



— Newsletter —

Learn about Governor Holcomb's [Back on Track](#) plan and [CLICK HERE](#) for the most up-to-date information on COVID-19.

A message from the Indiana Grown team:



This weekend Indiana will “spring ahead” and when Hoosiers change their clocks it is also a good time to set some spring goals. Looking ahead to 2021, Indiana Grown will be creating different and unique ways to share the message of Indiana agriculture through events, marketing outreach and online content. It is very important that your member information is correct and up to date. If you need assistance with making these updates, please let a member of our staff know.

In early March we were excited to welcome back our Operations Specialist Angela Grant, who was on maternity leave. On March 8 we added a new staff member to Indiana Grown, Janna Page! Janna is a life-long Hoosier, originally from Bloomington. She now resides in Indianapolis, where she has been working in design and communications since 2016. As our Marketing and Communications Manager, Janna will be responsible for day-to-day social media marketing across all channels, online and digital content, event management and strategy with the team.

As outdoor farmers market season begins and more activity is being scheduled, please reach out to Indiana Grown if you would like a site visit, tour or meeting. We are now scheduling some travel for meetings and visits that can be held in a safely distanced manner.

To schedule a meeting or visit (both in-person or virtual) fill out this [quick form](#) and a member of Indiana Grown staff will get it scheduled for you.

Save the Date for Monumental Marketplace June 18, 2021



Mark your calendars. Indiana Grown has plans to host a smaller version of our signature annual event, Monumental Marketplace, on **Friday, June 18 on Monument Circle**.

This event is contingent on many factors and more information will be forthcoming.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

The [Indiana State Department of Agriculture](#) (ISDA) is currently seeking project proposals from Indiana's specialty crop industry to present for funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [Specialty Crop Block Grant Program](#). The proposals must enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in Indiana, defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, horticulture and nursery crops.



The USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program offers federal funding annually to the state departments of agriculture to support their specialty crop industries. The allocation amount for Indiana is unknown at this time.

Applicants can include non-profit and for-profit organizations, governments and public or private colleges and universities. ISDA encourages applicants to develop projects focused on issues such as enhancing food safety, pest and disease control, developing organic and sustainable production practices, and developing local and regional food systems.

Funding will not be awarded to projects that benefit a particular commercial product, or provide a profit to a single organization, institution or individual. Each project must identify at least one expected measurable outcome that specifically demonstrates the project's impact on enhancing the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops.

ISDA's funding priority will focus on three main areas:

- Funding Area I: Market Enhancement
- Funding Area II: Access, Education and Training
- Funding Area III: Research

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. ET on March 25, 2021, and proposals must be submitted online through the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Grants Management System.

For more information and the solicitation click [here](#). For a full list of eligible specialty crops please click [here](#).

Shop Indiana Grown Online Marketplace



As you may have heard, Indiana Grown has officially launched the [Shop Indiana Grown](#) online marketplace! The FREE service will be offered to all qualifying Indiana Grown members providing you with an additional sales outlet during a time when online retail is critical to the success of many farms and businesses in our state and nationwide.

Signing up is easy! Simply visit shopindianagrown.org and click "Become a Vendor" to begin the application process. A member of the Indiana Grown staff will review your submission before you may continue.

If approved as a vendor, you will be responsible for creating your profile, uploading products, managing and shipping inventory as well as responding to consumer inquiries. In addition, we have brief, online training and information sessions you will be responsible for viewing. Please note: all products submitted must have the ability to be shipped, and all consumable products must be made in a commercially-inspected kitchen.

This new e-commerce platform was made possible thanks to our partnership with the [Indiana Small Business Development Center](#). Would you like to meet with a no-cost Indiana SBDC business advisor to help prepare you for e-commerce sales in areas like logistics + shipping, e-commerce development, financial advising or market research? Contact Heather Tallman at htallman@isda.in.gov to request assistance.

Please contact indianagrown@isda.in.gov for technical assistance or questions.

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings



[Safe Produce IN](#) will host several Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) grower training courses during the upcoming spring. This training is for fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, the [FSMA Produce Safety Rule](#), and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs). The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule training requirement outlined in [§ 112.22\(c\)](#). **Very small farms with average annual sales \$25,000-\$250,000 must complete this training before their 2021 farm inspection if they have not already taken the course.** The 7-hour training sessions will be held in the following locations:

- LaGrange County; LaGrange, IN- March 19, 2021
- REMOTE Delivery- April 1, 2021
- Wayne County; Richmond, IN- April 9, 2021
- St. Joseph County; South Bend, IN- April 30, 2021

Cost of the training is \$90 and includes a certificate of training and course manual. Growers can find training details and register for a session at SafeProduceIN.com. If you have questions about the training or would like to schedule a [Private Training](#), contact Dr. Amanda Deering at 765-494-0512 or email adeering@purdue.edu.

