



— Newsletter —

DID YOU ATTEND THE INDIANA GROWN MEMBER
CONFERENCE?

THANK YOU!

If so, we want your feedback! The best way for us to learn and improve our member opportunities is to hear from you with ideas and suggestions.

Please complete the survey [here](#) to provide us with your input on the day.

SURVEY: INDIANA GROWN FOR SCHOOLS



The Indiana State Department of Agriculture's [Indiana Grown Program](#) (ISDA/IG) is gathering information as part of their involvement in 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.

SURVEY: LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCERS



US Department of Agriculture meat grading—the program that can assign “USDA Prime” or “USDA Choice” to a steak—has not been readily available to Indiana livestock producers. The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) and Indiana Beef Cattle Association are partnering to survey livestock and poultry producers about their interest in the service to see if a meat-grading program is sustainable in Indiana.

The results of the survey will help BOAH determine the feasibility of offering USDA grading of meat at state-inspected slaughter facilities in Indiana.

While a USDA Prime label could generate extra value for the meat, that designation comes at a cost. Unlike inspection for food safety, which is mandatory and paid for as a public health service, grading is strictly voluntary and must be paid for by the producer and/or processor. To provide grading services, BOAH staff members must complete additional, extensive training.

Meat grading is available for beef, veal/calf, lamb, pork and poultry. Producers who sell (or plan to sell) packaged meat of any of these species are asked to participate in an online survey to gauge interest.

- Click [here](#) to complete the online survey.

Surveys must be submitted by February 1, 2019.

INDIANA TOURISM ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS



The application period for Indiana Tourism's [Destination Development Grant](#) program is now open. Cities, towns, counties and nonprofit entities located in Indiana that are involved with tourism promotion and development are eligible to apply for the grant. These grants can boost communities and

regions across the state. Grant requests of between \$50,000 and \$250,000 will be considered through this competitive application process. Entities that have previously received a Destination Development Grant may not apply for additional Destination Development funds for a two-year period from the date of their last award.

The deadline for applications is December 3, 2018 by 4 p.m. ET. Contact Amy Howell at amhowell@visitindiana.com for further details.

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.

One North Capitol Avenue, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204