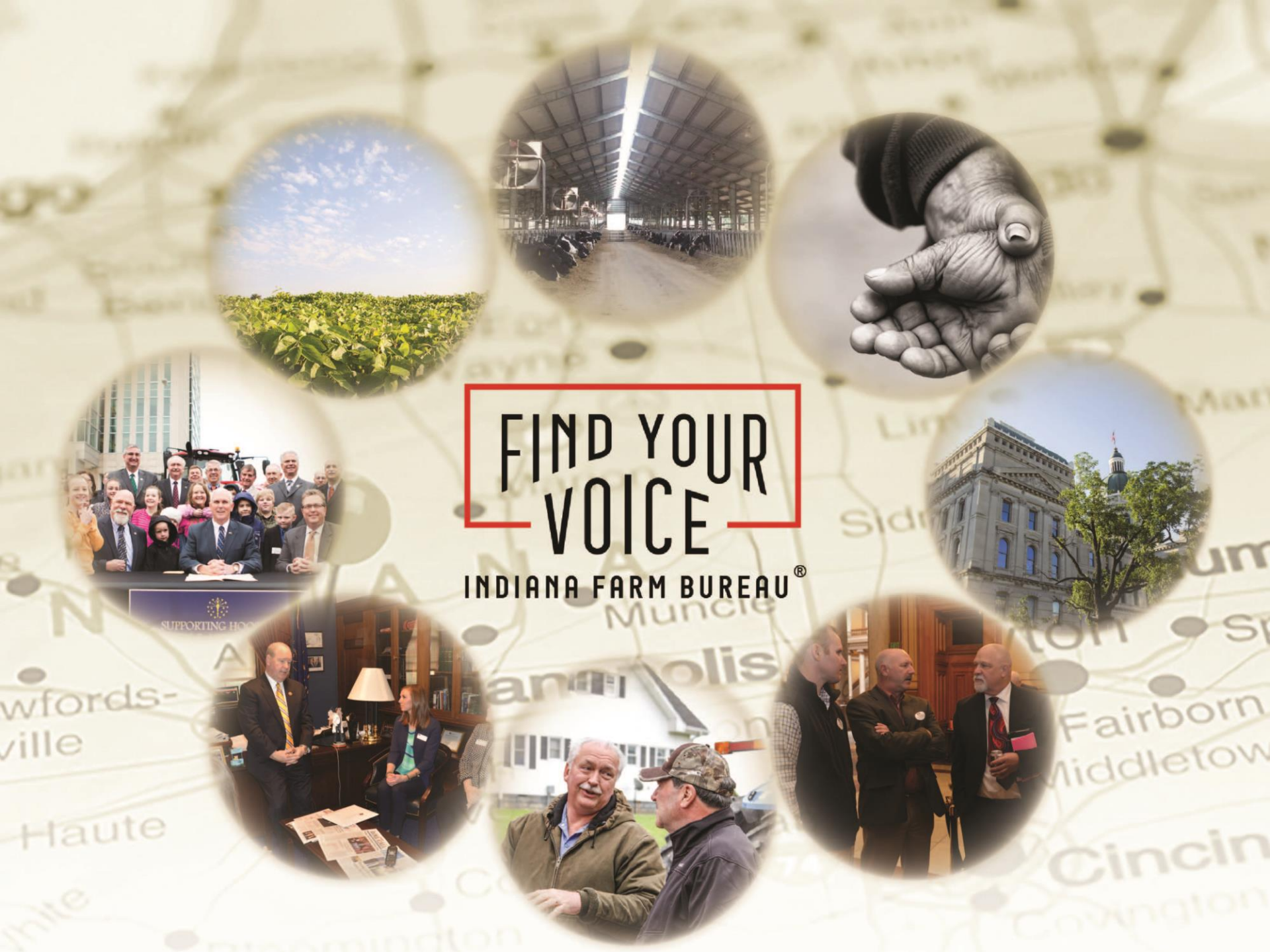




FIND YOUR VOICE

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?

