# NATIONAL AGRICULTUREWEEK

### **Celebrating National Agriculture Week**

National Agriculture Week recognizes the farmers and ranchers who produce the food, which Americans find in their grocery store aisles. This is a weeklong celebration that is seen in classrooms and communities across the country. This year marks the 46th anniversary of National Ag Day. The theme chosen for this year's commemoration is "Agriculture: Food for Life".

National Ag Day is organized by the Agriculture Council of America. The ACA is a nonprofit organization composed of leaders in the agricultural, food and fiber community, dedicating its effort to increasing the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society.

Americans are encouraged to understand how food and fiber products are produced. Events are also held to help people appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products and value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy. There are many types of careers in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.

National Farmer's Day is celebrated in October. But, National Agriculture Week also celebrates the farmer. Farmers and ranchers are the ultimate underappreciated heroes. While they go about their business behind the wheels of tractors or crunching the market numbers in their offices, the rest of the world rarely gives a second thought to how grocery stores are stocked or clothes are made.

We also should be thinking about how the world around us is tied to the agricultural industry. Agriculture is a diverse and all-encompassing industry.

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- Thomas Jefferson

We want to recognize and thank all Ripley County farmers and growers for their contributions to the growth and development of this county. We truly understand, through the grace of God, who feeds us all!



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Osgood Journal

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

### Agriculture and the economy

Though it's easy to look at the tech industry and think this increasingly influential sector is what makes the world go round, something closer to the very core of the Earth may be what's driving your economy.

The agricultural sector plays a strategic role in a nation's economic development and prosperity. From the earliest days, agriculture has been heralded as playing a crucial role in North American culture. Farmers who grow produce and raise livestock for meats and other products have long exemplified what it means to work hard and take initiatives to be self-sufficient.

The symbiotic nature of agriculture and the economy is noticeable when examining the ups and downs of each. This is because food production and the potential of agriculture extends beyond the fields and local food stands. These resources impact supply chains and other markets. A strong agriculture base influences other employment sectors like food manufacturing, biotechnology, hospitality, machinery building, and much more, while a weak agriculture can adversely affect those sectors.

While it can be difficult for residents of developed nations to visualize agriculture's effect, one only needs to turn to impoverished and developing nations to see just how big an impact agriculture can have on an economy. Agriculture provides

food and raw materials, eventually creating demand for goods produced in nonagricultural sectors. Also, food provides nutrition that can serve as the foundation of a healthy nation. Earning a living in agriculture strengthens purchasing power, which fuels other markets. Eventually, farming can pave the way for development, including roads, markets, shipping services, exporting, and many other sectors.

Agriculture is an important economic building block. An especially important sector, the agricultural industry, when supported, can contribute greatly to sustained economic growth.



People who live in cities, exurbs or suburbs may not come across farms very frequently. But millions of people, including children, still live on farms. In fact, in 2009 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted that more than one million children under the age of 20 lived, worked or had a regular presence on farms in the United States.

Protecting children from injury on farms, especially those who perform work on farms, is of paramount importance. The American Society of Safety Engineers offers the following safety tips to parents of children who will be spending time on farms.

• Know and obey the laws. Various state and federal laws are in place to protect young children from farm-related accidents and injuries. Age requirements dictate which jobs children can perform on a farm, and parents should adhere to those requirements. Asking children to do more than they're physically capable of can lead to accident, inequipment they may not have used in awhile, and that can make it easier for them to teach kids how to use such equipment. In addition, reviewing equipment instructions may provide insight to parents unsure if their children are old enough to use certain tools.

• Inspect equipment. Before children perform any tasks on the farm, parents should inspect the equipment their children are likely to use to make sure each tool is safe. Make sure tools are in proper working order, as broken or poorly working equipment increases the risk of accident or injury.

• Enroll children in farm safety camps. The ASSE recommends that parents contact their local Cooperative Extension and Farm Bureau offices to enroll children in farm safety camps. Such camps can teach kids safe farming techniques and the proper ways to use ageappropriate tools.

