

Frequently Asked Questions:

2024 Bel Brands Dairy Soils Carbon Program – powered by Truterra

What is the 2024 Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program – powered by Truterra?

The goal of the 2024 Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program is to reward eligible farmers for the impact resulting from their transition to conservation agronomy practices on their feedstock acres.

Where is this program available?

This program is available to pre-qualified Bel Brands farmers in South Dakota, Indiana, and Ohio.

When is program enrollment for the 2024 Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program?

Program enrollment is from August 1 – November 1, 2024.

What is the payment for eligible farmers participating in this program?

Eligible farmers may be paid \$15/acre for eligible fields enrolled in the program plus \$30 per metric ton upon contracting.

What crops are eligible for the Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program?

Corn (grain or silage), alfalfa, sorghum, or wheat (grain or silage) present in crop years 2023-2024. Farmers must attest that 100% of the crop grown is used on-farm as dairy feed for the crop to be eligible in this program.

What crops are ineligible for the Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program?

Any crop that is not listed above is ineligible for the program for that year of eligibility. Popcorn, soybeans, sweet corn, sugar beets, kidney beans, and pumpkins are all examples of ineligible crops for this program. Crops not used on-farm as dairy feed are also ineligible.

What practice(s) are required to be eligible for the Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program?

Eligible practices include strip/no-till and/or use of cover crops on eligible crops in 2023 and/or 2024. For this program, strip/no-till is defined as no tillage at all, **or** 1 pass of seedbed prep (not exceeding a depth of 3”), strip-tillage, or post-planting tillage which disturbs no more than 1/3 of surface residue.

How does injecting manure or fertilizer impact eligibility?

If strip/no-till and/or use of cover crops is in place, injecting manure or fertilizer will not impact eligibility.

Does the initial practice change date impact eligibility?

No, the initial practice change year does not impact eligibility. However, member-owners participating in this program are only eligible for contracting in 2023 and 2024.

Is an eligible crop required to be planted in all seasons to be eligible for payment?

A field must meet all eligibility requirements in crop year 2023 and/or 2024 to be paid in this program. If the field meets all eligibility requirements in crop year 2023 but not crop year 2024, that field will be contracted in both years but only eligible for payment on crop year 2023.

Example:

Crop Year	Crop Type	Eligible for payment? <i>Fields must meet all program eligibility criteria to be eligible for payment.</i>	This field meets all eligibility requirements for crop year 2023, but not crop year 2024. The field is eligible for the \$15 per acre enrollment incentive PLUS \$30/ton on the 2023 tonnage. Crop year 2024 will be contracted to maintain continuous contracting.
2024	Soybeans	No	
2023	Corn Silage	Yes	

In the example above, crop year 2024 lists an ineligible crop, so the field is not eligible for payment on that year.

Why would a field be contracted in a year where it may not be eligible for payment?

Truterra’s carbon programs require contiguous enrollment to maintain a contracted status. If a field does not continue to contract in our program after being contracted once, that field is not eligible to re-enroll in the program in future cohorts.

What are the eligible payment years for this program?

Eligible farmers may receive a payment of \$15 per acre so long as all eligibility requirements are met in at least one eligible crop year. Farmers will only be paid the \$30 per metric ton for crop years where all eligibility criteria are met and they have a positive tonnage result.

Why is there an on-farm feed use requirement for eligible crops in this program?

This program aims to measure the GHG impact of feed production connected directly to the Bel Brands milk supply. To ensure that the emissions being calculated are within Bel Brands’ supply chain, the program is only available to acres which are 100% allocated for dairy feed.

Does the Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program account for emissions from enteric and manure sources?

No, this program will quantify crop production-related emissions only.

Is a field still eligible if 100% of the crop was NOT used as on-farm dairy feed across all program years?

