



# 2025 Annual Report

November 2025

**INDIANA**  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

# Table of Contents

**About the Indiana State Department of Agriculture** .....3

**Communications** .....4

**Indiana FFA** .....5

**Policy and Public Affairs** .....6

**Economic Development** .....7

    Indiana Grown .....8

    International Trade and Engagement .....10

    Grant Administration .....12

    Grant Programs .....13

    Market Reporting Program .....14

    Hardwoods .....15

**Indiana Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing Agency** .....16

    Indemnity Fund .....16

**Soil Conservation** .....18

    Grants & Funding .....18

    Agreements & Partnerships .....19



*This Report encompasses ISDA completed or planned projects from October 2024 to October 2025.*



## About ISDA

**Vision:** Indiana agriculture will be a global leader in innovation and commercialization for food, fuel and fiber production.

**Mission:** ISDA will support growth in Indiana agriculture by serving as an advocate at the local, state and federal level; defining and nurturing economic opportunities in the food, fuel and fiber sectors; and enhancing the stewardship of natural resources on agricultural land.

### **Strategies & Initiatives**

**Advocacy:** Serve as an advocate for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level.

**Environmental Stewardship:** Enhance the stewardship of natural resources on agricultural land in a manner that creates value-added opportunity for producers and assists agriculture stakeholders with current and future regulatory challenges.

**Economic Opportunity:** Define and nurture economic opportunity, including technology development, in the food, fuel and fiber sectors.



## Communications

The ISDA Communications team serves as the main point of contact for projects related to public relations, media relations and constituent responses.

This team hosts the following events each year:

- The **Hoosier Homestead** program honors the longevity of Hoosier farms, owned by the same family for over 100 years. The spring Hoosier Homestead Program at the Statehouse had an estimated attendance of 500. The summer Hoosier Homestead Program at the Indiana State Fair had an estimated attendance of 1000.
- **Celebration of Agriculture** at the Indiana State Fair, highlighting the ISDA Photo Contest Winners, the Lt. Governor's AgriVision Award, Purdue Extension Women in Ag Award and the Indiana Landmark's Award for Rural Preservation with an estimated attendance of 200.
- **Governor's Poultry Presentation** in November at the Statehouse with an estimated attendance of 50.

### Press Releases & 2025 Ag Insider Newsletters

For 2025, ISDA sent out 32 press releases averaging around 4 a month. ISDA's monthly external newsletter, which contains over 22,000 constituents, had an open rate around 20%.

### Media & Social Media Campaigns

- Planting Safety, April
  - State partners: ISP, DHS, INDOT
  - YouTube PSA Video
- Stand Up for Grain Safety Week, April
- Harvest Safety, September
  - State partners: ISP, DHS, INDOT
- Growing Indiana Magazine
  - Partnership with Farm Flavor (Journal Communications) where they draft and review stories, print 10,000 magazines for distribution
- External Partners
  - Hoosier Ag Today
  - Keystone Cooperative

# Indiana FFA

During the 2024–25 year, Indiana FFA served 14,123 student members across 231 chapters statewide with one new/reactivated chapter, Greencastle. For more information on our membership please see the below infographic

## Highlights and Engagement Metrics

Over the past year, we observed a notable increase in FFA member engagement across key experiential learning programs. Participation in Career and Leadership Development Events (CDEs and LDEs) rose, reflecting our members' growing commitment to skill-building and leadership excellence. Additionally, involvement in Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) awards, our work-based learning initiative, saw an upward trend, underscoring the value of hands-on agricultural education. These gains demonstrate the continued impact of FFA programs in preparing students for success in both career and community. See image below for more program level specific data.



In addition to increased participation in Career and Leadership Development Events and Supervised Agricultural Experience awards, several key milestones underscored the strength of Indiana FFA programming this year:

### State FFA Convention

Attendance: A total of 2,441 individuals, including members, educators, sponsors, and guests attended the State FFA Convention held at Purdue University.

### Leadership Development:

904 students engaged in leadership training and camp experience. (Note: Some students participated in multiple events and may be counted more than once.)



**Mentorship for Agricultural Educators:** The Mentoring Indiana’s Beginning Agricultural Teachers initiative continues to thrive, with 31 beginning teachers and 31 mentors selected for the 2024–2025 program cycle.

These figures reflect our ongoing commitment to cultivating leadership, professional development, and mentorship across Indiana’s agricultural education community.

