

Survey of Beginning Farmers in Indiana

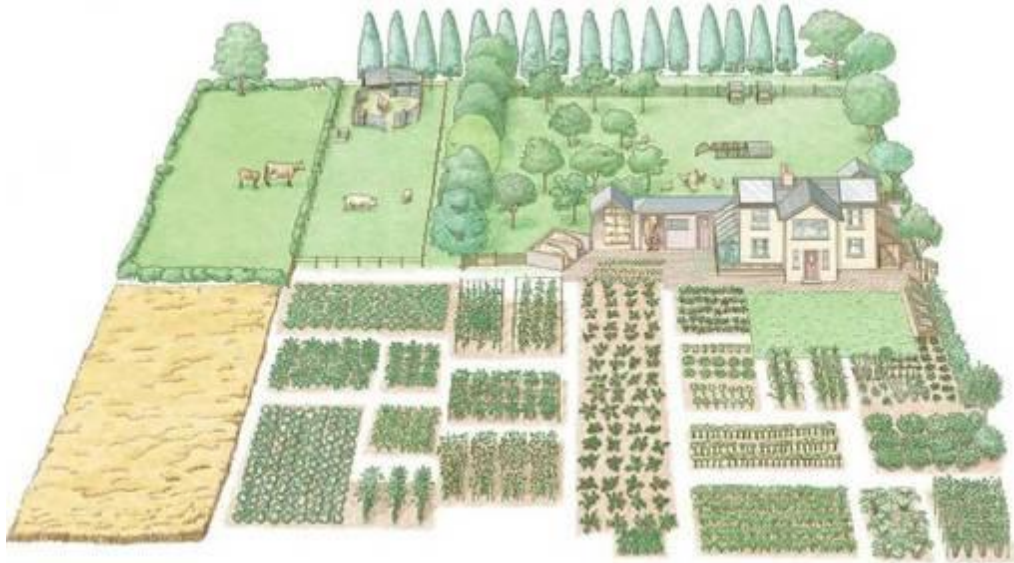


Illustration: Dorling Kindersley, from <https://foodfreedom.wordpress.com/>

Background and instructions

This survey is part of a research and extension project conducted by Purdue University titled “Infrastructure, access, community: a plan to support beginning farmers in Indiana.” The objective of this survey is to learn about what motivates beginning farmers to start a farm, what challenges they face in starting, operating and sustaining their farm, and what information and resource needs they may have.

- ✓ For the purpose of this survey, please use the following definitions:
- Beginning farmers are considered as (1) anyone who has been farming 10 years or less, or (2) anyone who is interested in starting a farm.
 - Small-scale farmers are considered as farmers who operate 250 acres of land or less.
 - Veteran farmers are considered as farmers who served or are serving in the U.S. Military.



Your farm and/or interest in farming

1. Do you currently farm or operate a farm? *Check only one*

- Yes → If yes, please turn to the next page and start with Question 2. We would greatly appreciate if you could answer the remainder of the survey.
- No → If no, please answer the sub-questions below (1a-1f), and then turn to Page 4 and start with Questions 19. We would greatly appreciate if you could answer the remainder of the survey.

1a. Are you interested in starting a farm in Indiana in the future? *Check only one*

- Yes No → If no, please turn to Page 10 to only answer Questions 32-39.

1b. What makes you want to start a farm in Indiana? *Check all that apply*

- To pursue farming as a lifestyle
- To have a place where my family and I can enjoy each other's work and company
- To raise children to be close to the food they eat and the soil that supports us
- To raise my family to understand the importance of hard work
- To pass down the values, land, and way of farming to future generations
- To prevent farmland being converted to other uses
- To increase the presence of small farms
- To provide fresh food to our communities
- To contribute to the local food movement
- To have a place where our community members can see how food is grown/raised
- To promote environmentally friendly agricultural practices
- To support a sustainable food system
- To reduce the ecological impacts of food production, protect the environment, and conserve natural resources
- To get away from the political, economic, and social structures of our current food system
- To provide income for me and my family
- To promote local economies
- Other, please specify: _____
- Other, please specify: _____

1c. Which of the following best describes your current knowledge of starting a farm in Indiana?

