



**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **State's department of agriculture fills out Indiana FFA team**

**INDIANAPOLIS (April 20, 2018)** – Lt. Governor [Suzanne Crouch](#) and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture ([ISDA](#)) announce today the promotion of Robert Hays to director of the [Indiana FFA Association](#) and the hire of Samantha Miller as the association's assistant director.

Hays graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Agricultural Education and has been the association's assistant director since 2015. Prior to joining ISDA, he was the Agriculture Science and Business teacher for Warsaw Community Schools, as well as the FFA advisor for the school's local FFA chapter.

"Rob is a genuine leader and has played a critical role in the direction and growth of FFA these past couple of years," said Bruce Kettler, ISDA Director. "I'm confident he will take Indiana FFA to the next level, and that under his leadership, this student-led organization will continue to thrive."

As director of the association, Hays will oversee programs, collaborate with ISDA staff to progress agricultural education, enhance communications between FFA advisors and members, as well as act as a liaison between Indiana FFA and National FFA. He will also be responsible for continuing the implementation of the association's strategic plan, developed during the 2016-17 school year.

Miller is also a graduate from Purdue University with a degree in Agricultural Education. Prior to joining the department, she was the Agriculture Science and Business teacher for Hamilton Southeastern Schools and served as one of the FFA advisors for the school's local FFA chapter.

"Sam has a passion for agriculture and preparing students for the future," Kettler said. "Her experience in FFA and agricultural education makes her an excellent choice for this position, and we are excited to welcome her to the team."

As the assistant director of the association, Miller will work extensively to enhance the organization's budgets, goals, recruitment strategies and communication between FFA advisors and members.

Visit [www.inffa.org](http://www.inffa.org) to learn more about Indiana FFA.

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*Note to the press: The photos below are the official headshots for Robert Hays and Samantha Miller.*



*Robert Hays, Indiana FFA Association Director*



*Samantha Miller, Indiana FFA Association Assistant Director*

#### **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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