



— Newsletter —

Indiana Grown Day at the Statehouse



Indiana Grown has developed a unique opportunity for you to share the story of your business and success with Indiana legislators. We will be hosting the reception at the Indiana Statehouse during the legislative session on **Thursday, March 7th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

It is free to participate and you may bring products and information about your business to share with attendees. Sampling is encouraged, but there will be no sales allowed. Please contact Dana Kosco at dkosco@isda.in.gov for more information or if you are interested in attending.

Indiana Grown is showing women-owned businesses a little love this GAL-entine's Day!



Indiana Grown is showing women-owned and operated businesses a little love this GAL-entine's Day! Join us as we host a networking and resources event on Tuesday, February 19th from 6:30pm – 8:30pm at [The Sycamore at Mallow Run](#) in Bargersville. This event will give participants a chance to network with farmers, business leaders and entrepreneurs! Come prepared to share your story and your business cards as you make local connections.

As another way to share what you do, we invite you to bring samples of your food or beverage products to be included on a collaborative refreshment table. All items must be prepared in a commercial kitchen, and no outside alcohol is allowed. Mallow Run wines will be available for purchase on site. Come and go as you please, but if you plan to stop by, we ask that you RSVP [HERE](#) by Tuesday, February 12th. This free, public networking event is open to anyone but is specifically focused on female entrepreneurs.

Contact Dana Kosco at dkosco@isda.in.gov with any questions. We hope to see you there!

Attend a Member Networking Night!



In an effort to facilitate member connections within our group, Indiana Grown has scheduled 14 regional member networking events for 2019. These free networking events are a great way to foster connectivity within our membership, help Indiana Grown stay in tune with member needs, and learn more about how many of you can work together.

These will be held each month (time/location tbd) and will be a casual, open house format. Heather Tallman with Indiana Grown will be there to facilitate and answer any questions that come up. Please also feel free to invite those you know that would be great potential members of Indiana Grown!

The first event will be held on January 24 at the Chesterton Art Center, 115 S 4th St, Chesterton, IN 46304.

Please sign up no later than Tuesday, January 22 for the January meeting: [click here](#).

If there are less than 10 RSVPs at any one event, that particular date is subject to cancellation.

All networking events will be held at a neutral, public location: a Purdue Extension office, coffee shop, etc.

For any question please contact: Heather Tallman 317-697-5863 HTallman@ISDA.IN.GOV.

Scholarships Available for Indiana Grown Members to Attend Agritourism Conference



The Indiana Office of Tourism Development and Hamilton County Tourism are proud to have partnered in bringing the North American agritourism business conference to Noblesville, IN this February 1-6, 2019. [NAFDMA](#) will feature all-access tours of

Huber's Orchard & Winery and Fair Oaks Farms, an education program featuring 24 concurrent sessions, 4 interactive workshops and 2 nationally recognized keynote speakers. Hundreds of farm owners and managers, hailing from 34 states and 5 Canadian provinces, will be in attendance.

A limited number of scholarships have been made available to Indiana Grown members to attend the Education portion of NAFDMA ABC 2019 ([see Education schedule](#)). IOTD and Hamilton County Tourism are supporting a \$400 scholarship for up to 30 IN Grown members to attend this dynamic 2-day educational conference on February 4-5, 2019 at the new Embassy Suites – Noblesville, IN Conference Center. For only \$395 (regular price \$795), you will have an opportunity to network with the best and brightest in the agritourism industry, enjoy a host of nationally-recognized speakers and industry experts, connect with some of the industry's premier suppliers and get the tools you need for a successful 2019 season. Lodging is available.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Corey Connors, NAFDMA Executive Director, by email at corey@farmersinspired.com or by phone at 703.206.6922, for more information or to register for the event.

Do you have products for Indiana schools?



Indiana Grown is gathering information as part a Farm to School grant and in partnership with [Purdue Extension](#) (PEX), [Indiana Department of Education](#) (IDOE) and the [Indiana State Department of Health](#) (ISDH).

The information gathered will be collated into the [Indiana Grown for Schools: School Food Service Resource Guide](#) which will be distributed to all Indiana public school corporations once completed. School food service directors can then use this guide to inform their local purchasing

decisions.

Participation in the **Indiana Grown for Schools: School Food Service Resource Guide** survey is not a guarantee of future sales and ISDA/IG, ISDH, PEX and IDOE are not responsible for the accuracy of the information you submit. Participation in the resource guide survey is voluntary. You will not be excluded from selling direct to schools if you choose not to complete the survey.

- Please click [HERE](#) to complete this short survey.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Tallman at 317-697-5863 or HTallman@ISDA.IN.GOV. Hurry! Survey ends soon!

Food Safety Modernization Act training opportunities



Purdue University is offering training [events](#) throughout Indiana to help prepare fruit and vegetable growers to meet regulatory requirements from the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule. This training will satisfy the training requirement for covered growers. After completing this training, growers will be eligible to

complete the On Farm Readiness Review which is designed to assess grower readiness for inspection. During these Reviews, representatives from Indiana Department of Health, Purdue Extension and Indiana State Department of Agriculture will visit the farm and go through a series of questions to determine grower readiness for compliance and successful inspection. Please note, that this is not a compliance inspection, rather a consultation in preparation for compliance. Registration is available [here](#).

The Produce Safety Rule is the first regulation that establishes science-based minimum standards for safe production and harvesting of fresh fruits and vegetables. Farms that grow, pack, process, or sell fresh produce may be affected by the rule and should visit [SafeProduceIN.com](#) to learn more. There, growers can find more information about determining their status as covered or exempt farms, compliance dates and registration details for the training events. Contact Morgan Gadd at mgadd@isda.in.gov or (317) 407-5940 with any questions.



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.

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