

## A Letter To Hoosiers

Agriculture is an important driver of Indiana's economy.

We are blessed with good soil, plentiful rainfall, and an infrastructure that allows our agricultural industry to thrive. Producers provide jobs, make significant contributions to the local tax base in most counties, and are an integral part of their community. It is in everyone's best interest to grow this great asset as much as possible.

More than 15 million of the 23 million acres of land in Indiana is devoted to agriculture. Most farmland is used to grow grain and other crops, generating \$4 billion in cash receipts each year. And of that grain, most is fed to livestock, which accounts for more than \$2 billion in cash receipts a year.

The economic powerhouse of agriculture generates jobs and income for many people who do not work on farms. The Indiana hog industry alone employs more than 13,000 people ranging from input suppliers and producers to processors and businesspeople. It generates an estimated \$44 million of personal income and \$2.9 billion of gross state product annually. With numbers like these, you can understand my goal of doubling Indiana's pork production in 10 years.

Producers understand their responsibility to their communities and are good stewards of the land and animals that are their livelihoods. Working closely with the Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management and other state regulatory agencies, Indiana farmers have been able to improve the state's water and land resources.

It is with this in mind that I encourage the citizens of Indiana to recognize the economic development opportunities agriculture has to offer. Agriculture adds \$2.5 billion to Indiana's economy every year, and we all must support this industry. Growing Indiana agriculture is good for the state's economy and critical to ensuring that it can provide the food and fiber we need today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Mitch Daniels

Indiana Governor