

Frequently Asked Questions: **2024 Truterra® Early Adopter – a USDA-Supported Program**

What is the 2024 Truterra® early adopter – a USDA-supported program?

The Truterra® early adopter - a USDA-supported program will reward eligible farmers who made the transition to strip/no-till in the crop year 2015 or before. The program will include data collection and selected soil sampling, which will contribute to a publicly available multi-year soil health study conducted by the Soil Health Institute.

How were the regions for this program identified?

This program aims to develop a scientifically-sound soil health study. Major land resource areas (MLRA's) have been identified by Soil Health Institute, which were used to develop the regions where the study will be conducted. Ensuring we have a high enough density of fields within a specific MLRA is one part of developing a scientifically-sound study. By focusing on enrollment density within MLRAs, we can provide robust findings relevant to a larger sample size compared to single field analysis.

Will every field be sampled as part of the SHI study?

The soil health study will consider enrollment concentration within major land resource areas (MLRA). Not every field is guaranteed to be sampled.

What are the benefits for eligible farmers who participate in the program?

Eligible farmers:

- May earn \$25/acre.
- Will have access to a regional economic and soil health analysis.
- Will receive an insights report.

If a farmer's field is sampled in the SHI study, they will receive a farmer-specific soil health report.

How many acres can a farmer enroll in this program?

There is no enrollment cap per farmer. The total enrollment target for this launch is limited to 300,000 enrolled acres on a first-come-first-serve basis.

What crops are eligible for the program?

Corn (grain or silage), cotton, soybeans or wheat (grain or silage) in crop year 2024.

What practice change is required to be eligible for payment?

Eligible fields must have strip/no-till in place for crop year 2024. Strip/no-till must have been adopted on the enrolled field in the crop year 2015 or before and must appear five or more times between 2018-2024. Conventional/reduced tillage may not appear in consecutive years between 2018 and 2024.

What does “consecutive years” mean? If a farmer alternates between no-till and conventional tillage based on crop type, is the field still eligible?

Consecutive years are defined as two years in a row. The program requires:

- 5 or more years of strip/no-till between crop years 2018-2024 AND
- No consecutive years of conventional or reduced tillage between 2018-2024

The following table is meant to demonstrate 3 different tillage patterns and explain program eligibility for each.

	Tillage Type							
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	Eligible?
Field 1	No-till	Conventional Tillage	No-till	Conventional Tillage	No-till	Conventional tillage	No-till	No
Field 2	No-till	No-till	No-till	Conventional Tillage	Conventional Tillage	No-till	No-till	No
Field 3	Reduced tillage	No-till	No-till	No-till	No-till	No-till	No-till	No

Field 1 is not eligible because it does not show 5 or more years of no-till between 2018-2024.

Field 2 is not eligible because it shows consecutive years of conventional tillage.

Field 3 is not eligible because it shows reduced tillage in 2024. The field must be strip-till or no-till in 2024 to be eligible.

How will the logic in MyPortal determine whether a field is eligible for the Truterra® early adopter - a USDA-supported program?

There will be a question during enrollment after field profiling in which a farmer will need to indicate the year of adoption to determine eligibility.

What is the timeline for this program?

The below dates are subject to change:

- This program is open for enrollment from August 1, 2024 – November 1, 2024.
- Field certification deadline: November 1, 2024
- Data collection deadline: December 1, 2024
- Farmer payment: Q1 2025

How long is the commitment?

There is no long-term commitment or reporting tail. The agreement participating farmers will sign will extend for approximately one year and will be dependent on the farmer successfully completing the certification and data collection requirements.

What does certification entail?

To pass certification for this program, farmers must provide a subsidiary print and a certified field map showing the farm, tract, and field numbers for enrolled boundaries from their FSA office.

Where will retailers submit the documents for farmer certification?

The farmer certification will be part of the MSA experience. The farmer will upload the necessary documents independently.

Will any FSA Farm & Tract Map work for crop certification?

Yes. Any FSA map for the field enrolled will be accepted. The FSA map is to verify boundary, acreage, and farm/tract/field ID.

Will Truterra have the necessary accepted documents needed from NRCS/FSA or will farmers need to acquire these forms?

The certification form will request two attachments: the farmer's subsidiary print and FSA field map(s) for each enrolled field. The subsidiary print will verify all required FSA forms are in compliance. If a farmer does not have one of the forms in compliance, they can simply request the form, complete it, and submit to their FSA office.

Will local USDA offices (FSA, SWCDs, etc.) have any follow-up with our farmers because of their participation in the USDA-supported programs?

No, USDA offices will not have contact with farmers participating in the Truterra® early adopter - a USDA-supported program.

Is a farmer who participates in this program eligible for other Truterra programs?

Fields may be enrolled in this program plus the Truterra® carbon program, or another commercial Truterra program. To enroll in another program, the field must also meet the eligibility requirements for that program. The same field may not be enrolled in another publicly funded program for the same practice change.

How much data is required?

Eligible farmers must provide data for crop years 2004-2024, or back to the year of practice change (whichever is shorter).

Crop year 2024 data requirements:

Winter Crop (cover crop)	Tillage	Summer Crop (cash crop)	Fertilizer Applications
Crop type	Type (depth) of each pass	Crop type	Product & type
Planting date	Date of each pass	Planting date	Application date(s)
Harvest/termination date		Harvest/termination date	Rate (field average)
Yield (field average) if harvested		Yield (field average)	Total N, P, K applied
Termination method		Residue removal	Additives used

Crop year 2023 & prior data requirements:

Harvested crop type
Cover crop type
Tillage type (depth)
Did you apply manure? (Y/N)

Additional data points collected may include: residue removal • conservation practices • pest management strategies • irrigation • drainage • grazing headcount/duration • marketing information • prior climate smart practices

Do retailers need to opt-in again for this program if they already opted-in for another Truterra® USDA-supported program?

Yes, network providers will need to sign a new schedule to opt-in for each USDA program that is launched. The deadline for network providers to opt-in will be July 1, 2024 (30 days prior to program launch).

If a retailer chooses network-provider managed in the new retailer agreement but “opts out” for this USDA-supported program, who will fill in the forms for farmers in this program? Who is responsible for submitting the farmer certification documents?

The Early Adopter - a USDA-supported Program is distinctly different than Truterra’s Financial Assistance - a USDA-supported program. Farmer certification is required but field verification is NOT a requirement of this program. Farmer certification includes obtaining the farmer’s subsidiary print and FSA map(s) for the enrolled field(s). This process will be coupled with the farmer’s Master Services Agreement (MSA) and will not require the retailer to complete this step. Farmers will provide the necessary documentation via the MSA DocuSign experience.

This chart explains retailer payment opportunity & data collection responsibility as it pertains to network-provider managed retailers and their opt-in decision for the 2024 Truterra® early adopter – a USDA-supported program:

Retailer type:	Network-provider managed, Opt In	Network-provider managed, Opt In	Network-provider managed, Opt Out
Field enrolled in Early Adopter?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Field dual-enrolled in a commercial program?	Yes	No	No
Retailer Payment	Early Adopter: \$0.50 per acre Commercial Program: \$1.75 per acre*	Early Adopter: \$0.25 per acre Commercial Program: n/a	Early Adopter: \$0.25 per acre Commercial Program: n/a
Who is responsible for data collection?	Retailer	Truterra	Truterra

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