## Policy and Public Affairs

ISDA's policy team works with elected officials on the local, state and federal level to benefit all Hoosiers involved in the agriculture industry. The department's function is to advocate, educate and serve those who have the power to improve the direction of the industry in Indiana. The department also works with other state agencies, rural communities, consumers, constituents, producers and agricultural organizations to ensure Indiana has laws and regulations that are based in science and do not impede economic development in agriculture. Below are a few key highlights from the policy team.

### Regulatory Ombudsman

ISDA furthered its efforts in connecting agricultural groups, businesses and individuals with decision makers in state regulatory agencies. ISDA will continue to work and collaborate with counterpart agencies in efforts to adopt regulations and policies that encourage the growth and development of Indiana agriculture.

### Legislative Policy

ISDA supported and monitored several agricultural bills during the 2025 session. A few of those are as follows:

- Senate Enrolled Act 461
  - The bill tightens up the IGBWLA statute by limiting the discretion of the Agency and director. It provides a process for licensees to improve their grain asset ratio before revoking their license and outlines clear expectations to licensees ensure timely submission of financials.
- House Enrolled Act 1149
  - Requires ISDA to create a user-friendly and accessible portal for rural communities, farmers, agribusinesses and any interested party. The bill also directs ISDA to conduct an inventory of lost farmland every five years, starting in 2029.

### Constituent Services

A key feature of the policy team is ensuring that constituent inquiries on policies, regulations, land use or economic development are answered timely and compiled in a way to make them available for future reference. The team has answered dozens of constituent inquiries on many topics, including state health codes, export requirements, transportation regulations, taxation issues and permitting requirements.

### Farm Bill

The Farm Bill is a multiyear federal law that governs an array of agricultural and food programs. Every five years, Congress looks to pass an appropriation to fund the bill. The bill was set to expire on Sept. 30, 2023, but an extension was passed to fund the bill for another. ISDA has been working with NASDA and the state's federal legislators on what Hoosier farmers and businesses need included in a new Farm Bill.

## Economic Development

ISDA's Economic Development Division (EDD) is responsible for implementing programs, services, and initiatives that support Indiana's agricultural economy and on-farm profitability by:

- Supporting farmers and agribusiness along the agriculture value chain;
- Increasing agricultural processing and value-added manufacturing;
- Developing markets and sales channels for agricultural products;
- Improving access to capital and financial assistance; and
- Enabling innovation in ag-tech and new uses for commodities.

EDD is responsible for implementing ISDA's rural and agribusiness attraction, retention, and expansion strategies, in partnership with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, AgriNovus, and local and regional economic development organizations.

**Regionalization** – EDD is investigating approaches to incorporate *agricultural development strategies* into existing economic development practices in the State of Indiana. Incorporating agricultural development as a theme enables rural and agricultural counties to enhance regional economic activity by attracting synergistic businesses across the sector.

**Sector-Specific Strategies** – EDD develops and maintains sector-specific strategies to develop Indiana's competitiveness in key industries.

- [Hardwood Strategy \(2019\)](#)
- [Dairy Strategy 2.0 \(2021\)](#)

### Jobs and Investment

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) is responsible for issuing business tax incentives, corporate tax credits, and economic development programs for companies creating new jobs and investment in Indiana. ISDA adds a layer of support for companies in the agribusiness sector or serving the agricultural industry. The following table is a summary of agribusiness projects that received incentives or credits from IEDC, and the estimated new jobs created, average wage of new jobs, and capital expenditure that the projects plan to invest. Since 2023, agribusiness projects in Indiana planned to create 3,354 new jobs with an average wage of \$28.95, with a total planned investment of \$3,238,206,873.

*Agribusiness Projects receiving IEDC Incentives and/or Credits*

Year	Quarter	Projects	Jobs	Investment	Avg. Wage
2023	1	7	167	\$443,272,758	\$28.31
2023	2	7	378	\$406,902,114	\$27.57
2023	3	6	284	\$311,137,470	\$30.04
2023	4	6	790	\$297,170,682	\$27.89
2024	1	7	419	\$607,798,078	\$26.00
2024	2	8	504	\$298,312,105	\$30.59
<b>2024</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>\$143,533,216</b>	<b>\$31.60</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>\$153,112,815</b>	<b>\$28.78</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>\$53,582,017</b>	<b>\$27.85</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>\$523,385,618</b>	<b>\$36.62</b>
2025	3	0	0	-	-
2025	4	0	0	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>3354</b>	<b>\$3,238,206,873.00</b>	<b>\$28.95</b>

In the current report period, agribusiness projects are expected to create 812 new jobs with an average wage of \$30.87, with a total planned investment of \$873,613,666. The total number of projects, new jobs created, and capital investment have all declined by more than 40% year-over-year, while average wages of new jobs created have climbed modestly, at an increase of 8.4% YoY.