Questionnaire for Farm Markets, Food Makers & Other Indiana Businesses that use NUTS

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture [recently awarded](#) a research grant to the [Indiana University Sustainable Food Systems Science](#) team to identify the steps needed to establish value chains for Indiana-grown nuts, such as pecans, chestnuts, hazelnuts, and walnuts. In order to spotlight how we might support a burgeoning nut industry, **we invite any Hoosier business that uses nuts** to complete this [7-minute questionnaire](#).



Why do nuts matter for Indiana?

Nut production is picking up in the Midwest, and most of our neighboring states have created organizations and infrastructure to support value chains for tree nuts. The number of Indiana farms growing nuts [more than doubled](#) from 2012 to 2017, and has increased many times over since 2002.

- Prospects for landowners are good: farmgate earnings can gross over \$2000 per acre. Nut trees can suit smaller parcels and [riparian buffers](#). Growers note that improved tree cultivars, suited for Indiana, can bear within a handful of years.
- [Michigan](#), [Ohio](#), Kentucky, [Wisconsin](#), and [Iowa](#) all have nut grower collectives that co-own harvesting and processing equipment, which allows them to market value-added products such as nut flours.
- You-pick nut orchards are viable and can complement you-pick fruit. For instance, Indiana's [Anderson Orchard](#) has you-pick chestnuts.
- In a pilot poll in 2019, members of the [Indiana Nut and Fruit Growers Association](#) ranked black walnut and hazelnut as top products whose markets they'd like to develop, behind pawpaw and persimmon.

Indiana's fledgling nut markets deserve support. This study aims to find out recommendations as next steps.

[Fill out the questionnaire](#)

Who should take this survey? Indiana's food makers, manufacturers, processors, and other businesses and organizations that use nuts are invited to take the [questionnaire](#) to help us understand how and from where businesses are using nuts.

The questionnaire is anonymous. Only general averages will be reported in order to maintain confidentiality of responses and personal information. This information will lead to statewide conversations in the coming years. These conversations will work to build Indiana's nut production and aggregation capacity. Thank you for your participation.

With any questions or ideas, please contact Dr. Julia Valliant: jdv@indiana.edu or research assistant Olivia Shoemaker: oshoemak@indiana.edu

Five on Friday



Indiana Grown would like to feature our members by asking you to share FIVE interesting things about your farm or business. This new feature is called Five on Friday and will be a fun way for consumers to get to know you.

Please complete [THIS SURVEY](#) if you are interested in participating. Members will be featured on Indiana Grown social media platforms as well as on the Indiana Grown website. After completing the survey, please email Indiana Grown a photo of your business operation at indianagrown@isda.in.gov.

Contact Indiana Grown Program Director Heather Tallman at htallman@isda.in.gov with any questions.

Create Your Own Blog Post Today

Have a great recipe to share? Want to tell the story of your fifth-generation farm? As an Indiana Grown member, you have the ability to create your very own blog posts to share the latest news and updates about your farm/business. Your post will live on the Indiana Grown website and be tied to your Indiana Grown profile! Reference our [Blog Post Step-by-Step Guide](#) to get started!



If you need assistance please reach out to our Indiana Grown Program Director Heather Tallman at htallman@isda.in.gov.

LG Visits IG



Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch recently visited Indiana Grown member [Brandywine Creek Vineyards & Winery](#) and met with owner Jennifer Baker. Located in Indianapolis, near the Marion County-Hancock County line, this family-owned winery opened in the summer of 2018 and offers a large, relaxing tasting room. If you would like to request a visit from Indiana's lieutenant governor, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Terms of Service and Logo Download

Please review the recently updated Indiana Grown [terms of service](#).

Indiana Grown has a logo you may use on your product, signs, website, social media or retail location, if approved. All logo use requests must

be verified within 15 days of intended logo use. To request newly developed Indiana Grown marketing materials or the Indiana Grown logo, please complete [THIS SURVEY](#).





317.232.8770 | IndianaGrown@isda.in.gov | IndianaGrown.org

Indiana Grown is administered by the Indiana State Department
of Agriculture in partnership with Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch.

One North Capitol Avenue, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204