

*from the desk of....*

**Greg Preston  
Director**

This issue of the 2004-2005 Indiana Agricultural Statistics provides the most accurate, reliable and unbiased data regarding Indiana's agricultural production. Indiana crop farmers should take pride in the fact that Indiana continues to rank near the top in the production of corn, soybeans, popcorn, tobacco, blueberries, peppermint, spearmint, processing tomatoes, and vegetables for processing. Actually, Indiana had a record soybean yield in 2004 that was also the highest soybean yield in the Nation. Indiana livestock producers helped put Indiana's rank at the top for hogs, chickens, eggs, and turkeys raised. This information is collected from farmers using surveys throughout the year. The voluntary response and cooperation of Indiana farmers, agricultural business firms, USDA Farm Services Agency County staff, Purdue University County Extension Staff, the NASDA Enumerators, and others across the state makes this bulletin possible. The Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service pledges confidentiality of all individual reports or business data.

We are pleased to again feature the photography talents of 25 individual 4-H members in Indiana's 2004-2005 Agricultural Statistics Annual Summary. These photographs, exhibited at the 2004 Indiana State Fair, provide a glimpse of the wide variety of Indiana's agriculture. We are grateful to all of the 4-H members who submitted their photos for publication.

This is the 79th edition, which documents Indiana Agriculture in 2004, and is published by the cooperative efforts of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service and Purdue University Agricultural Research Programs. The Federal/University cooperative partnership has existed since 1925 and continues to enhance agricultural research programs with State specific statistical projects. Some of those projects include Timber Price Survey, Fruit Acreage, Soybean Growers, Corn Ear Rot & Mycotoxin Analysis, Soybean Phytophthora Root Rot & Cyst Nematode Sampling, and Grain Marketing Analysis. Results of these special research efforts are mostly published by the individual research programs and generally not a part of this publication.

Sincerely,

Greg Preston  
Director

