

## At a glance

With Michigan's large and diverse agriculture industry, Star of the West is focusing on four crops for this grant: dry beans, food-grade oats, food-grade soys and wheat. Star of the West is uniquely positioned to develop climate-smart foodsheds, further develop existing foodsheds, and financially reward farmers.

### How to Join the Program:

1. Grow dry beans, food-grade oats, food-grade soybeans or wheat.
2. Call Lisa Woodke, Star of the West Sustainability Director, for details on how to join at (517) 648-9166.
3. For more information visit [www.starofthewest.com](http://www.starofthewest.com) and look under the Sustainability tab.



### Up to \$10 per acre

For entering and sharing data with Star of the West, and establishing certain practices on the focus crops.



### Marketing Materials

Will be established for marketing of Climate-Smart Commodities.



# A Climate Strategy for the Michigan Foodshed

*Nourishing our Land, Farmers, and Rural Communities*

## CHALLENGES



There are many issues preventing farmers from entering into the climate-smart food value chain. Technology platforms are often difficult to understand, and the time commitment to input data needed for the platforms is intense. There is often a lack of human capital that understands both the technology and farming practices. Commonly underserved farmer audiences including beginning farmers and women farmers will be brought into focus in this grant. The program also works on creating and telling a compelling story to market the climate-smart commodities.

## SOLUTIONS



The Climate Strategy for the Michigan Foodshed project will consist of three pillars to solve the challenges while using the unique crop diversity in Michigan to support the program:



Climate Smart  
Agronomist



Connecting Beginning  
& Underserved  
Farmers



Connecting Farmers  
to Markets

## BENEFITS FOR THE GROWER



### 1 Increasing Climate Smart Practices with Reduced Technology Training

With a designated Climate Smart Agronomist (CSA) learning various tools online, the CSA will help growers input farm data. Having a point person for the technology takes some of the stress out of the needed reporting.

### 2 Growers Earn Money While in the Program

A grower could receive up to \$10 an acre for achieving three outcomes: inputting data into the CropWise system and sharing that data with Star of the West; increasing the focus field(s) TruTerra score, and/or receiving the highest category on the Truterra scoring. If a grower can grow food-grade oats, they will receive an additional \$2/bushel up to 150 bushels/acre to grow and deliver those oats to Star of the West at a location to be determined.

### 3 Long Term Growth and Post-Project Potential

Star will be creating a directory and resources, along with outreach to farmers and communities, and Climate-Smart leadership training programs. Star of the West is creating a resource hub and developing a market for growers in this program.