• Set a positive example. Another way for parents to protect their children on the farm is to set a positive example. Parents can do so in various ways. Using equipment properly, removing tractor keys from ignitions when tractors are not in use and exercising caution when using hazardous materials shows kids the importance of caution when working on farms.

Hundreds of thousands of children perform jobs on farms across the country. Parents who want to teach their kids to farm should always do so with safety in mind.





jury or even death.

• Review equipment operation instructions. Before assigning children a task on the farm, parents should review the equipment operation instructions. Doing so can help parents reacquaint themselves with tools and

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Osgood Journal

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### **Indiana Farm Bureau** celebrates 100 years of advocating for agriculture

This year, Indiana Farm Bureau is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Since its founding in 1919, INFB has remained focused on the same mission - to promote agriculture through public education, member engagement, and by advocating for agricultural and rural needs.

Indiana Farm Bureau was founded on March 25, 1919, under the name Indiana Federation of Farmers' Associations. Its creation was one of the first Farm Bureaus in the nation. At its first meeting at the Claypool Hotel in downtown Indianapolis, the organization was formed to protect the interests of farmers by education, legislation and other honorable means to promote the largest good for all people. While primarily an advocacy organization, INFB also served as a social network for Indiana's rural farmers, especially in its earlier years.

Started by just a few farmers, INFB rapidly grew and reached several membership milestones. INFB reached 100,000 members in 1952 and was the first state Farm Bureau to reach 250,000 members, which it did in 1977. Since its founding, INFB has continued to grow with the help of county Farm Bureaus across the state.

"Farm Bureau has a presence in all 92 counties in Indiana and many county Farm Bureaus have been around almost as long as our state organization," said Randy Kron, INFB president. "One of the reasons INFB has been able to have such a big impact on Indiana over the last 100 years is because we are a widereaching, member-driven organization with dedicated volunteers in every county in the state."

In 1922, just two years after women earned the right to vote in the United States, INFB outlined a protheir needs locally and at the state and national levels. For example, in 1939, 15,000 INFB members marched to the Statehouse to successfully save Gross Income Tax repeal. And in 2016, INFB helped reduce farmland property taxes by approximately \$500 million.

As the organization grew, it continued to build a variety of programs. In 1982, INFB formed Farming the Classroom, now called Agriculture in the Classroom, which is a volunteer-led program that teaches children across the state about farming and where their food comes from. In 1938, INFB formed Indiana Rural Youth, a networking and education program for young adults in farming. Today, INFB runs a Young Farmers program, which provides education, leadership and networking opportunities for young adults in agriculture.

"Indiana Farm Bureau has always realized the importance of youth and youth development," explained Kron. "As the future of Indiana Farm Bureau, we look forward to seeing how they shape this organization and how they influence agriculture in Indiana for many years.

Over the past 100 years, INFB has evolved to meet the needs of Indiana's farmers and agribusiness professionals while remaining a grassroots, member-driven organization.

"As INFB members, we're so proud of the legacy of this organization and we look forward to doing our part to carry that legacy into the next century," said Kron. "I'm confident that we will remain true to the founding purpose of this organization - to be the voice of Indiana's agricultural community – and continue to be a vital part of one of Indiana's largest industries."

To learn more about INFB's rich history, visit www.infarmbureau.org/ about/history/INFB100.

#### About Indiana **Farm Bureau:**

2019 marks the 100th anniversary of Indiana Farm Bureau (INFB). Since 1919, it has protected the livelihood, land, equipment, animals and crops of Hoosier farmers and is the state's largest general organization. farm As a farmer's strongest advocate, INFB works diligently to ensure a farmer's right to farm, because agriculture is so vital to Indiana's economy. Learn more at **INFB.org** 



### Specialty crop grants available

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture is now accepting grant applications to grow the state's specialty crop sector. These crops include fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, horticulture and nursery crops.