Check only one

- No knowledge Limited knowledge Moderate knowledge Substantial knowledge

1d. What is your level of confidence in your ability to start a farm in Indiana? *Check only one*

- Not confident Minimally confident Moderately confident Very confident

1e. Which of the following would you like to grow or do on your future farm in Indiana? *Check all that apply*

- Corn and soybean Legumes other than soybean
- Grains Vegetables Fruit Flowers
- Pastured poultry Pastured pigs Grass-fed beef Goats
- Bees Dairy Hydroponics Aquaponics
- Organic production Permaculture Value-added products (e.g., salsa, popcorn)
- Other, please specify: _____

1f. Generally speaking, which of the following topics related to starting, operating and sustaining a farm would you like to learn about? *Check all that apply*

- Land acquisition Access to financial resources
- Access to additional labor (e.g., hiring and working with interns) Access to farm equipment
- Business management practices Marketing strategies
- Environmentally sustainable farming practices Farming with disability
- Local and state regulations and rules about farming Beginning farmer networks
- Local, state, federal programs that assist beginning farmers to start, operate and sustain a farm
- Local, state, federal programs that assist military Veterans to start, operate and sustain a farm
- Other, please specify: _____
- Other, please specify: _____

2. Which of the following describes your background or experience related to farming prior to operating your current farm in Indiana? Check all that apply

- I grew up on a farm, which allowed me to experience the farm life.
- I had family members who owned a farm and I visited when I was growing up.
- I worked on a farm as a job or internship.
- I have been interested in farming and learned about farming and farm life on my own.
- I had no farming background or experience prior to operating my current farm.
- Other, please specify: _____

3. In which year did you, personally, first start operating your current farm in Indiana? _____

4. Which of the following have you grown or done on your farm in the past 12 months? Check all that apply

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corn and soybean | <input type="checkbox"/> Legumes other than soybean | <input type="checkbox"/> Grains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit | <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastured poultry | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastured pigs | <input type="checkbox"/> Grass-fed beef |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goats | <input type="checkbox"/> Bees | <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydroponics | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquaponics | <input type="checkbox"/> Organic production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permaculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Value-added products (e.g., salsa, popcorn) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: _____ | | |

5. How many acres of land do you farm? _____ acres

6. How did you acquire the land you farm? Check all that apply

- I lease the land from others.
- I inherited the land from a family member.
- I bought the land from someone outside of my family but I knew that person before.
- I bought the land from someone outside of my family who I didn't know before.
- Others, please specify: _____
- I received the land as a gift.
- I bought the land from a family member.

7. Is your home on or immediately next to the land where you farm in Indiana? Check only one

- Yes No → If no, how far is your home from your farm? _____ miles

8. How many people work on your farm in Indiana, either full-time or part-time, either from your household or outside of your household, including yourself?

No. of full-time from my household: _____ No. of full-time from outside of my household: _____
 No. of part-time from my household: _____ No. of part-time from outside of my household: _____

9. Who made/makes decisions about farming practices and the operation of your farm in Indiana? Check all that apply

- Me
- Another family member
- Other, please specify: _____
- My spouse
- My business partner
- My children
- My landlord
- My parents

10. How important are the following as reasons for why you started farming in Indiana? Check only one for each row item

	Very important	Important	Moderately important	Of little importance	Not important
To pursue farming as a lifestyle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To have a place where my family and I can enjoy each other's work and company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To raise children to be close to the food they eat and the soil that supports us	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Very important	Important	Moderately important	Of little importance	Not important
To raise my family to understand the importance of hard work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To pass down the values, land, and way of farming to future generations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To prevent farmland being converted to other uses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To increase the presence of small farms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To provide fresh food to our communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To contribute to the local food movement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To have a place where our community members can see how food is grown/raised	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To promote environmentally friendly agricultural practices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To support a sustainable food system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To reduce the ecological impacts of food production, protect the environment, and conserve natural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To get away from the political, economic, and social structures of our current food system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To provide income for me and my family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To promote local economies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Current knowledge and farming practices

11. Generally speaking, what is your current level of knowledge regarding operating and sustaining a farm? Check only one

- No knowledge
 Limited knowledge
 Moderate knowledge
 Substantial knowledge

12. Which of the following describes your current familiarity with the following topics related to starting, operating, and sustaining a farm? Check only one for each row item

