



## WATER MATTERS

Water is a key priority policy for Indiana farmers. Indiana Farm Bureau (INFB) is advocating for three policies on water:

- 1. Expanding groundwater protection rights** to proactively protect agriculture operations and farmers' investments in producing food.
- Implementing **a statewide, dedicated groundwater well monitoring network** to inventory current groundwater supply.
- Developing a **statewide water resource plan** to manage surface and groundwater resources **with a regionalized approach**, to identify and community supply and demand needs.

## TODAY & TOMORROW

This is a multi-year conversation, and solutions will not be reached overnight. Our commitment to advocacy today is focused on ensuring Indiana agriculture is protected for generations to come.

## TAKING ACTION

INFB has been advocating for agriculture in the water quantity space and has taken the following steps to better educate our members by:

- Forming a water task force with two key goals:
  - Gaining clear understanding of Indiana's water supply and demand needs.
  - Creating thoughtful policy through conversations among industry, local elected officials, and state policy makers.
- Supporting the development of the updated 2014 water study spearheaded by the IN Chamber and INTERA.
- Bringing production agriculture's voice to the table as member of the Indiana Finance Authority Advisory Council, which is working to complete the Central IN and Wabash Headwaters studies.

## DOING MORE WITH LESS

Ag technology is ever evolving, and farmers are being more efficient and effective on fewer acres than ever before. It's imperative that Indiana enacts policies that protect the investments made by production agriculture and agriculture/food manufacturing to continue to fuel the future of our state.

## IRRIGATION IRRITATION

Widely misunderstood, ag irrigation across Indiana still only accounts for 3-6% of groundwater withdrawal use. Irrigation is limited seasonally, and highly dependent on weather conditions. Farmers run their irrigation equipment roughly 30-45 days of the year.

## FARMERS ARE GOOD STEWARDS

Farmers are good stewards of the land, and deeply committed to protecting the longevity of their farms and natural resources. Over-regulation on the essential act of watering crops and livestock puts a target on farmers who are already struggling with unstable market conditions and a farm economy on a downward trend.

The ag industry in **Indiana** is **COMPLEX & ESSENTIAL**, contributing an estimated **\$35.1 BILLION** to the state's economy.

For additional information on INFB's water advocacy efforts, please contact Caitlin Smith, associate director of public policy at [caitlin.smith@infb.org](mailto:caitlin.smith@infb.org).

INFB will continue to advocate for data that showcases the potential effects of water consumption across all industries to ensure sectors are not pivoted against each other in the debate of "consumptive" vs. "nonconsumptive" usage.