

STATE OF INDIANA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT INDIANAPOLIS

EXECUTIVE ORDER 25-58

FOR: MAKING INDIANA HEALTHY AGAIN BY INCREASING HOOSIER ACCESS TO LOCAL FOODS

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS.

WHEREAS, Indiana's diverse agricultural landscape spans nearly 14.5 million acres and more than 52,000 farming businesses that make Indiana the 9th largest farming state in the nation;

WHEREAS, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's ("ISDA") Indiana Grown Program has over 1,500 members in 90 counties and creates connections between farmers and consumers by promoting all forms of agriculture grown, raised, processed or packaged within the State of Indiana;

WHEREAS, Indiana's livestock sector is comprised of poultry, cattle, and hogs with immense economic and nutritious value;

WHEREAS, the Indiana Board of Animal Health ("BOAH") maintains 141 state inspected meat and poultry processing facilities ensuring local communities have a safe and reliable food supply;

WHEREAS, total fresh fruits and vegetables in Indiana are worth \$241 million and span nearly 40,000 acres;

WHEREAS, the value of food sold directly to consumers is worth \$45 million from 2,735 Hoosier farms;

WHEREAS, locally grown produce provides consumers with fresh and nutritious options that require shorter transportation and offer a local connection to farmers producing their food;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that direct-to-consumer sales options for local foods create jobs and support local community businesses; and

WHEREAS, increasing awareness, availability and access to Indiana's rich heritage of local fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy not only provides nutritious food sources for Hoosiers but further strengthens Indiana agriculture as the backbone of our State's economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BRAUN, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby order that:

1. The Director of ISDA, in consultation with BOAH, Indiana Economic Development Corporation, and Indiana Department of Health shall conduct a comprehensive study related to Hoosiers' access to local foods and direct-to-consumer food sales from Hoosier farmers. The study shall include an analysis of:
 - a. Existing state programs related to local foods, livestock processing, and direct-to-consumer sales, including each program's total budget, broken out by source;
 - b. Barriers to:
 - i. farm diversification and value-added production;

- ii. direct-to-consumer sales, including regulatory hurdles for small producers and home-based vendors;
 - iii. accessing dependable capital for food and farming operations;
- c. Gaps and opportunities for food processing and co-manufacturing in the State;
 - d. Trends in buying behavior and factors that affect consumer choices;
 - e. Successful efforts by other states or local communities to expand access to local foods; and
 - f. Potential economic impacts to the State of Indiana that may be realized by expanding access to local foods and direct-to-consumer sales.
- 2 The Director of ISDA shall provide a written report to the Governor by July 1, 2026, detailing the study's findings and making recommendations to expand local foods and encourage direct-to-consumer sales in the State of Indiana. In developing this report, the ISDA shall consult with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to strengthen existing partnerships and align state and federal efforts.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Mike Braun, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Indiana on this 15th day of April, 2025.

Mike Braun

Mike Braun
Governor of Indiana

DIEGO MORALES

ATTEST: Diego Morales
Secretary of State