



Agriculture and Archaeology



Agriculture plays a vital role in Indiana's economy and the lives of many Hoosiers. Farmers are out in the fields for agricultural activities, but many times, in working the earth, they may run across archaeological materials. Many may recognize artifacts such as projectile points (often thought of as arrowheads). The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation (DHPA) is the lead archaeological agency in Indiana. Here is some information regarding archaeology and agriculture you may wish to know:

- During agricultural activities that involve ground disturbance, if you find *human remains*, Indiana Code (IC 14-21-1-27) states that the DNR must be notified within two (2) business days, and the remains must be treated or reburied.
- *Surface collecting* of archaeological artifacts is legal, as long as you have landowner permission to be on the property and to collect the artifacts. Artifacts belong to the landowner.
- You are encouraged to report *archaeological site locations* to the DHPA. Knowing about these archaeological sites is important to all Hoosiers who want to understand and learn more about our past. Agriculture professionals are sometimes in the field more than archaeologists can be! Your information about the past can contribute to the understanding of literally thousands of years of history in our state.
- A person may not disturb the ground within 100 feet of a *burial ground* or *cemetery* for the purpose of erecting, altering, or repairing



any structure without having an approved cemetery development plan from the DNR (Indiana Code 14-21-1-26.5).

- Indiana Code 35-43-1-2.1 does not allow agricultural activities (such as *plowing*) that damage a cemetery.
- Do you have artifacts you would like to know more about? Our archaeologists are happy to assist you with learning more about their age, what they are made of, etc. When our other duties allow, we can assist you with *collection identification*.
- If you witness, or know of, purposeful damage or *looting* of an archaeological site, contact the DHPA at 317/232-1646.
- The DHPA has many archaeological *resources* available if you are interested in learning more. Contact our office, or visit our webpage at www.IN.gov/dnr/historic.



Rural farmsteads and early agricultural landscapes are important in Hoosier archaeology. There is much to be learned about these and other archaeological resources!

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