

Indiana Food Business Consultants – Contacts and Biographies

Anna Holloway - Value Chain Coordinator, Indiana Department of Health

Location - Statewide

Contact - aholloway1@health.in.gov

Bio - Anna grew up in Indiana before spending two decades in Montana, eventually returning home to live on her family's homestead. She has worked in local foods for nearly 15 years, supporting stronger and more resilient regional food systems. Her work centers on connecting youth with nutritious, locally grown food and the farmers who produce it. Anna is passionate about building community through food and strengthening the ties between farms and schools. She joined IFBC to continue grow the movement of local foods in Indiana, and to help support those that grow it.

Becky Landes - Value Chain Professional, FARMWISE Indiana

Location - Northeast Indiana

Contact - becky@farmwiseindiana.org

Bio – Becky is a local food advocate with years of institutional procurement experience. Her career has spanned everything from working in a small local bakery, fresh meat counter sales, secretary for a local grain elevator, and row crop farmer to feeding students and sourcing local food. She loves to travel and meet new people. Becky joined the IFBC to help farm and food businesses be sustainable and profitable.

Ryan Bolhuis - Executive Director of Culinary Entrepreneurship, The Kitchen & Pavilion Logansport

Location - Statewide

Contact - rbolhuis@casscountycf.org

Bio - Ryan is an award-winning chef and graduate of the French Culinary Institute in New York City, with training in world-class restaurants both domestically and abroad. His culinary expertise spans classic French technique to cutting-edge molecular gastronomy. With over 20 years of experience in the culinary and entrepreneurial space, Ryan has become a driving force in food business development. At the Grand Rapids Downtown Market Incubator Kitchen, he helped launch more than 200 food and beverage businesses, generate over 500 jobs, and elevate programming across the state of Michigan. Now in Indiana, Ryan is bringing his proven leadership, industry insight, and passion for innovation to ignite the next wave of successful food entrepreneurs and vibrant culinary ventures. He joined IFBC to connect, collaborate, and help food entrepreneurs launch their dream businesses.

Huss Sadri - Senior Business Advisor, Central ISBDC

Location - Central Indiana

Contact - hsadri@isbdc.org

Bio - Huss is a Senior Business Advisor with the Central Indiana Small Business Development Center at Butler University and has more than 30 years of experience helping entrepreneurs and organizations develop growth strategies, improve business models, and overcome complex business challenges. He has worked with businesses across a wide range of industries, including agribusiness, food and beverage, biotechnology, manufacturing, healthcare, and professional services. Huss specializes in business planning, financial analysis, capital access, market research, and organizational development. He holds an MBA from Butler University with concentrations in International Business Finance and Marketing Management and a Master of Science in Biotechnology and Agribusiness from Imperial College London. He joined IFBC to strengthen his understanding of the food and agricultural industries so he can provide more effective business advising, strategic guidance, and growth support to food, farm, and agribusiness entrepreneurs throughout Indiana.

Kyla Jefferson - Programs Manager, ISBDC Lead Center

Location - Statewide

Contact - kjefferson@iedc.in.gov

Bio - Kyla previously worked as the Program Operations Manager for a small agriculture based nonprofit in Indianapolis and previously owned her own homemade soap and body butter company. She is currently the Programs Manager for the Indiana Small Business Development Center and is so excited to help with statewide initiatives and support the ISBDC network. She knows that this will help her better support Specialty Advisors, particularly Agribusiness Advisor.

Rebecca Koetz - Purdue Extension and NWI Food Council

Location - Northwest Indiana

Contact - busser@purdue.edu

Bio - Rebecca provides technical assistance and programming around farm to school, small farm workforce development, permaculture, and urban agriculture. She is interested in learning more about collaborative farming and food systems and all things diversified agriculture. She joined IFBC because many people get into farming because they love it, but don't have the business skills for a successful business. She wants to help connect people with resources to make their businesses profitable and sustainable.

Ginnie Faller - Business Advisor, Southeast ISBDC

Location - Southeast Indiana Region (Franklin, Dearborn, Ripley, Ohio, Switzerland and Decatur counties)

Contact - gfaller@isbdc.org

Bio - Ginnie has a B.S. (from Penn State) and M.S. (from South Dakota State) in Animal Science and an MBA (from Penn State). She worked in Animal Science for close to 10 years in nutrition and sales, and then worked for 20 years in corporate America doing new product development, marketing, and business management. She has owned a small business franchise and currently owns a sheep business and retail food business with some partners. She raises sheep and sells meat, vegetables and other locally grown products in our farm store. She joined IFBC because she wanted to add more financial understanding to my farm experience, because it is a little more quirky than other small businesses.