Not all projects which create jobs or result in capital expenditure qualify for or receive IEDC incentives and/or credits, meaning that the tables above do not reflect the full universe of agribusiness investment in the State.

*Comparisons in IEDC Incentives from FY23-24 and FY24-25*

Performance Metric	2023-2024	2024-2025	Trend
Projects	27	14	-48.1%
Jobs	1997	812	-59.3%
Investment	\$1,514,418,335	\$873,613,666	-42.3%
Avg. Wage	\$28.48	\$30.87	8.4%

## Indiana Grown

The Indiana Grown initiative was created to promote products that are grown or made by Hoosiers, for Hoosiers. The initiative brings substantial value to Indiana's agriculture and local food system by boosting consumer awareness and connection to local producers, facilitating direct-to-consumer market growth, and creating or enhancing business-to-business sales channels for its members. In 2025, Indiana Grown represented all 92 counties with its 1700 members. The following table is a brief summary of Indiana Grown's core activities.

*High-Level Summary of Indiana Grown Events and Activities*

<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Indiana Grown Symposium</b>	Third annual membership conference brought together 282 members to network, learn and engage in content centered around Indiana Agritourism
<b>Indiana Grown Marketplace</b>	Our yearly marketplace is located at the Indiana State Fair. Over 100 members participated with more than 500 unique products, and sales exceeded \$100,000.
<b>Indiana Grown Showcase</b>	Second annual showcase connecting members with wholesale buyers, retailers, distributors, restaurants and chefs. 75 Indiana Grown members exhibited and 400 buyers/distributors/retailers/chefs attended.
<b>Ultimate Farmers Market Challenge</b>	An awareness campaign to highlight direct-to-consumer events. The Franklin Farmers Market in Franklin, IN was the winner!
<b>Holiday Gift Box</b>	Curated 2 <sup>nd</sup> annual Holiday Gift Box highlighting Indiana Grown products that are packaged and shipped directly to consumers during the holiday season. Gift boxes were shipped to 35 states in 2024.
<b>Indiana Grown Awareness Campaign</b>	Indiana Grown showcased members across the state with over two million impressions combined from social highlights and media opportunities. In addition to the campaign, Indiana Grown hosted two photo contests to promote and showcase Indiana agriculture
<b>Farm to Table Dinner</b>	Using a curated menu of products to connect Indiana Grown Members to chefs, restauranteurs and retailers, highlighting the local food ecosystem in NW Indiana.
<b>Legislative Tours</b>	Coordinated tours with State legislators and the Indiana 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lady, Mrs. Susan Beckwith, to highlight members and local agriculture in specific districts.
<b>Networking Events</b>	Indiana Grown staff participated in 38 tradeshow, networking and promotional events across Indiana.

In addition to the events and activities that Indiana Grown coordinates, its staff provide no cost advising and support. Staff can assist members and help them navigate the many state resources or regulatory functions that impact their business.

## International Trade and Engagement

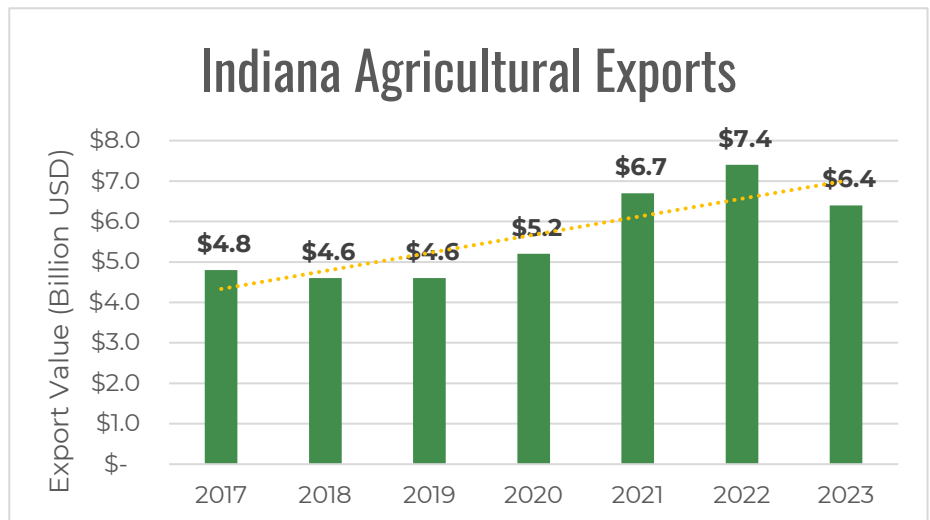
ISDA is the leading state agency which advocates for Indiana agriculture in international market, and the EDD team supports agricultural exports by:

- Providing education, training and capacity building for ag exporters
- Assisting with business-to-business matchmaking between Indiana suppliers and international buyers
- Increasing participation in international marketing activities, such as trade missions and tradeshow
- Connecting Indiana companies with financial assistance and resources
- Representing Indiana agriculture to foreign governments and industry

Indiana is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest agricultural exporting state in the U.S., with nearly \$6.4B in agricultural exports in 2023, the most recent year for which [USDA ERS](#) publishes complete data. Agricultural exports support more than 45,000 jobs in Indiana across the value-chain.

*Indiana Agricultural Exports by Year*

2023 agricultural exports decreased from a record high of \$7.4B in 2022, mostly due to easing of inflationary pressures on the international supply chain and normalizing transportation freight rates. 2024 and 2025 are expected to see depressed total export values due to continued low market prices for important commodities like corn and soybeans. The following table represents Indiana’s top agricultural exports by commodity.



*Indiana Agricultural Exports (2023)*

Rank	Commodity	Export Value (USD)
1	Soybeans	\$2.2 Billion
2	Corn	\$946 Million
3	Feeds and Other Feed Grains	\$713 Million
4	Soybean Meal	\$579 Million
5	Pork	\$446 Million
6	Grain Products	\$266 Million
7	Other Poultry Products	\$236 Million
8	Other Plant Products	\$225 Million
9	Vegetable Oils	\$211 Million
10	Dairy Products	\$166 Million
Other	All other Products	\$370 Million
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total Indiana Ag Exports</b>	<b>\$6.4 Billion</b>

## International Engagement

EDD leads ISDA's international engagement through both outbound and inbound trade missions, engaging with foreign governments, industry associations, and importers, distributors, and manufacturers. The following is a summary of international engagement activities during the report period:

### Outbound Activities

#### Oct. 18-23, 2024 | SIAL Paris

ISDA participated in SIAL Paris 2024, one of the largest food and beverage tradeshows in the world, to support the four Indiana companies exhibiting gather sales leads, and research models for state involvement in international trade shows.

#### Dec. 1 – 6, 2024 | USDA FAS Agribusiness Trade Mission to Morocco

ISDA representatives met with agricultural leaders and industry in Casablanca, Tanger, and the Tanger-Med Port II to identify and advance opportunities to export Indiana agricultural products across several categories, including animal genetics, animal feed and nutrition, animal health, poultry, hardwoods, and consumer-oriented food and beverage products.

#### May 20-23, 2025 | Interzum, Hardwood industry tradeshow | Cologne, Germany

ISDA exhibited at Interzum Cologne on behalf of the Hardwood States Export Group and in coordination with the American Hardwood Export Council to promote the U.S. hardwood industry and collect trade leads from foreign importers in Europe looking to source U.S. logs, lumber, and veneer products from U.S. sawmills and exporters. ISDA collected and distributed 74 trade leads to Indiana suppliers from the 4-day event.

#### Jan. 16 – 23, 2025 | Ag and Rural Development Mission to Germany

ISDA participated in a goodwill trade mission organized by the German Federal Foreign Ministry, which engaged leaders from Indiana, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri to share information on how U.S. states and German states engage in and promote rural and agricultural development.

#### June 2 – 6, 2025 | USDA FAS Agribusiness Trade Mission to Peru

ISDA representatives met with agriculture industry and importers in Lima to promote Indiana agricultural exports across several categories, including high-oleic soybean oil, food-grade soybeans, animal feed and nutrition, and consumer-oriented food and beverage products.

### Inbound Activities

Tradeshows are an important platform for companies to generate both domestic and international sales leads. ISDA supports businesses by offering technical assistance and resources to exhibitors at international tradeshows, as well at U.S. tradeshows with international attendees.

