



Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Governor Eric Holcomb
Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Ted A. McKinney, Director

ISDA 2017 Legislative Session Summary

House Enrolled Act 1001 – The Budget

The State Biennial Budget included funding for the Indiana Grown Program under the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). The Indiana Grown program, without its own appropriation until now, has been able to grow to over 750 members, many who have products on shelves in Kroger. This market access and marketing program will now be more empowered to lift up Indiana’s growers, producers, and food-related businesses. This funding will take the program to the Next Level by allowing greater outreach and promotion to consumers as well as provide resources to measure our market successes. Additionally, ISDA will also receive additional funding for the Division of Soil Conservation dedicated to on-the-ground conservation efforts in the Western Lake Erie Basin. These resources will take our Soils Division to the Next Level by encouraging more conservation practices such as no-till and cover crops which reduce runoff into our waterways.

Senate Enrolled Act 515 – Omnibus Tax Bill

The Act clarifies that certain purchasers of agricultural equipment are exempt from paying sales tax. There have been changes and confusion about whether or not agribusiness and farmers must pay sales tax on equipment that is used directly by farmers for agricultural production. This bill clarifies the exemption and includes an additional sales tax exemption for agricultural drainage tile. Many farmers have to purchase this costly tile to properly address drainage issues in their fields and this sales tax exemption will provide them with appropriate relief.

Senate Enrolled Act 90 – Coop Bill

This bill requires that any business entity that registers with the Indiana Secretary of State’s Office as a cooperative is actually structured as such. There have been recent incidents where businesses not structured as a cooperative were using the term creating a risk of consumer confusion and trademark infringement. This bill ensures that our agricultural cooperatives do not have to spend money and time on litigation to protect their name and that consumers are not misled by a misuse of the term.



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House Enrolled Act 1237 – Indiana Grain Buyers Warehouse Licensing Agency Bill

This act requires increased information sharing between the Indiana Grain Buyers Warehouse Licensing Agency and the Indiana Grain Indemnity Corporation board of directors. It also clears up confusion about who is a participant in the indemnity fund by granting automatic reentry to producers who opted out in the 1990s. Finally, it extends the duration of coverage under the fund to 15 months from the current 12 months and requires such language to be in deferred price contracts.

House Enrolled Act 1235 – Office of State Chemist Bill

Industry sought authority for the Office of the Indiana State Chemist to regulate the distribution of manure based fertilizer. This bill both guarantees the quality and value of the manure product being bought and sold and helps producers have increased market access for their manure.

House Enrolled Act 1447 – Agricultural Transportation Bill

This act corrects the definition of ‘overweight divisible loads’ to include bark, logs, sawdust, and wood chips which will allow haulers of these products to haul loads up to 97,000 pounds if hauling from the point of harvest to the point of first destination just as other agricultural commodities are entitled to do.