Anne Massie - Co-Executive Director, NWI Food Council

Location – Northwest Indiana

Contact - anne@nwifoodcouncil.org

Bio - Anne holds a BA from Kalamazoo College in Psychology, Spanish, and Philosophy and has spent more than 15 years advancing local food systems in Northwest Indiana. A farmer and advocate, she has operated Grounded Earth Farm for the past seven years while leading initiatives focused on food access, farm viability, and food justice. As a founding leader of the Northwest Indiana Food Council, she helped grow the organization significantly, securing nearly \$4 million in funding for regional food systems development. Her contributions have earned numerous recognitions, including NWI Times 20 Under 40, NWI Influential Women Finalist, and fellowships with both the Food Systems Leadership Network and Hoosier Young Farmers Coalition. She joined IFBC because she loves supporting other farmers and food businesses and sharing what she's learned, sometimes the hard way and from great mentors.

Marcus Tyler, Jr. - Customer Resource Manager, Farm Credit Mid-America

Location - Statewide

Contact - marcus.tyler@fcma.com

Bio - Marcus currently serves as the Customer Resource Manager for Farm Credit Mid-America, where he leads the association's strategy for engagement with underserved and emerging market agricultural production through the development of education initiatives and community investment opportunities. Prior to this role, Marcus was the Emerging Agriculture Business Development Manager where he supported and enhanced the association's lending efforts while delivering innovation, programming, and curating an ecosystem to support historically disadvantaged producers and growers. Marcus earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from The University of Kentucky. He went on to receive his Master of Business Administration with a specialization in Entrepreneurship and Family Enterprises from Louisiana State University in 2024. He joined IFBC to use his financial and client relationship skills to help agricultural businesses make informed decisions and grow sustainably.

Dave Bittner - Senior Business Advisor, West Central ISBDC

Location - West central Indiana (Clay, Owen, Park and Putnam counties)

Contact - dbittner@isbdc.org

Bio - Dave's experience and knowledge was obtained over 25+ years of management in small businesses and large corporations. Prior to joining the WCISBDC in early 2022, Dave served as Vice President and General Manager for Aegion Corporation for three years and began his career at Evoqua Water Technologies in 1992 working his way up to Senior VP and General Manager of the High Purity Solutions Division. Dave's scope of work includes Operations Management, Accounting, Inventory, Sales, Mergers & Acquisitions, and Technology integration/enhancements for improved business performance. He ensured business results through driving high performing business operations, leadership development, sales growth, excellent customer service, change management, and profitable results. He joined IFBC because he has a servant leader foundation and enjoys helping entrepreneurs and small business owners achieve their dreams.

Sarah Hanson - Food Systems Coordinator, Purdue Extension

Location - Statewide

Contact - sspeedy@purdue.edu

Bio - Sarah grew up on a pastured-beef operation in southern Indiana and has worked for Purdue Extension for 13 years. Her passion is in helping small-to-medium sized diverse farms to become more financially viable. She enjoys supporting local food producers so that they have the skills needed to thrive. In her free time, Sarah enjoys gardening and cooking with her family. She joined IFBC to spread knowledge to all Indiana food entrepreneurs, farmers producing food, etc. because she recognizes the need for more technical assistance regarding finances.

Jeff Nolting - SV Chief Banking Officer, JCBank

Location - South Central Indiana and statewide

Contact - jbobb80@gmail.com

Bio - Jeff has multi-industry experience in the food industry and banking. His areas of focus include grocery, category management, CPG and commercial bank lending, small business and treasury management. Jeff's skill sets include sales, marketing, product management and profit and loss statement review. He is responsible for budgetary goals, P+L, business growth and development. Jeff joined IFBC because he has 27 years of experience in various facets within the food industry and 23 years in banking, he felt this unique blend of experience would be helpful in providing assistance.

Joe Linne - Business Advisor, Southeast ISBDC

Location - Southeast ISBDC Region

Contact - jlinne@isbdc.org

Bio - Joe is a Business Advisor with the Indiana Small Business Development Center (ISBDC), leveraging nearly six years of experience to help owners start, grow, innovate, finance, and transition their business. A Purdue alum, his 16 + years of diverse entrepreneurial experience spans real estate, insurance, retail, and the hemp industry. Joe approaches all his advisory work as a "student," believing that curiosity and continuous learning are the foundation for resilient and profitable enterprises across all sectors. He joined the IFBC to combine his diverse entrepreneurial experience and curiosity-driven advisory approach with a network dedicated to strengthening and advancing Indiana's food businesses.

Mike Fulkerson - Regional Director, Southeast ISBDC

Location - Southeast Indiana (Bartholomew, Clark, Dearborn, Decatur, Floyd, Franklin, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties)

Contact - mfulkerson1@isbdc.org

Bio - Prior to joining the Indiana SBDC, Mike accumulated nearly 20 years of experience in the food and beverage consumer packaged goods (CPG) industry. He has held executive roles in Business Development, Category Management, and Operations at companies ranging from seed-stage startups to century-old brands. He joined IFBC because he loves to help entrepreneurs navigate the complex landscape of going-to-market in the food and beverages industry.