## Indiana Pavilions



### Sweets and Snacks Expo

ISDA hosted a pavilion of Indiana companies for the second time in 2025, increasing the pavilion size from 700 sqf to 2,400 sqf. 20 Indiana companies exhibited in the pavilion. All participating companies benefitted from discounted booth rental, enhanced amenities, and B2B matchmaking services. Total benefits and in-kind support provided by ISDA, Indiana Grown, and IEDC is valued at approximately \$5,490 per company.



### National Restaurant Association Show

ISDA hosted its first pavilion at the NRA Show in 2025, providing 600 sqf of space for six Indiana companies. All participating companies benefitted from discounted booth rental, enhanced amenities and on-site staff support. Total benefits and in-kind support provided by ISDA is valued at approximately \$2,417 per company.

### ISDA Support at Tradeshows

In addition to Indiana Pavilions, ISDA provided on-site support at two key tradeshows: SIAL Paris in Paris, France in October 2024, and Natural Products Expo West in Anaheim, California in March 2025. ISDA helped manage booths during company meetings, generated sales leads for Indiana companies, and built connections with international contacts to strengthen Indiana's global relationships.

## Grant Administration

### Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) enhances the competitiveness of specialty crops in the state of Indiana. In 2025, \$1,865,297 in SCBG funds support thirteen (13) SCBG projects. The continued support of producers of specialty crops and those who study agriculture innovations are a part of ISDA's mission and this ongoing support and collaboration is essential to Indiana's agriculture industry.

### Food Banks Distributions

House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1001, lists a \$2 million allocation for fiscal years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Allocation of this funding is based on a Department of Health, The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) calculation. Funding is distributed to eleven (11) foodbanks that provide food and resources to Hoosiers in need.

*FY2024-2025 Food Bank Distribution*

<b>Food Bank Recipient - FY2024-2025</b>	<b>Market</b>	<b>Allocation - %</b>	<b>Allocation - \$</b>
Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana	Indianapolis	31.96%	\$ 639,200.00
Food Bank of Northern Indiana	South Bend	11.68%	\$ 233,600.00
Food Bank of Northwest Indiana	Merrillville	9.94%	\$ 198,800.00
Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana	Fort Wayne	9.89%	\$ 197,800.00
Food Finders Food Bank	Lafayette	9.79%	\$ 195,800.00
Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana	Muncie	7.76%	\$ 155,200.00
Tri-State Food Bank	Evansville	5.96%	\$ 119,200.00
Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank	Terre Haute	4.46%	\$ 89,200.00
Hoosier Hills Food Bank	Bloomington	4.00%	\$ 80,000.00
Dare to Care Food Bank	Louisville, KY	3.76%	\$ 75,200.00
Freestore Foodbank	Cincinnati, OH	0.80%	\$ 16,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,000.00</b>

\* Two food banks are located out-of-state, but their service regions cross state lines to include portions of Indiana.

*FY2025-2026 Food Bank Distribution*

<b>Food Bank Recipient - FY2025-2026</b>	<b>Market</b>	<b>Allocation - %</b>	<b>Allocation - \$</b>
Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana	Indianapolis	31.75%	\$ 635,000.00
Food Bank of Northern Indiana	South Bend	11.61%	\$ 232,200.00
Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana	Fort Wayne	10.12%	\$ 202,400.00
Food Bank of Northwest Indiana	Merrillville	9.97%	\$ 199,400.00
Food Finders Food Bank	Lafayette	9.76%	\$ 195,200.00
Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana	Muncie	7.68%	\$ 153,600.00
Tri-State Food Bank	Evansville	5.92%	\$ 118,400.00
Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank	Terre Haute	4.46%	\$ 89,200.00
Hoosier Hills Food Bank	Bloomington	4.00%	\$ 80,000.00
Dare to Care Food Bank	Louisville, KY	3.84%	\$ 76,800.00
Freestore Foodbank	Cincinnati, OH	0.89%	\$ 17,800.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,000.00</b>

## Resilient Food System Infrastructure (RFSI)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) allocated \$8,082,536 to Indiana through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) grant program, a three-year grant program supporting efforts to address critical needs for middle of the food supply chain through increasing distribution, aggregation, storage capacity, market expansion and facility updates/expansions. Fifteen projects were selected for funding, five being infrastructure projects and ten are special equipment projects.

