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AGRICULTURE INSIDER

Monthly Newsletter

INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



ABOUT

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch serves as Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development and oversees the IN State Dept. of Agriculture



DIVISIONS

Economic Development
Public Affairs
Indiana FFA Association
Soil Conservation
Grain Buyers



VISION

Indiana agriculture will be a global leader in innovation and commercialization for food, fuel and fiber production



HIGHLIGHTS



Lamb selected by Braun-Beckwith Administration to continue to lead Dept. of Agriculture

Announced last week, ISDA Director Lamb was re-appointed Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture by Governor-elect Braun. Director Lamb will serve under Secretary of Agriculture, Lt. Governor-elect Beckwith.

Click below to find the full release

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Cover Crop Premium Discount Program available to Hoosier farmers

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture, [The Nature Conservancy](#) and the [United States Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency](#) have joined forces to implement the [Cover Crop Premium Discount Program](#) for the fifth year in a row.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2025, this program will provide farmers with a unique opportunity to receive financial incentives for implementing cover crops on their operation. Farmers who plant cover crops on owned or rented acres will receive a \$5 per acre crop insurance premium discount. Farmers who planted cover crops in the fall of 2024 are eligible to apply. This program is eligible for 50 out of the 92 counties in Indiana.

Click below to view the list of eligible counties and learn more

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Two Indiana dairy businesses awarded funding

[JB's Barnyard](#) and [Risin' Creek Creamery](#) were awarded funding from the [Dairy Business Innovation Alliance](#) (DBIA) for value added facilities to their farms.



New member appointments to the Indiana Grown Commission

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch recently announced, three appointments and three reappointments for the [Indiana Grown](#) Commission.

The DBIA awarded 39 grants totaling more than \$3.3 million to farmstead operations and dairy processing businesses across the Midwest. The Indiana State Department of Agriculture serves as the Indiana state collaborator. Since 2022, ten Indiana dairy businesses have been awarded more than \$833,000 from DBIA to grow their operations.

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The Indiana Grown Commission provides guidance and direction on behalf of Indiana Grown members to the staff of the program who are dedicated to promoting, supporting and growing local agribusinesses. The program has over 1,500 members including farmers, artisans, restaurants, chef's, agritourism destinations and more.

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NOTEWORTHY



Two 2024 Stellar Pathways designated communities

[Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch](#) and the [Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs](#) (ORCA), in partnership with ISDA, announced Dearborn County and Wabash



2025 Indiana Horticultural Conference and Expo

The annual [Indiana Horticultural Conference and Expo](#) (IHC) will take place Jan. 14-15 at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds in Danville. Current and

County as the [2024 Stellar Pathways](#) designated communities.

The Stellar Pathways program is a multi-year, multi-million-dollar initiative led by OCRA. The program works with communities in a self-determined region on a shared vision for community and economic development. Stellar Pathways aims to promote local and regional partnerships and assists in implementing sustainable solutions to challenges Indiana's rural communities face.

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aspiring vegetable and fruit growers, crop consultants, and allied industry members are invited to join Purdue Agriculture specialists for two days of educational sessions and networking with fellow Indiana and Midwestern farmers and vendors.

Scheduled educational session topics will cover fruit and vegetable production, food safety, controlled environment agriculture, high tunnel production and pest management, and business marketing. IHC's annual event will also include an apple cider contest to judge the best tasting cider.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE

ISDA participates in Agribusiness Trade Mission to Morocco



Earlier this month, ISDA joined a trade delegation to Morocco led by Administrator Daniel Whitley of the [USDA Foreign Agricultural Service](#). Morocco is an important export market for the U.S. due to its proximity and trading relationships with North Africa, West Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

Director Don Lamb and ISDA staff met with government and industry leaders in Morocco to explore export opportunities for Indiana agricultural products, including animal feed ingredients, poultry products, food processing ingredients and consumer-oriented goods. Additionally, ISDA visited Morocco's Tanger-Med Port, which is a critically important ocean freight and transshipment facility that could help connect Indiana exporters to the rest of North and West Africa.



NEWS RELEASES

Dec. 12, 2024 | Lt. Governor Crouch appoints Indiana Grown Commission members

Find more information [here](#)

Dec. 12, 2024 | Two Indiana dairy businesses awarded funding

Find more information [here](#)



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

USDA Webinar for Specialty Crop Growers: New Federal Program for 2025 Financial Assistance

Find more information [here](#)



KEY DATES

Jan. 1, 2025 | New Years Day

ISDA Offices Closed

Jan. 8, 2025 | First Day of Legislative Session

Jan. 13, 2025 | Governor-elect Braun & Lt. Governor-elect Beckwith Inauguration

Jan. 20, 2025 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day

ISDA Offices Closed



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