

# HOUSE BILL No. 1149

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 15-11.

**Synopsis:** Agricultural online portal. Requires the Indiana state department of agriculture (department) to establish and maintain an online portal on its website for the purposes of: (1) assisting users in the successful navigation of agricultural or related topics among various federal and state agencies; (2) providing a single source for users to access agricultural or related funding opportunities; (3) providing a searchable data base of available federal and state grants with information on eligibility and deadline criteria; and (4) providing regular updates to reflect changes in federal and state funding opportunities. Provides that the online portal shall include links to various federal and state websites. Requires that the online portal provide a series of regulatory checklists to assist users that are considering diversifying into new markets in the navigation of agricultural and related regulations and the avoidance of punitive enforcement actions before they arise. Requires that the online portal provide a one stop venue that will help connect users with responsive data visualization tools and technical assistance programming. Requires that the online portal include a link to provide users with ongoing updates on the status of certain lost farmland. Requires an updated report on certain lost farmland to be uploaded to the online portal every five years. Requires that the online portal include formal venues: (1) to collect comments from the public regarding federal regulations impacting Indiana's rural economy with the goal of assisting the state in providing vigorous advocacy on behalf of the public; and (2) where users may provide to the department reviews and feedback regarding the usefulness of the online portal.

**Effective:** July 1, 2025.

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January 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

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First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

# HOUSE BILL No. 1149

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning agriculture and animals.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 15-11-2-9 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
3 1, 2025]: **Sec. 9. (a) As used in this section, "user" includes:**  
4 (1) a rural community;  
5 (2) a farmer;  
6 (3) an agribusiness; or  
7 (4) any other individual or entity using the online portal  
8 established under this section for the purposes described in  
9 subsection (d).  
10 (b) The department shall establish an online portal on the  
11 department's website.  
12 (c) The department shall administer the online portal.  
13 (d) The purposes of the online portal shall be to:  
14 (1) assist users in the successful navigation of agricultural or  
15 related topics among various federal and state agencies;  
16 (2) provide a single source for users to access agricultural or  
17 related federal and state funding opportunities;



- 1           (3) provide a searchable data base of available federal and  
2           state grants with information on eligibility and deadline  
3           criteria; and  
4           (4) provide regular updates to reflect changes in federal and  
5           state funding opportunities.
- 6           (e) The online portal shall include links that will facilitate the  
7           navigation of the websites of various federal and state agencies,  
8           including the following:
- 9           (1) The United States Department of Agriculture.  
10          (2) The United States Department of Agriculture's Natural  
11          Resources Conservation Service.  
12          (3) The United States Environmental Protection Agency.  
13          (4) The department of environmental management established  
14          by IC 13-13-1-1.  
15          (5) The Indiana state board of animal health established by  
16          IC 15-17-3-1.  
17          (6) The office of state chemist (and by virtue of office, the  
18          state seed commissioner under IC 15-15-1-26) established by  
19          IC 15-16-2-24.  
20          (7) The office of community and rural affairs established by  
21          IC 4-4-9.7-4.  
22          (8) Any other federal or state agency, the interaction with  
23          which would be helpful to users.
- 24          (f) To accomplish the purposes described in subsection (d), the  
25          online portal shall do the following:
- 26          (1) Provide a series of regulatory checklists for users that are  
27          considering diversifying into new markets to assist users in:  
28                (A) the navigation of agricultural and related regulations;  
29                and  
30                (B) the avoidance of punitive enforcement actions before  
31                they arise.
- 32          (2) Assist users in collaborating with:  
33                (A) the Purdue University cooperative extension service;  
34                (B) the state climate office hosted by Purdue University;  
35                and  
36                (C) the United States Department of Agriculture;  
37          to create a one stop venue that will help connect users with  
38          responsive data visualization tools and technical assistance  
39          programming.
- 40          (3) Provide a one stop venue where users may gather  
41          information regarding, and apply for, available federal and  
42          state agricultural and related funding opportunities.



1           **(4) Include a link to provide users with ongoing updates on the**  
 2           **status of land that was identified as lost farmland included in**  
 3           **the department's inventory of lost farmland, and as reported**  
 4           **by the department, under IC 15-11-9-1.1 (before its**  
 5           **expiration) or IC 15-11-9-1.3.**

6           **(5) Include a formal venue to collect comments from the**  
 7           **public regarding federal regulations that impact Indiana's**  
 8           **rural economy with the goal of assisting the state in providing**  
 9           **vigorous advocacy on behalf of the public.**

10          **(6) Include a formal venue where users may provide to the**  
 11          **department reviews and feedback regarding the usefulness of**  
 12          **the online portal.**

13          SECTION 2. IC 15-11-9-1.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
 14          AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 15          1, 2025]: Sec. 1.3. (a) As used in this section, "farmland" refers to  
 16          property described in IC 14-22-11-1(a)(2).

17          (b) Beginning in 2029, and every fifth year thereafter, before  
 18          November 1, after the most current release of the United States  
 19          Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics  
 20          Service's Census of Agriculture, the department shall:

21               (1) conduct an inventory of all farmland lost in Indiana  
 22               during the five (5) years following the department's prior  
 23               report; and

24               (2) identify the primary cause of the reduction of farmland  
 25               under subdivision (1).

26          (c) After conducting each inventory under subsection (b), the  
 27          department shall issue a report to the legislative council containing  
 28          the department's findings and recommendations, including any  
 29          recommended legislation, in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6  
 30          before November 1 of the year in which the inventory is conducted.  
 31          Within thirty (30) days after issuing the report required under this  
 32          subsection to the legislative council, the department shall upload  
 33          the report to the online portal.