"I encourage groups interested in enhancing specialty crop production in Indiana to take full advantage of this opportunity," said Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Whether it's applying individually or as part of a collaborative effort, these grants have the potential to create long-term, innovative solutions to some of the challenges facing producers today."

The federally funded Specialty Crop Block Grant program works to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in the marketplace.

Applications are open to academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, producer associations, community-based organizations and other specialty crop stakeholders.

According to the department, priority will be given to projects that address issues affecting the specialty crop sector, such as enhancing food safety, improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems, and developing new and improved seed varieties.

Grants will not be awarded to projects that benefit a particular commercial product, or provide a profit to a single organization, institution or individual.

Crews

Available

"There are research gaps and obstacles facing every agricultural sector, including specialty crops," said Bruce Kettler, ISDA director. "This funding provides the opportunity to address some of those key issues, pursue more efficient production methods and increase consumption of our agricultural products."

Indiana has not yet received the total allocation amount from the USDA, but that information is expected to be announced in the coming months.

For more information visit www.isda.in.gov. Applications are due by March 22. A full list of specialty crops is available on USDA's website.



gram to incorporate women into the organization, which still exists today as INFB's Women's Leadership Committee. In 1923, Edna Sewell was the first woman to be elected to the INFB board of directors.

In order to help Indiana's farmers with their unique insurance needs, INFB founded Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance in 1934. Its first insurance policy was sold in February of 1935.

Throughout the years, INFB has been instrumental in educating Hoosiers about the issues and concerns of Indiana's farming community and has encouraged its members to advocate for

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### The various benefits of farm-to-table

Few things are more satisfying than biting into a fresh tomato right from the garden or seasoning a meal with herbs picked from a windowsill greenhouse. Restaurants recognize the value of such experiences, and more and more are relying on locally sourced products in their kitch-

The farm-to-table movement is not new, but it has gained momentum as consumers become increasingly enamored with the flavor and environmental impact of locally sourced foods. The National Restaurant Association found that farm-to-table food was one of its top 10 trends for 2015. Furthermore, the group says that one in five consumers are willing to pay more for local food, and 41 percent admit that locally sourced ingredients influence their decisions when choosing where to dine.

Newcomers to the farm-to-table dining experience may not understand all the fuss surrounding this popular trend. The following are some of the key benefits of farm-to-table

 Peak freshness and ripeness: Local produce ripens on the plant and can be harvested at the last possible minute before it turns up on a plate. This helps ensure that it contains the highest amount of nutrients and flavor, according

to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Food that has to travel further is often picked well before it is ready, ripening on the way to stores or other vendors.

• Better for the environment: Food that needn't travel far before reaching diners' plates saves roughly 500 gallons of diesel fuel to haul produce a distance of 1,500 miles. This conserves fossil fuels and prevents harmful emissions from entering the atmosphere.

• Supports neighboring farms: Supporting farm-to-table restaurants and other eateries keeps business local in two



different ways. It not only benefits local restaurants, but it also directly supports neighboring farms, fisheries and other suppliers.

• Accessibility to seasonal choices: Farm-to-table eating provides a wide variety of in-season foods. This can translate into tastier foods because they are grown and harvested during their optimal growing season.

• Reduces factory farming: According to O.info, the informational resource powered by Overstock.com, farmto-table and local farming can reduce reliance on large, profit-driven corporations that may focus on maximum production over animal health and welfare. Local farms may be more inclined to treat their animals well and institute sustainable practices.

• Learn about the community: A person might live in an area and never know that a local vineyard is in the vicinity or that a producer of straight-from-the-hive honey is nearby. Exploring farm-to-table resources can open people's eyes to local businesses doing great work in and around their communities.

Farm-to-table is a popular movement that people are embracing for various reasons.





