

Colorado River Basin Discovery Farms

Leading the Way in Soil Health and Water Resource Management



What Producer Partners Receive:

1. Receive annual stipend for participation- \$1,250/year
2. Access matching funds from the Colorado Department of Agriculture for soil health practice implementation: \$75 an acre for a max of \$5000 per field per year. (\$1000 minimum every year)
3. Receive direct technical assistance from an on-site coordinator and the CSU project team throughout the project. This includes:
 - Support for practice implementation
 - Troubleshooting equipment such as soil moisture sensors
 - Ongoing consultation to address any challenges
 - Navigating CO Soil Health Program paperwork
4. Free soil sampling and testing on the project fields in 2025 and 2027
5. Access to real-time data from soil moisture sensors via a cloud-based app for on-farm monitoring.
6. Individualized soil health reports summarizing baseline and annual results, including interpretations and actionable insights.
7. Opportunity to showcase their farm as a demonstration site for innovative practices in soil health and water resource management.
8. Opportunity to become a leader in the soil-water resource management space
9. Opportunity to engage with a broader network of producers and researchers

Producer Partner Agreements:

1. Collaboration and Co-Design:
 - Willing and excited to co-develop the study design with the CSU project team
 - Participate in one-on-one and group meetings annually to discuss progress, challenges, and lessons learned.
2. Access and Participation in Demonstrations:
 - Co-Host field days and share insights, including land history, practice implementation, and outcomes, with peers and the broader community.
3. Be open and interested in making this a long-term partnership and research study.
4. Commit to treatment and control fields for tracking soil health practices and comparisons.
5. Agree not to change the management of treatment and control fields without collaboratively discussing the change with the project team for the duration of the project (2025-2028)
6. Agree to enroll in the CO Soil Health Program/STAR
7. Provide historical irrigation records for at least the preceding five years.
8. Complete the Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources (STAR) Form
9. Allow sharing of data collected in the study (assuming all necessary privacy and regulatory standards)
10. Agree to feature the production site/farm in outreach materials, including ArcGIS Story Maps, social media posts, newsletters, and other educational or promotional outlets.
11. Allow soil sampling in study fields to be used for research purposes
12. Allow installation of soil moisture sensors at specified depths in treatment and control fields.
13. Allow drone (UAV) flights over designated treatment and control fields for collecting evapotranspiration (ET) data. These flights will be scheduled at agreed-upon times during the growing season and will adhere to all necessary privacy and regulatory standards.