## Grant Programs

In addition to the equipment-only and infrastructure grants awarded by ISDA, RFSI grant dollars support a federally funded Food Distribution Manager position within ISDA whose primary role is to support and enhance the middle of the food chain infrastructure to support Indiana's local food system.

The Food Distribution Manager has made these accomplishments:

- Established relationship with over 140 contacts in various roles within the Indiana food system.
- Made 17 new successful connections between an Indiana farm or food business to an Indiana food buyer resulting in the buyer purchasing food from a new Indiana farmer or food business.

- An example of this is Family Farm Fresh, a cooperative of produce farmers, now selling appx \$1,000/week to the Common Market, a distributor who sells to several Indiana universities including Butler University and Wabash College.
- Initiated and facilitated a new technical assistance network called the [Indiana Food Business Consultants](#), established under the Food Business Consultants curriculum from the Food Finance Institute. This cohort of 25 Indiana professionals provides individualized consultation to enhance and grow food and farming businesses in Indiana.

## Market Reporting Program

In cooperation with USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, ISDA launched Indiana's [Market Reporting Program](#) in 2016. The program records weekly market prices of dairy, beef cattle, hay, and other species sold at various markets across the state. The information is compiled and published digitally on the [USDA Market News](#) website.

The following tables are summaries of the number and value of livestock that ISDA has reported to USDA during this report period. ISDA reported the sale and purchase for 73,556 head of livestock valued at \$107,117,675.79, as well as 7,132 tons of hay and straw.

<b>Cattle</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>YoY Trend</b>
<b>Per Cwt</b>	Head	24,648	20,486	-16.89%
	Wtd Avg Wt	1,228	1,198	-2.44%
	Wtd Avg Price	167.26	188.15	+12.49%
	Total Price	\$50,625,828.61	\$46,176,201.98	-8.79%
<b>Cattle</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>YoY Trend</b>
<b>Per Unit</b>	Head	1,585	2,058	+29.84%
	Wtd Avg Wt	425	406	-4.47%
	Wtd Avg Price	1350.63	1766.7	+30.81%
	Total Price	\$2,140,748.55	\$3,635,868.60	+69.84%
<b>Goats</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>YoY Trend</b>
<b>Per Unit</b>	Head	2,815	2,104	-25.26%
	Wtd Avg Wt	80	79	-1.25%
	Wtd Avg Price	185.42	234.36	+26.39%
	Total Price	\$521,957.30	\$493,093.44	-5.53%
<b>Sheep</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>YoY Trend</b>
<b>Per Cwt</b>	Head	10,257	9,603	-6.38%
	Wtd Avg Wt	91	80	-12.09%
	Wtd Avg Price	185.32	233.55	+26.03%
	Total Price	\$1,729,752.79	\$1,794,224.52	+3.73%
<b>Total Livestock</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>YoY Trend</b>
<b>Cattle, Goats, &amp; Sheep</b>	Head	39,305	34,251	-12.86%
	Total Price	\$55,018,287.25	\$52,099,388.54	-5.31%

Note: All values are calculated according to the Federal fiscal year (Oct. 1 to Sep. 30).

---

## Hardwoods

The Indiana hardwood industry contributes more than \$10.5B to the Indiana economy annually in primary and secondary hardwood markets, making it Indiana's most valuable agricultural commodity. The industry supports over 70,000 jobs – 44,000 in primary and secondary manufacturing and 26,000 in ancillary sectors. 4.1 of Indiana's 4.9 million forest acres are privately owned and statewide timber growth exceeds removals for harvest and natural tree mortality by 2.3 times.

ISDA released its [Hardwood Strategy](#) in 2019, establishing a new economic development strategy to grow the state's hardwoods industry.

# Indiana Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing Agency

Created by the Indiana General Assembly in 1975, the Indiana Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing Agency administers the Indiana Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing and Bonding Law (Ind. Code § 26-3-7). The agency’s responsibilities include the licensing and compliance of commercial operations that purchase grain from producers in Indiana. Today, the agency operates as a regulatory division within ISDA with approximately 200 licensees issued to grain elevators, warehouses, feed mills, ethanol plants, soybean processors, and food grade facilities. Collectively, these licensees operate 336 grain facilities across Indiana and can store more than 614 million bushels of grain.

## Mission

To ensure the financial integrity of Indiana’s grain marketing infrastructure, while allowing the industry to be competitive, innovative, and efficient.

