



Conservation Technology  
Information Center

## Michigan Wheat Pilot for PLUS-UP, the Phosphorus Load-Reduction Stimulus Program:

### Background

The Conservation Technology Information Center ([CTIC](#)) is partnering with Star of the West, The Mosaic Company, and Heidelberg University on a new effort to explore the potential for a water quality load reduction market in Michigan wheat production systems. We are currently seeking innovative wheat growers who would be interested in partnering with us to help spearhead this novel approach.

This Michigan pilot is an extension of the “Phosphorus Load-Reduction Stimulation Program” (PLUS-UP) that originated in Ohio through CTIC. We will quantify the amount of nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment load reductions associated with the adoption of advanced nutrient management practices. A partner in the project, Heidelberg University, will quantify the reductions for each participating grower using the Nutrient Tracking Tool ([NTT](#)) model, based primarily on the size and location of each field enrolled in the pilot.

This information will be subsequently used (after the initial scoping) to determine stimulus payments that could be made to growers for adopting such practices in the future. No such payments will be made during this pilot. However, farmers participating in this pilot will be made aware of future programs with financial incentives as a top priority.

Participating growers will agree to make basic field data (such as past crop rotations and approximate yields) available to Heidelberg University staff to help calibrate the NTT model for this geography. This data will be held confidential by Heidelberg and will not be released to any other parties, including CTIC, without the prior informed consent of the grower.

### Farmer Sign-Up

Growers who are potentially interested in this pilot should contact Star of the West, either Keith Martus or Lisa Woodke, Sustainability Director at [lisa.woodke@starofthewest.com](mailto:lisa.woodke@starofthewest.com) or 517.648.9166.

*The Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) is a national, membership-based, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to champion, promote and provide information on sustainable agriculture technologies and systems that are productive and profitable.*

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