



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Explore Indiana agriculture this summer

INDIANAPOLIS (June 25, 2018) – School is out, summer is here and Indiana’s summer agritourism [destinations](#) are open for business. Whether it’s visiting a farmers market or u-pick orchard, Indiana has hundreds of locations to choose from—each offering a unique and memorable experience for visitors of all ages.

“With our rich agricultural heritage — culinary and agritourism are at the heart of so many communities in Indiana,” said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “We want to encourage Hoosiers to get outside, explore the beauty of rural Indiana this summer and experience life on the farm.”

During the summer months, visitors can spend the day picking berries or apples on one of Indiana’s 100+ u-pick farms, or stop by a local farmers market for fresh seasonal produce. Kids can get their hands dirty in a garden, observe farm animals up close or even go on a hayride.

While no two destinations are the same, most offer guided tours and the opportunity to see firsthand how food is grown and raised in Indiana.

“Visiting a farm is one of the best ways to learn about where your food comes from,” said Bruce Kettler, Indiana State Department of Agriculture director. “Many of these destinations are family-owned and operated and provide engaging activities for people of all ages.”

Indiana’s agritourism destinations also include a variety of award-winning culinary hot spots, such as wineries, breweries, distilleries and farm-to-fork restaurants. These venues offer local flavors and experiences that can only be found in the Hoosier state.

“Authentic local flavors and working landscape experiences are important to visitors,” said Mark Newman, Indiana Office of Tourism Development Executive Director. “Indiana can deliver both unique farm-based and food-based experiences.”

For an online directory of culinary or agritourism destinations in the state, visit visitindiana.com/agritourism, or click [here](#) to download the Indiana Agritourism Guide or [here](#) for the Indiana Brewery and Winery Guide.

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ABOUT LT. GOV. SUZANNE CROUCH

The lieutenant governor constitutionally serves as the President of the Indiana Senate, serves as the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, chairs the Indiana Counter Terrorism and Security Council and oversees these five state agencies: Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Housing and Community

Development Association, Indiana Office of Defense Development, Indiana Office of Tourism Development and Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

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ABOUT ISDA

The [Indiana State Department of Agriculture \(ISDA\)](#) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. Administratively, ISDA reports to [Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch](#), who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

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ABOUT IOTD:

[Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch](#) oversees the [Indiana Office of Tourism Development \(IOTD\)](#). Mark Newman serves as the agency's executive director. IOTD is dedicated to enhancing the economic vitality of Indiana through leadership and resource support to the Indiana travel industry. The tourism and hospitality industry is directly responsible for 155,200 jobs, generates over \$1.4 billion in tax receipts and contributes \$11.5 billion in revenue to Indiana businesses. For more information: www.VisitIndiana.com.

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