X. Specialty Crops & Horticulture

Specialty Crop Block Grant

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Funds for FSMA

Issue:

State departments of agriculture are pressured to use the grant to fund implementation of FSMA but funds are distributed by application, peer reviewed in the state, and funds used for FSMA would take away from other opportunities.

Specialty Crop Research

- Research programs for specialty crops and organic agriculture receive significantly less funding than allocated for commodity crops
- Rising popularity of crops, especially in community-supported agriculture, farm markets and local produce
- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
- Specialty Crop Multi-State Program
- Specialty Crop Research Initiative
- Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program
- Local Food Production and Program Evaluation Study
- Pilot Project for Canned, Frozen or Dried Fruits and Vegetables included in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research
- Organic Transitions Program
- Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative
- New requirements for grants designed to increase public-private partnerships

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized funding for specialty crop research; however, it is important to understand how Congress appropriated funding for these programs. The following chart includes the appropriated funding levels for the specialty crop research programs.

| Appropriated Funding Levels for the Specialty Crop Research Programs | | | | |
|---|---|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Program | FY 14 | FY15 | FY 16 (enacted) | FY 17 (estimated) |
| | Appropriated Funding --- Dollars in thousands | | | |
| Organic Transition Program | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative | 20,000 | 18,540 | 18,640 | 20,000 |
| Specialty Crop Research Initiative | 55,000 | 50,985 | 51,260 | 55,000 |
| Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program | 25,000 | 23,175 | 23,300 | 25,000 |
| Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program | 158,000 | 159,000 | 162,000 | 169,000 |
| Pilot Project for Canned, Frozen, Dried Fruits, and Vegetables | 5,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Agriculture and Food Research Initiative | 316,409 | 325,000 | 350,000 | 375,000 |

Another comparison to understand is the obligated funds for the programs, which means the amount government legally commits to pay. The following chart includes the obligated funds for the specialty crop programs.

| Obligated Funds for the Specialty Crop Programs | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Program | FY 14 | FY15 | FY 16 (enacted) | FY 17 (estimated) |
| | Obligations --- Dollars in thousands | | | |
| Organic Transition Program | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative | 20,000 | 18,540 | 18,640 | 20,000 |
| Specialty Crop Research Initiative | 55,000 | 50,985 | 51,260 | 55,000 |
| Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program | 89 | 24,962 | 47,014 | 25,000 |
| Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program | 167,746 | 174,241 | 162,000 | 169,000 |
| Pilot Project for Canned, Frozen, Dried Fruits, and Vegetables | 5,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Agriculture and Food Research Initiative | 286,885 | 305,597 | 656,667 | 375,000 |

These charts show that Congress did fund the specialty crop research programs within the scope of the authorizing levels.

Status of Other Specialty Crop Programs

- Organics
 - Received additional funding for research
 - Received \$5 million to improve data collection to provide policymakers necessary data to make sound policy and for organic businesses to make better business decisions
 - Expanded exemptions for commodity check-off programs
 - National Organic Program has more enforcement authority to guarantee compliance for products bearing USDA label
 - Producers given cost-share assistance to help offset annual certification costs

Status of Other Specialty Crop Programs

- Plant Pests
 - Plant Pest and Disease Management Program
 - Disaster Prevention Program
 - Provides protection from foreign plant pest threats in areas such as pest survey, identification, inspection, mitigation, risk analysis, and public education and outreach
 - Included National Clean Plant Network where clean plant materials are stored throughout U.S.
 - Funding is \$62.5 million annually through FY 2017, \$74 million in FY 2018

Status of Other Specialty Crop Programs

- Tree Assistance Program
 - Provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers whom suffered losses in excess of 15% due to natural disasters to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines
 - Payments issued after no-fee application process
 - Limit of \$125,000 per year per producer
 - Eligibility adjusted gross income cannot exceed \$900,000
 - Program has unlimited funding
 - Spent \$18.6 million October 2011-March 2016