## Revenue

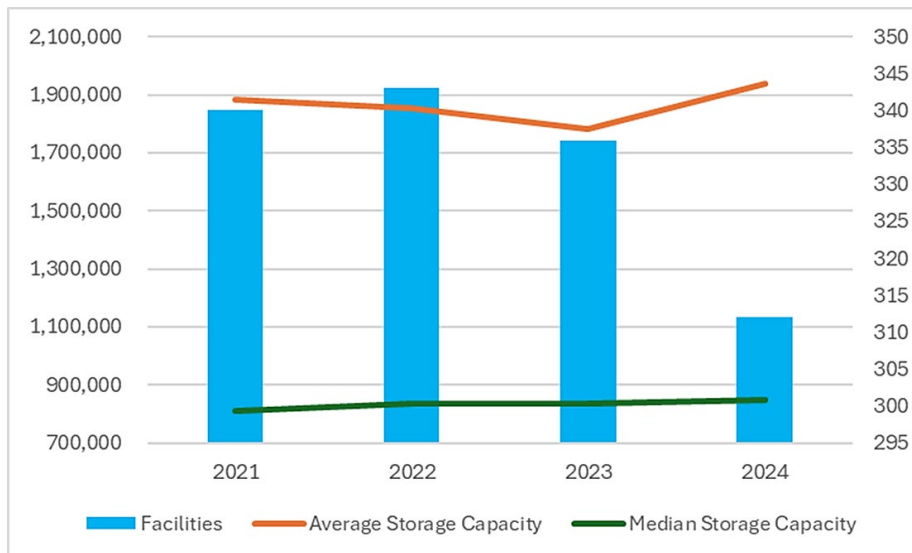
The agency received the following revenue through daily operations during the 2024/25 fiscal year:

Licensing Fees.....	\$348,250
Moisture Meter Inspection Fees.....	\$118,200
Contracted Services.....	\$44,305
Fines & Sanctions .....	\$23,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$533,754</b>

## Licensee Data

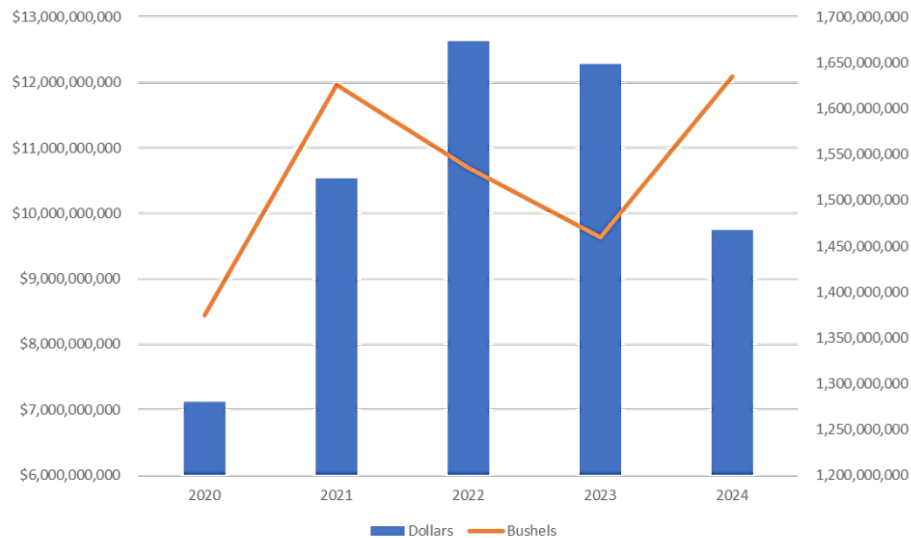
As of December 31, 2024, the Agency had 197 active licenses issued to approximately 185 different entities. Licensees reflect the vast diversity of Indiana agriculture and include grain elevators, soy processors, poultry, starch, popcorn, swine, ethanol, wheat milling, and non-GMO and organic grain. The table on the right shows the breakdown of licensees by statutory type.

Type of License	Total Licensees
Grain Bank	4
Warehouse	4
Grain Buyer	74
Buyer-Warehouse	115
<b>Total</b>	<b>197</b>



The number of licensed facilities and the total and median storage capacities of those facilities in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

In 2024, licensees reported that they purchased 1.635 billion bushels of grain from producers and paid producers approximately \$9.7 billion for those bushels. Additionally, the total amounts of bushels purchased from producers by licensed facilities and the total amounts paid to producers for those bushels in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 are depicted in the graph below:



## Indiana Grain Indemnity Program

Created by the Indiana General Assembly in 1995, the Indiana Grain Indemnity Program is established under Ind. Code § 26-4 as a separate entity from the agency to provide certain coverage to grain producers for losses incurred due to the failure of a grain buyer or warehouse operator licensed under the Indiana Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing and Bonding Law (Ind. Code § 26-3-7).

