



**Indiana Soybean Alliance  
Membership & Policy Committee  
Public Policy Positions**

**Adopted December 16, 2015**

## **A. General Agriculture Policy**

1. Support the Indiana State Department of Agriculture as a state agency.
2. Support expanded promotion and research for new uses of soybeans and soybean products.
3. Support the development and approval of biotechnology-enhanced crop varieties and products which will benefit farmers, consumers, and the environment.
4. Support increased funding for agricultural and food research.
5. Support the coordination and funding of education programs with Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, FFA, 4-H, and vocational agriculture programs.
6. Support education programs that increase consumer knowledge of modern agriculture practices.
7. Support fully funding the Indiana Grain Buyers & Warehouse Licensing Agency and maintaining its position inside the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.
8. Support a strong Grain Buyer and Warehouse Licensing law to protect farmers and the Indiana Grain Indemnity Fund.
9. Oppose any state or federal legislation or regulation that would jeopardize state grain indemnity funds and/or merchandising regulations.
10. Support adequate notification of any proposed changes in state or federal warehousing and merchandising regulations before changes are enacted in statute or regulation.
11. Support state and federal commodity checkoff programs.
12. Support sound science and economic research in the taxation of Indiana farmland and oppose legislation which disproportionately burdens farm owners.
13. Support deficit reduction and spending cuts as long as they do not disproportionately impact farmers and farm programs.
14. Oppose efforts to tax products used in the direct production of soybeans.
15. Support a Farm Bill which provides effective risk management tools for farmers.
16. Support public private partnerships to implement federal programs impacting soybean farmers in the most effective manner.
17. Support food safety efforts to maintain a safe and plentiful food supply.
18. Support all food, feed, and environmental safety be coordinated through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
19. Support a voluntary national standard for labeling of genetically-modified (GM) food products and oppose any Indiana-specific GM food labeling legislation.
20. Support immigration legislation to provide a sufficient work force for Indiana farmers, agribusiness, and the food supply chain.
21. Support a federally-issued photo identification and fingerprint system that verifies and tracks an immigrant's employment status, payment of taxes and removes the burden of proving legal status from the employer.
22. Oppose Indiana-specific immigration laws which would put farmers and agribusiness at a disadvantage.
23. Oppose policies limiting the type of work minors can perform on family farms.

## **B. Energy Policy**

1. Support policies supporting competitive alternative energy sources in the production of electricity.
2. Support a Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) that reflects the expansion of the renewable fuels industry for biodiesel.
3. Support a bio-based buying preference for federal, state and local government entities.
4. Support policies encouraging all diesel fuel and diesel-powered vehicles use biodiesel or a biodiesel blend.
5. Work in support of legislation for biofuel production incentives.
6. Support production of biodiesel fuel using domestic feedstocks, with the final product meeting ASTM standards.
7. Support funding for research and development of more efficient biodiesel.
8. Support requiring the use of biofuels and lubricants by federal, state, and local government-owned vehicles.
9. Support misfueling liability immunity for fuel retailers selling properly labeled biodiesel blends.

## **C. Environmental Policy**

1. Support state and federal domestic environmental policies based on sound science and economic impact.
2. Encourage regulators and government agencies to use sound science in environmental review processes for soybeans, livestock, biodiesel, and aquaculture production.
3. Support the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) as the environmental authority for grain and livestock production.
4. Support environmental regulations including incentives for farmer compliance instead of penalties for non-compliance.
5. Support voluntary conservation practices to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.
6. Support voluntary federal conservation programs that protect environmentally sensitive land.
7. Support government conservation programs available for soybean farmers that reward them for best management practices used in farming operations.
8. Support a policy of requiring development of best management practices to have input from agricultural professionals including farmers and farm managers.
9. Oppose any rule or legislation expanding the definition of “navigable” or expanding jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under the Clean Water Act.
10. Oppose regulatory or legislative extension of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements to Indiana farmland.
11. Support agriculture’s fair and open right to sustainably access and use groundwater and surface water in an environmentally sound manner.

12. Oppose mandatory air quality standards for ozone and agricultural particulate matter.
13. Support continued availability and use of environmentally sound seed treatments.
14. Support voluntary measures to establish habitats for pollinators through conservation.
15. Support voluntary optimization of nutrient use and oppose legislative and regulatory efforts to control nutrient use not based on sound science.
16. Agriculture should not be subject to greenhouse gas emission caps established in Climate Change legislation or regulation.
17. Oppose labeling of animal manure as a hazardous waste.
18. Oppose legislation or regulations restricting the responsible use of animal manure as fertilizer.

#### **D. Livestock & Aquaculture Policy**

1. Support policies to continue responsible expansion of the Indiana livestock industry (including red meat and poultry) and aquatic feeding operations for greater use of Indiana soybeans and soybean products.
2. Support responsible livestock producers who face unwarranted challenges by individuals or organizations through local, state and federal zoning, permitting, regulatory, or legislative processes.
3. Support clear, consistent and reasonable science-based regulations and processes needed for the livestock and aquaculture industry to remain profitable.
4. Support policies and programs to promote increased domestic and international consumption of meat, poultry, fish and dairy products.
5. Support and encourage the responsible expansion of animal agriculture in a way that grows Indiana's value-added economy.
6. We encourage state and federal funding for research that would optimize the use of soybeans and soybean products in livestock and aquaculture feed.
7. Support full and adequate funding for the Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH).
8. Support the efforts of the livestock, poultry and aquaculture industries to vigorously oppose any initiatives that would limit the use of modern and accepted production practices as defined by BOAH.
9. Support BOAH oversight for animal care, husbandry, and disposal standards.
10. Oppose initiatives that create standards above sound veterinary science and best management standards.
11. Support federal programs like Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to upgrade and expand livestock facilities.

## **E. Trade Policy**

1. Support free trade agreements which assure the greatest possible opportunities for U.S. soybean farmers.
2. Support continued U.S. membership in the World Trade Organization and U.S. participation in WTO talks.
3. Oppose restrictions by the United States on the import of fairly-traded goods that may lead to retaliation by other nations against the export of U.S. soybeans and soybean products.
4. Support value-added export programs that include soybeans and soybean products in their production or composition to meet the changing needs of the market.
5. Oppose mandatory or voluntary Country of Origin Labeling laws which are not WTO compliant.
6. All imported agricultural products must meet the same food safety standards established by the U.S. government.
7. Support funding of federal market expansion programs like Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD).
8. Support responsibly opening trade with Cuba.

## **F. Transportation Policy**

1. Support efforts to improve and expand transportation for the movement of agricultural products by all forms of transportation.
2. Support increased local, state, and federal funding for the building and upgrading of rural roads and bridges.
3. Support funding for the modernization of the inland waterway transportation system.
4. Support appropriations for design and improvement of the waterway lock system.
5. Support monies deposited in the Inland Waterways Trust Fund be used for new construction and major rehabilitation of navigation infrastructure.
6. Support upgrading the rail transportation system.
7. Support federal legislation increasing weight limits on trucks to 91,000 lbs. or greater on six axles.
8. Oppose state or local actions enacting lower weight limits on primary roads without providing alternate routes.
9. Support legislation changing the Indiana gasoline tax formula to more fairly fund local roads and bridges.