Courtney Chipol - Regional Director, West Central ISBDC

Location - West Central Indiana

Contact - crichey@isbdc.org

Bio - Courtney serves as Regional Director of the Indiana Small Business Development Center's West Central office, where she provides strategic consulting to entrepreneurs and small business owners throughout Indiana. With expertise in business planning, marketing, operations, technology adoption, and growth strategy, she has helped hundreds of businesses launch, scale, and overcome operational challenges. Under her leadership, the West Central office grew to one of Indiana's top-performing SBDC regions. Courtney is passionate about connecting business owners with practical solutions that drive sustainable growth and long-term success. She joined IFBC to better equip food entrepreneurs with the knowledge, resources, and strategies needed to launch and scale successful businesses.

Denise Jamerson - Legacy Taste of the Garden

Location - Statewide

Bio - Denise is a generational farmer in southwest Indiana, a farmer advocate and organizer. Her educational degree is in Business Management. As a member of Legacy Taste of the Garden, Denise helps educate and bring access to programs, agencies and opportunities to farmers across

the state. Denise has a passion for Ag-vocacy. She joined IFBC to be a one-on-one practical resource for farms and farmers.

David Jones - Business Advisor, Southwest ISBDC

Location - Southwest Indiana (Vanderburgh, Warrick, Spencer, Gibson, Posey, Knox, Pike, Perry counties)

Contact - southwest@isbdc.org

Bio - David is a Business Advisor at the Southwest Indiana SBDC, where he helps small business owners and entrepreneurs strengthen their operations, marketing, workflow, and overall business strategy. He brings more than 20 years of experience in operations management, advertising, food service, and small business ownership. David previously owned and operated a restaurant and coffee shop and later served as Operations Manager for an ad agency, leading internal operations and marketing campaigns for B2B and B2C clients. He joined IFBC because he enjoys helping businesses, growers and restaurants and making connections.

Philip Roggow - Business Advisor, Southeast ISBDC

Location - Southeast Indiana (Bartholomew, Jackson, Jennings, Jefferson, and Scott counties)

Contact - proggow@isbdc.org

Bio - Philip has been a business advisor for ISBDC for over three years and prior to that, he owned a coffee business for seven years. In addition, he has many years of managerial experience in the hospitality industry. He joined IFBC to add to my knowledge, tools, resources, and network of likeminded professionals.

Robin Kitowski - Director of Producer Relations and Market Access, FARMWISE Indiana

Location - Statewide

Contact - robink@farmwiseindiana.org

Bio - Robin brings more than 18 years of experience in regenerative agriculture, including 14 years working directly with farmers in Indiana and nationwide. She specializes in building and leading customer-facing teams and developing the operational frameworks, processes, and culture needed to deliver farmer-first, values-aligned support. Her background includes hands-on experience with diversified production, livestock integration, soil health, and both direct-to-consumer and B2B sales. Based in Monroe County, Indiana, Robin combines practical field knowledge with strategic program design to help organizations better serve producers and strengthen resilient food value chains. She joined the IFBC because it aligns with her farm producer-facing role at FARMWISE Indiana.

Karen Petersen - Executive Director, Northeast Indiana Local Food Network

Location – Northeast Indiana (Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells and Whitley counties)

Bio - Karen brings a blend of HR, financial operations, and firsthand agricultural experience to our partner network. As a beginning farmer at Pequash Farms and Executive Director of the Northeast Indiana Local Food Network, she understands what it takes to help local food ventures grow. Her background in community service, including her role as an Allen County Township Trustee, drives her commitment to supporting others. She joined IFBC to better connect northeast Indiana's food and farm businesses with the specialized statewide resources they need to thrive.

Lita Rouser - Business Advisor, Hoosier Heartland Region ISBDC

Location – North central Indiana

Contact - Lrouser@isbdc.org

Bio - Prior to joining ISBDC in 2016, Lita was active in local food initiatives in north central Indiana. She owned Rabble Rousers Farm to Truck, a mobile good business focused on sourcing from within 100 miles of Logansport. Lita loves helping food entrepreneurs start, grow and prosper. She joined IFBC because through collaboration, she can create a thriving food business ecosystem.

Lynne Koepper - Ecosystem Navigator, Northeast Indiana ISBDC

Location - Northeast Indiana

Contact - lkoepper@isbdc.org and/or lynne.koepper@laottobrewing.com

Bio - Lynne is a community-focused individual with a passion for learning and helping others grow and succeed with over a decade of entrepreneurial experience. She has a bachelor's and master's degree in biology, an associate's degree in business administration, and a bachelor's degree in human resources management. Lynne joined IFBC to gain a better understanding of the food industry and to provide more well-rounded services to small businesses in my community.