	Very familiar	Familiar	Moderately familiar	Of little familiarity	Not familiar
Land acquisition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to financial resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to farm equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to additional labor (e.g., hiring and working with interns)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business management practices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marketing strategies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local and state regulations and rules about farming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmentally friendly agricultural practices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farming with disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beginning farmer networks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local, state, federal programs that assist beginning farmers to start, operate and sustain a farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local, state, federal programs that assist military Veterans to start, operate and sustain a farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. Generally speaking, what is your level of confidence in your ability to operate and sustain your farm in Indiana? *Check only one*

- Not confident Minimally confident Moderately confident Very confident

14. Do you think you have the necessary information and knowledge needed to operate and sustain your farm? *Check only one*

- Yes No I don't know

15. Do you think you have the necessary resources (non-informational) needed to operate and sustain your farm? *Check only one*

- Yes No I don't know

16. Which of the following have occurred in the past 12 months? *Check all that apply*

- I sought financial assistance from a local, state or federal program to help me with my farm.
- I took a loan to help me with my farm.
- I sought technical assistance from an agricultural or natural resource professional to help me with farming decision and practices.
- I obtained information about sustainable farming practices.
- I participated in workshops, conferences, or information sessions about farming.
- I searched for information about farming on the Internet.
- I read about farming in magazines, books, and other publications.
- I talked to my family about farming and my farm.
- I talked to my neighboring farmers about farming and my farm.
- I talked to other farmers who is not my neighbor about farming and my farm.
- Other, please specify: _____
- None of the above

17. Do you have a business management plan for your farm in Indiana?

- Yes → **If yes, do you find your business management plan useful?**
 Yes No I don't know
- No → **If no, do you plan to develop a business management plan?**
 Yes No I don't know

18. How do you market and sell your products? *Check all that apply*

- Sell on farm
- Sell on the side of the road
- Sell to restaurants
- Sell in a farmers' market
- Other, please specify: _____
- Have a website to sell via the Internet
- Send flyers and mailers to potential customers
- Establish personal contact with potential customers directly
- Sell through a CSA (community-supported agriculture) program

Challenges and needs

19. In terms of starting, operating and sustaining a farm in Indiana, how challenging has the following been for you personally? *Check only one for each row item*

	Great challenge	Challenge	Moderate challenge	Little challenge	Not a challenge
Secure the land needed to farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secure the equipment needed to farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decide what to grow/raise on my farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decide what farming techniques and practices to use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Obtain information to answer questions about my farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Great challenge	Challenge	Moderate challenge	Little challenge	Not a challenge
Sift through different sources of information to find what I need to know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Understand and deal with zoning regulations and other local and state policies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deal with local and state politics related to operating a farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Know who to contact when I have a question about my farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Obtain financial resources needed to farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have enough time/labor to do what is needed for the farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Understand the environmental impacts of my farming practices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Get along with other farmers in my area (town/county)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Find emotional and other support from peer farmers or people who are interested in farming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Understand the business side of operating a farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identify effective marketing strategies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have to balance farming and other jobs I do for income	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deal with family issues (e.g., stress from farming, lack of time spent with family, lack of understanding from family)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

20. In terms of helping you start, operate and sustain a farm, how important would you rate the following items? Check only one for each row item

	Very important	Moderately Important	Of little importance	Not important
Being able to visit other similar farms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being able to talk to and learn from other farmers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being able to talk to an Extension educator or other agricultural professionals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being part of a formal farmer group, association or organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being part of an informal farmer group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feeling supported by other small-scale farmers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feeling supported by larger-scale farms around me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feeling supported by my (potential) customers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feeling supported within my own community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Having a way to discuss and communicate with other farmers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being able to receive more training and information about different aspects of managing a farm business	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being able to access pertinent technical and informational resources for beginning farmers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being able to access pertinent financial resources for beginning farmers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Communication and information sources

21. If you are searching for information about starting, operating, or sustaining a small-scale farm, where would you go or who would you ask? *Check all that apply*

