climate-smart agriculture in ways that protect farm viability, soil health and water quality
- ▶ Expand and update **financial assistance** programs like Partners for Conservation and Fall Covers for Spring Savings to support climate-smart practice adoption
- ▶ Offer financial incentives, like **revenue loss guarantee**, during the early stages of transition to reduce producer risk
- ▶ Boost **technical assistance** capacity at Soil and Water Conservation Districts and University of Illinois Extension
- ▶ Include climate-smart practices in **ag in the classroom** education opportunities

County-level estimates for potential C sequestration from soil health practices are available from CarPE Tool™ (carpe.shinyapps.io/CarpeTool).

How will your state achieve resilient, climate-smart agriculture?

Read more about these carbon estimates at farmland.org/carpe-results. **Partner with us to achieve climate mitigation goals by empowering the agricultural community.** Contact us: climate@farmland.org.

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