Fields will only be eligible for payment in crop years where all eligibility requirements were met. If a field does not meet the feed use requirement in crop year 2023, the field will be contracted for crop year 2024 only. Example:

Crop Year	Crop	100% of crop used on-farm as dairy feed?	Eligible for Payment? <i>Fields must meet all program eligibility criteria to be eligible for payment.</i>
2024	Corn	Yes	Yes
2023	Alfalfa - 1 st cutting	Yes	No
	Alfalfa - 2 nd cutting	Yes	
	Alfalfa - 3 rd cutting	No	
	Alfalfa - 4 th cutting	No	

In the example above, a portion of the 2023 crop was NOT used on-farm as dairy feed so the field would be contracted and paid for crop year 2024 only.

How can a farmer get involved in the Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program?

- If the farmer doesn't already have a Truterra® MyPortal account, they should start by completing the pre-enrollment form at Truterraag.com/enroll. Once the form is complete, farmers will receive an email inviting them to create a Truterra® MyPortal account.
 - When completing the pre-enrollment form for the first time, be sure Bel Brands is selected as a farmer membership.
 - Selecting a Truterra network provider within the enrollment form will connect the farmer to a local retailer who can support their Truterra program journey. If a network provider is not selected, Truterra will provide program support directly.
- If the farmer already has a MyPortal account but did not indicate their Bel Brands association, please contact a Truterra representative or customer support (support@truterraag.com) to get it added to their account.
- Enter field boundaries and field-level data within Truterra® MyPortal to determine if the fields are eligible for any of the current Truterra sustainability programs.
- Complete enrollment for qualifying fields within Truterra® MyPortal.
- Need assistance? Consult the Truterra® MyPortal [help guide](#).

How long is the commitment?

There is a five-year reporting tail associated with this program, effective 5 years following the latest contracted year. After data has been collected and validated, the farmer will be asked to sign a Vintage Year Enrollment Schedule (VYES) obligating them to provide services to Truterra for the years identified in the schedule and to provide data for the duration of the five-year

reporting tail. The VYES does not obligate a farmer to provide services beyond the reporting tail or sell carbon benefits to Truterra in future years.

What data is required for participation in the Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program?

Eligible farmers must provide crop and other initial data from 2018-2024.

To successfully participate in this program, eligible farmers will need to provide the following data points for each field enrolled, for each required data collection year:

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

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

Is a farmer that participates in the Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program eligible for other Truterra programs?

Depending on eligibility and program parameters, some fields may be enrolled in this program plus a publicly funded program, including the Truterra USDA-supported programs. Fields must meet eligibility and exclusivity requirements for each program they are enrolled in.

Is a farmer who signed a VYES for the 2023 Truterra® carbon program but who does not otherwise meet the eligibility requirements eligible to participate in this program?

No, fields must meet all eligibility criteria for this program to participate, regardless of historical participation in the Truterra® carbon program.

Is a field eligible for payment across all eligible crop years, even if this field has been enrolled in another sustainability program?

No, fields can only be contracted in one commercial sustainability program per crop year. If a field was contracted in another program in crop year 2023, that field would only be eligible to contract crop year 2024 in the Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program.

What tillage practices specifically are eligible for the 2024 Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program?

Strip/no-till and/or use of cover crops on eligible crops in 2023 and/or 2024. For this program, strip/no-till is defined as no tillage at all, **or** 1 pass of seedbed prep (not exceeding a depth of 3”), strip-tillage, or post-planting tillage which disturbs no more than 1/3 of surface residue. Contact your Truterra representative if you have additional questions on qualifying tillage practices.

If the addition of cover crops is the selected eligible practice, do farmers need cover crops on the acre every year?

Seasons eligible for contracting are 2023 and 2024. If cover crop is the only eligible practice change, the farmer will only be paid the \$30 per metric ton rate on a field where cover crops were planted in an eligible season.

Example:

Season	Cover Crop?	Eligible for payment?
2024	Yes	Yes
2023	No	No

What are the timelines for this program?

- Enrollment will open August 1, 2024 and close Nov 1, 2024 or when the program acreage target is achieved.
- Data collection is due December 1, 2024
- Data validation is due December 31, 2024
- Member-owner payments are scheduled to be completed by Q2 of 2025.

Program timelines are subject to change.