

## Frequently Asked Questions: **2025 Bel Brands Dairy Soils Carbon Program – powered by Truterra**

### **What is the 2025 Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program – powered by Truterra?**

The 2025 Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program aims to reward eligible producers for the impact resulting from their transition to, or maintenance of, conservation agronomy practices on their feedstock acres.

### **Where is this program available?**

This program is available to pre-qualified producers supplying milk to Bel Brands in the Brookings, South Dakota milkshed.

### **When is program enrollment open for the 2025 Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program?**

Program enrollment is open from June 4, 2025 – July 31, 2025, or until the program enrollment cap is met.

### **What is the payment for eligible producers participating in this program?**

Eligible producers may be paid a \$15 per acre enrollment incentive for eligible fields enrolled in the program plus \$33 per metric ton upon contracting.

Producers must complete the data collection stage of this program to be paid the \$15 per acre enrollment incentive.

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

Corn (grain or silage), alfalfa, sorghum (grain or forage), or wheat (grain or silage) present in crop year 2025. Producers must confirm that 100% of the harvested crop from an eligible field is used on-farm as dairy feed.

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

Any crop that is not listed above is ineligible for the program. 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 CY2025.

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, producers participating in this program are only eligible for contracting in 2025.

**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 used on the same farm it was produced.

**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.

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

Pre-qualified producers will receive an email inviting them to enroll in the program.

- If the producer doesn’t already have a Truterra® MyPortal account, they should start by completing the pre-enrollment form at [Truterraag.com/enroll](https://Truterraag.com/enroll).
  - Select a Truterra Network Provider from the drop-down list to be supported by a local ag retailer. If there is not a network provider in the producer’s area, select “I do not work with any of these providers” or “Truterra Programs”.
  - Indicate any industry connections as farmer memberships, including the association with Bel Brands.
- Once the form is complete, producers will receive an email inviting them to create a Truterra® MyPortal 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 modeled, the producer 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 producer to provide services beyond the reporting tail or sell carbon benefits to Truterra during the reporting tail and in future years.

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

Eligible producers must provide crop and other initial data from 2020-2025

To successfully participate in this program, eligible producers will need to provide the following data points for each enrolled field, 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 producer that participates in the Bel Brands dairy soils carbon program eligible for other sustainability programs?**

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

### **What are the timelines for this program?**

- Enrollment will open June 4, 2025 and close July 31, 2025 or when the program enrollment target is achieved.
- Data collection is due December 1, 2025
- Producer payments are scheduled to be completed by Q2 of 2026.

*Program timelines are subject to change.*