- Purdue Extension educators in my county or nearby counties
- Purdue Extension website
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)
- Farm Service Agency
- Indiana State Department of Agriculture
- Indiana Small Farm Conferences or other conferences
- Farmer associations and groups (e.g., Local Growers' Guild)
- Farmer Veteran Coalition
- AgrAbility
- Industry groups or organizations, such as the Indiana Farm Bureau
- Farm Credit Services
- Academic research papers
- My own research on the Internet
- Farmers I know who started and are operating a small-scale farm
- Farmers who started and/or operating big farms
- Private crop advisors or other types of agricultural consultants
- Other, please specify: _____

22. What do you prefer in terms of searching for or receiving information about farming?

Check all that apply

- Mobile texting Facebook Twitter Blogs Websites
- Local newspapers Radio programs TV programs Phone calls Emails
- Agricultural professionals pay a personal visit to my farm Word of mouth
- Direct mailing of hard-copy flyers, brochures, newsletters and other publications
- Face-to-face workshops, training, and other informational events
- Online workshops, webinars, training, and other informational events
- Other, please specify: _____

23. On average, how often have you interacted with and/or received information from the following individuals and entities since you became a farmer or interested in farming?

Check only one for each row item

	Once a week	Several times a month	Once a month	Several times a year	Twice a year	Once a year	Once every few years	Never
Purdue Extension educators	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Resources Conservation Service professionals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soil and Water Conservation Districts professionals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana State Department of Agriculture professionals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other government agencies, such as: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local, state or national non-profit organizations or farmer associations and groups (e.g., Local Growers' Guild, Farmer Veteran Coalition, Indiana Young Farmers' Association, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry groups or organizations (e.g., Indiana Farm Bureau, Indiana Beef Cattlemen's Association, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private crop advisors or other agricultural consultants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

24. What was your aforementioned interaction with agricultural or natural resource professionals about? *Check all that apply*

I had questions, received information, or obtained assistance about:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land acquisition | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to financial resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to additional labor (e.g., hiring and working with interns) | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to farm equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business management practices | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing strategies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmentally sustainable farming practices | <input type="checkbox"/> Farming with disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local and state regulations and rules about farming | <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning farmer networks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local, state, federal programs that assist beginning farmers to start, operate and sustain a farm | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local, state, federal programs that assist military Veterans to start, operate and sustain a farm | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Having an Extension educator visit their farm | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attending an Extension workshop or event | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting a demonstration site or other small-scale farms | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable, because I have not interacted with any agricultural and natural resource professionals about my farm. | |

Your farming community and support

25. Do you know any of the following types of individuals in Indiana personally?

Check only one for each row item

	Yes	No	Don't know
Individuals who are interested in starting a farm but have not yet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beginner farmers (less than 10 years of experience)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Experienced farmers (10 years or more experience)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small-scale farmers (those who tend to grow or produce a variety of crops or livestock products on smaller tracts of land)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger-scale farmers (those who tend to grow mostly corn and soybean on larger tracts of land)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. On average, how often have you interacted with any of the following types of individuals in Indiana since you became a farmer or interested in farming? *Check only one for each row item*

	Once a week	Several times a month	Once a month	Several times a year	Twice a year	Once a year	Once every few years	Never
Individuals who are interested in starting a farm but have not yet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other small-scale farmers in my town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger-scale farmers in my town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other small-scale farmers in my county	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger-scale farmers in my county	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other small-scale farmers in the state of Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger-scale farmers in the state of Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other small-scale farmers outside of Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger-scale farmers outside of Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

27. Since you became a farmer or interested in farming, have you worked with, helped, or been helped by any of the following types of individuals in Indiana for farming-related reasons?

Check only one for each row item

	Yes	No	Don't know
Individuals who are interested in starting a farm but have not yet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other small-scale farmers in my town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger-scale farmers in my town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other small-scale farmers in my county	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger-scale farmers in my county	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other small-scale farmers in the state of Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger-scale farmers in the state of Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other small-scale farmers outside of Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger-scale farmers outside of Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

28. Where do your interactions with other farmers or individuals who are interested in starting a farm occur? Check all that apply

- At the farmers' markets
- On my or other people's farms when we visit each other
- In my town community center
- In my local stores
- Via workshops, conferences, or information sessions organized by Purdue Extension
- Via workshops, conferences, or information sessions organized by a government agency, such as NRCS, SWCD, ISDA
- Via workshops, conferences, or information sessions organized by an industry group or organization, such as Indiana Farm Bureau and Indiana Beef Cattlemen's Association
- Via a non-profit organization or farmer association, such as Local Growers' Guild, Farmer Veteran Coalition, and Indiana Young Farmers' Association
- Through an internet-based tool, such as Facebook, blog, or a farmer organization chatroom
- Other, please specify: _____
- Other, please specify: _____