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### The basics of raising pigs

Many people subscribe to the notion that "everything is better with bacon." Imagine being able to control the quality and flavor of pork products, and knowing just what went into producing delicious bacon?

In an era of growing uncertainty about commercially produced food, many agriculturally inclined people are raising livestock right on their properties, and small-scale pig farms can be a successful venture.

Despite pigs' reputation as dirty animals, the animal resource PetHelpful indicates they are actually one of the cleanest farm animals. Pigs tend to wallow in mud only if they do not have proper shade and a clean, steady water supply to regulate their body temperature. Furthermore, giving pigs plenty of space to roam will enable them to keep dry, clean and cool.

Pens should be large enough so pigs can sleep and eat on one end and use the other end for soiling.

Pigs also are intelligent animals that will adapt to routine. This means it may be easier to care for pigs than some other farm animals.

Even though pigs can grow to be quite large, they do not need to live on an expansive farm. Many pigs can live quite well on an acre if their pen and foraging areas are rotated periodically. Data from the past 50 years shows that today's pig farms use less land and other resources to produce one pound of pork, according to the National Pork Board. Therefore, raising pigs can be a sustainable undertaking.

According to Mother Earth News, when selecting pig breeds for a pig farm startup, these are popular as lean-meat producers and shouldn't be hard to find: Yorkshire, Duroc-Jersey, Berkshire, Hampshire, Poland-China, Chester White and Tamworth. Choose sows (females) or barrows (castrated males) for the best-tasting meat. Also,

keep in mind that pigs are social animals, and even though the average family will do just fine with one pig's worth of meat, pigs do better if raised in pairs or more.

Pigs need a varied diet to thrive. Diets should include grain, milk, fruits, vegetables, and greens from pasture. Experts suggest novices ask a veterinarian or another pig farmer about feeding. A family garden or bartering with other families nearby for food materials can keep feeding costs minimal.

Many pigs can be butchered by the age of six or seven months. After pigs reach that age, they begin to grow quite large and become a much larger investment of time and money.

Pig farming can be a worthwhile venture. More in-depth information on raising pigs is available at http://porkgateway.org/resource/introduction-to-raising-pigs/.



Country

### **USDA announces January** income over feed cost margin triggers

### First 2019 dairy safety net payment

The U.S. Department of Sample calculation: Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced this week that the January 2019 income over feed cost margin was \$7.99 per hundredweight, triggering the first payment for eligible dairy producers who purchase the appropriate level of coverage under the new but yet-to-be established Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program.

DMC, which replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy, is a voluntary risk management program for dairy producers that was authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill. DMC offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced last week that sign up for DMC will open by mid-June of this year. At the time of sign up, producers who elect a DMC coverage level between \$8.00 and \$9.50 would be eligible for a payment for January 2019.

For example, a dairy operation with an established production history of 3 million pounds (30,000 cwt.) that elects the \$9.50 coverage level for 50 percent of its production could potentially be eligible to receive \$1,887.50 for January.

\$9.50 - \$7.99 margin = \$1.51 difference, \$1.51 times 50 percent of production times 2,500 cwt. (30,000 cwt./12) = \$1,887.50

The calculated annual premium for coverage at \$9.50 on 50 percent of a 3-million-pound production history for this example would be \$2,250.

#### Sample calculation:

3,000,000 times 50 percent = 1,500,000/100 =15,000 cwt. times 0.150 premium fee = \$2,250

Operations making a onetime election to participate in DMC through 2023 are eligible to receive a 25 percent discount on their premium for the existing margin coverage rates.

"Congress created the Dairy Margin Coverage program to provide an important financial safety net for dairy producers, helping them weather shifting milk and feed prices," FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce said. "This program builds on the previous Margin Protection Program for Dairy, carrying forward many of the program upgrades made last year based on feedback from producers. We're working diligently to implement the DMC program and other FSA programs authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill."

Additional details about DMC and other FSA farm bill program changes can be found at farmers.gov/farmbill.



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