

The Value of Indiana Agriculture

Agriculture is a prominent industry in Indiana. The \$11.2 billion value of agricultural products sold ranks Indiana 10th in the nation in agricultural sales.

Indiana's top 5 commodities by value are: corn—\$4 billion; soybeans—\$2.9 billion; hogs & pigs—\$1.2 billion; poultry and eggs—\$1.1 billion; and dairy—\$660 million.

Eighty-three percent of Indiana's land is devoted to farms and forests.

Indiana produces the 2nd most amount of popcorn in the nation—151 million pounds in 2012. Clark County ranks 11th out of the 92 counties in the State for popcorn production.

The average size farm in Indiana is 245 acres; there are 19.4 million acres of Indiana land in farms and forests; and 245,000 jobs are supported by Agriculture.



**Clark County
Soil and Water
Conservation
District**

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Other Things To Consider

Public services that you have taken for granted in an urban area may be limited or nonexistent in rural areas. This may include water, sewer, sanitary disposal, gas, and drainage issues.

Zoning requirements may differ between city and county. Be sure you understand the regulations specific to the area you're looking at.

County office contacts, legal, and more Information can be found at the Clark County Indiana Community Portal: www.co.clark.in.us.

Be Good Neighbors

Communicate with your neighboring farmer. If you have a special event planned, check with the farmer to see if he/she is planning to spreading manure in the fields, running equipment, etc. They may be happy to work around your event if contacted first.

Refrain from unwarranted complaints to local, state, and federal governments about normal and acceptable agricultural practices.

Never use a farmer's fields as a dumping ground for grass clippings, leaves, household chemicals, containers, old tools, etc.

Do not ride ATVs or dirtbikes on farmers' fields. Even if the field looks empty, most farmers have crops growing year-round.

Always ask permission before entering livestock barns. Most facilities are "biosecure". Without following proper protocol, your presence could threaten the health of animals.

Farmers need **your support** to remain in business. Please do what you can to keep agriculture viable in Clark County.

**SO...YOU
WANT TO
MOVE TO THE
COUNTRY?**



**Here are some things
you should know be-
fore moving to rural
Clark County**

Clark County has a diverse mix of rural and urban areas

Many folks grow tired of the big city and want to move to the country to enjoy the peace and quiet of rural life. But along with change, there is a need for understanding. New rural residents may not understand what happens in farming country and farmers may not understand how these new residents perceive country life.

BUT IT'S ONLY 5 A.M.!

Farming requires long hours. The typical workday starts early and ends late. And yes, the rooster does crow at the break of dawn!

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

Each year, farmers have a narrow window in which to plant and harvest, and a 9 to 5 workday is rarely acknowledged; agriculture production can take place 24/7. This translates to very large, loud, machinery running day and night.

WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

Farm smells are another matter to consider when thinking of moving to the country. Odors can be generated from animal housing facilities, manure storages, and land applications of manure. Depending on wind direction, they can disrupt a patio party quite quickly.

HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THIS GUY?

Remember, you're getting out of "the fast lane" and things do move slower in the country, including farm machinery. It's big and it's not designed to go fast. Everyone must share the road, even during "rush" hour.

THERE'S THE FENCE... HIS PROPERTY, MY PROPERTY

Most of the time, yes. But property lines in the country are not always clear. Make sure you know where they are and respect them. Most farm animals are fairly docile, however it is not a good idea to be on the same side of the fence as a bull or stallion. If you are not sure about the animals, ask. If crops are on the other side of the fence, ask permission before entering the farmer's property to avoid damaging crops and/or disrupting farming operations. Freshly sprayed chemicals could be harmful to clothes and/or skin.

WHERE DOES FIDO FIT IN?

For many, moving to the country means getting to have a family dog. Dogs are great companions and well suited to a rural lifestyle where there is room to romp and play. However, dogs are also predators and given the opportunity, may chase and/or kill livestock. It is important to keep your dog in an enclosed area and do not permit your dog to run loose.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TREES?

If you're chosen spot in the country includes a beautiful forest view, consider how it will look without it. Resource production is considered the primary use of the land in much of the country—homes are the intrusion. Don't be surprised to wake up one morning and find your view being harvested.