29. Generally speaking, where do you feel support for you and your farm come from?

Check only one for each row item

	Strong support	Support	Moderate support	Of little support	No support
Other individuals who are interested in starting a farm but have not yet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other small-scale farmers in my town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger-scale farmers in my town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other small-scale farmers in my county	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger-scale farmers in my county	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other small-scale farmers in the state of Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger-scale farmers in the state of Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other small-scale farmers outside of Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger-scale farmers outside of Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Various farmers' markets I go to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Various CSAs that I am connected to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My spouse/partner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My family beyond my spouse/partner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Strong support	Support	Moderate support	Of little support	No support
Other individuals who are interested in starting a farm but have not yet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other small-scale farmers in my town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger-scale farmers in my town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other small-scale farmers in my county	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My non-farming friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My farming friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extension educators or other agricultural professionals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The farmer group, association or organization I am part of	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The social media that I am connected to (e.g., Facebook friends, twitter followers, blogs, chatrooms, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

30. Are you a member of a formal or informal farmer group, association or organization?

- No
 Yes → **If yes, what is the name of your group, association or organization?** _____

If yes, how is your farmer/producer/grower group, association or organization beneficial to you? Check all that apply

- My group, association or organization operates a website that I can use to market my farm products.
- My group, association or organization sends out event notifications.
- My group, association or organization keeps me informed about state and federal regulations.
- I see my group, association or organization as a source of support, advice, or help.
- I meet and network with other farmers/producers/growers through my group, association or organization.
- Other, please specify: _____

31. How much do you agree with the following statements describing what you consider as your community regarding farming? Check only one for each row item

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
How I think about my community is tied to where I live and farm (e.g., my town, my county, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I consider the customers of my farm products part of my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I consider other small-scale farmers in my town or county part of my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I consider other larger-scale farmers in my town or county part of my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmers are farmers, and there is no big difference between small-scale and larger-scale farming.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have an "inner circle" of people who do not farm that I rely on for support, advice, or help regarding my farm.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have an "inner circle" of people who farm that I rely on for support, advice, or help regarding my farm.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is an overlap between my circle of peer farmers and my social circle.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Small-scale farming is a hard job that can only be understood by other small-scale farmers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small-scale farming can be an isolating endeavor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small-scale farming is not easy work, but I find its benefits to me, my family, and my community outweigh the difficulties.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I sometimes just want to talk to someone about what I am going through as a small-scale farmer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The idea of small-scale farmers supporting and helping each other is great but hard to make it reality.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I don't care what others are saying about my farming practices as long as I can make a good living.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
As part of a small-scale farming community, I care about what others think about my farming practices.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being part of a small-scale farmer community is important to me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is important to me that I have the ability to provide support, advice, or help to other small-scale farmers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is important to me that other small-scale farmers would provide support, advice, or help to me when needed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Demographics

32. Are you a military veteran or active duty member? *Check only one*

- No Yes

33. What is your ethnicity? *Check only one*

- Hispanic Non-Hispanic

34. What is your age? I am _____ years old.

35. What is your gender? *Check only one*

- Male Female Other Prefer not to answer

36. What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? *Check only one*

- Less than high school/GED High school/GED Some college
 Associate's degree Bachelor's degree Graduate degree

37. What is your household's annual income? *Check only one*

- Less than \$25,000 \$25,000 to \$49,999 \$50,000 to \$99,999
 \$100,000 to \$149,999 \$150,000 to \$199,999 \$200,000 or more

38. On average, what percentage of your household's annual income is derived from your farm?

_____ percent

39. On average, what percentage of your household's annual income is derived from off-farm sources?

_____ percent

If there are any additional comments about information and/or resources you may need to help you start, operate and sustain your farm or concerns that you would like to share, please write them below.

**Thank you for participating in this survey!
Please return your completed questionnaire in the self-addressed, postage-paid envelope provided.**

If you would like a copy of the summary results of this survey, please print your name and address on the back of the return envelope.