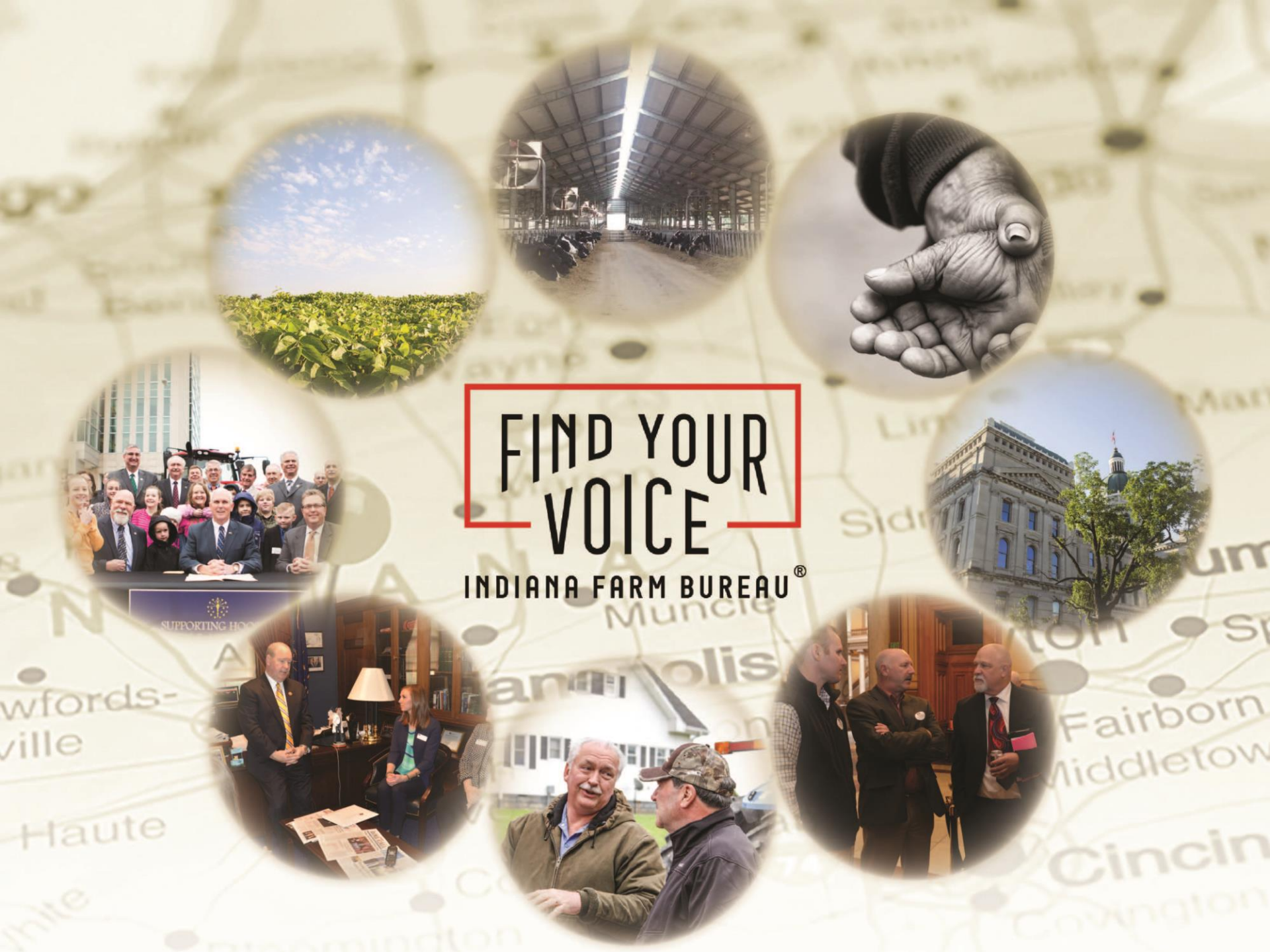




# FIND YOUR VOICE

INDIANA FARM BUREAU®



# Questions to Consider

- What are the goals for Indiana's future in agriculture?
- Given the farm economic conditions, what do farmers need help with?
- What are your farm's priorities moving forward?
- What role do you see yourself having in the next years related to agriculture?
- What role would you like to see the Farm Bill play?

# VI. Rural Development

Rural Broadband

Strengthening Additional Programs

# Strengthening Rural Development Programs

Issue: There is a large need for aid and assistance to enhance rural communities and economic growth.

- Many of the programs offered by USDA Rural Development are underutilized
- Business investment is easier to obtain in urban and coastal areas
- Grant and loan application process is inefficient and not business friendly
- Difficult for applicants to know the status of their application

# Options to Improve Access to Rural Broadband

Issue: Broadband loan applications proposed to serve most unserved households will receive funding first

- Subject to available funding
- Applications not funded can reapply in next funding window
- Competitive ranking makes the loan program operate more like a grant competition
- Excessive lag time
- Limited broadband budget – not uncommonly absorbed by 2 or 3 applications as it is costly to deploy broadband in underserved areas