The program is managed by a thirteen-member board of directors consisting of ten voting members – made up of five grain producers, three grain merchandisers, and two agriculture lenders – and three non-voting members: the attorney general, the treasurer of state, and the director of the agency. Pursuant to Ind. Code § 26-4-3-5, the board of directors met three times this year – first on March 27, second on July 18 and again on August 29.

Since its inception in 1995, the program has compensated over 590 grain producers more than \$20 million for losses incurred due to failures covered by the program. The fund balance for the program was approximately \$32.1 million at the close of the 2024/25 fiscal year.

The Indiana Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing Agency and the Indiana Grain Indemnity Program work closely together but are independent entities under Indiana law.

## Soil Conservation

**Mission:** Increase agricultural economic benefits by assisting Indiana’s farmers in the application of advanced agronomic technologies while improving upon Indiana’s soil health and water quality.

**Reporting:** January 1, 2025, to October 2025.

*Note: Much of the practice reporting comes in at the end of the calendar year.*

---

Sediment prevented from entering waters of Indiana (lbs./yr)	<b>17,749,322 lbs.</b>
Phosphorus reduced from entering state waters (lbs./yr)	<b>8,874 lbs.</b>
Nitrogen reduced from entering state waters (lbs./yr)	<b>15,462 lbs.</b>
Best Management Practices Installed	<b>288</b>
Acres enrolled in CREP	<b>1,856.45</b>
Trees planted in floodplains through CREP Bottomland Timber Establishment	<b>5,082</b>
Trainings focused on SWCD supervisors & staff	<b>17</b>
Clean Water Indiana Grant Applications	<b>33</b>

## Grants & Programs

### Clean Water Indiana (CWI)

In 2025, Clean Water Indiana benefited from a continues appropriation in the state budget, which increased funding available by \$5,000,000 per fiscal year. In June 2025, the State Soil Conservation Board allocated over \$1.8 million to matching funds for local conservation efforts through Indiana’s 92 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This was a direct result of the state budget’s increase in funding.

During the June 2025 meeting, the State Soil Conservation Board voted to allocate over \$2,000,000 to the Clean Water Indiana competitive grant program.

- There were 33 CWI competitive grant applications requesting over \$3,600,000.
- CWI grants will be awarded in October 2025.

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

The State Soil Conservation Board voted in June 2025 to allocate over \$1,900,000 to CREP. This program provides financial incentives to private land users for water quality and wildlife practices across Indiana. Typically, every state dollar is matched 1:7 bringing a substantial federal investment to Indiana.

### EPA Gulf Hypoxia Program

Since program launch, Indiana’s Mississippi River Basin Soil Sampling Program has enrolled approximately 780 landowners impacting 52,700 acres. This program aims to connect land users who do not regularly soil sample with resources to obtain soil fertility information and nutrient recommendations consistent with Tri-State Fertility Recommendations. This program also provides an avenue for small farms; pasture and feed growers; and specialty crop growers to make informed nutrient decisions for their operations. This program is funded through EPA’s Gulf Hypoxia Program.

---

## Agreements & Partnerships

### Kankakee River

ISDA is the lead partner on large Regional Conservation Partnership focused on water quality and water quantity in the Kankakee River. This project brings together 43 partners including the Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission:

- Goals: 3,000 acres of conservation cover, 400 acres of wetlands developed, 2 miles of 2-stage ditch developed
- Total Request from USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service: \$7,954,545
- Total Partner Support: \$7,954,777.64
- Total Project Cost: \$15,909,322.65

### Western Lake Erie Basin

ISDA is the lead partner of an on-going multi-state effort to protect the Western Basin of Lake Erie from harmful algal blooms by reducing phosphorus and sediment loading. This project brings 37 partners to the table and focuses on 18 counties in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan:

- Goals:
  - Utilize each state's nutrient reduction and state Domestic Action Plan (DAP) to promote conservation practices that will help reach a 40% reduction in dissolved phosphorus.
  - Enroll 220,000 acres into USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).
- Total Request from USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service: \$7,780,779
- Total Partners Support: \$9,370,405
- Total Project Cost: \$17,151,184