

from the desk of....

**Greg Preston
Director**

I am pleased to present the annual, "Indiana Agricultural Statistics", for the 2008-2009 issue. This is the 83rd edition and is published by the cooperative efforts of Purdue University and USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

This cooperative effort has existed since 1925 and continues to reinforce the opportunity to enhance agricultural research programs with State specific statistical projects to support agricultural researchers and decision makers. Some of those projects include Timber Price Survey, Corn-after Corn Management Survey, 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 published by the individual research programs. Even though these results are not a part of this publication please feel free to contact us for reference to those researchers for additional information.

This year's edition includes results from the 2007 Census of Agriculture which provides a 1974-2007 historical perspective for major data items and updated county level data in the County Highlights Section. The Indiana Agricultural Statistics Annual Summary provides you with a complete snapshot of Indiana's agriculture. Indiana's deep agricultural roots and long time farming tradition have provided a firm foundation for Agri-business growth in this state. Indiana agriculture continues to be a growing segment of the states economy, with Indiana ranked in the top ten nationally for farm receipts. Hoosier farmers should take pride in the fact that even with rising production expenses during 2008, Indiana farmers generated a record high \$10.0 billion in cash receipts.

The agricultural industry increasingly has a need for accurate, reliable and unbiased information and data. This information is used to provide facts to decision makers that determine the future of Indiana's agricultural industry. The goal for this publication remains unchanged. It is to provide the public with data to help them understand the current situation of Indiana's farming community and future opportunities. We strive to exceed this goal.

Indiana continues to rank near the top nationally in the production of corn, soybeans, popcorn, blueberries, peppermint, spearmint, processing tomatoes, and vegetables for processing. Indiana livestock producers put our state's rank at the top for hogs, chickens, eggs, and turkeys raised. The information in this annual summary 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 Annual Summary possible. The Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service pledges confidentiality of all individual reports and business data. We take every action necessary to ensure this pledge is upheld.

We are again pleased to feature the photography talents of 21 individual 4-H members within Indiana's 2008-2009 Agricultural Statistics Annual Summary. These photographs, exhibited at the 2008 Indiana State Fair, provide a glimpse of Indiana's agriculture from future farmers' perspective. We are grateful to all of the 4-H members who submitted their photos for publication.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the agricultural community with timely, accurate, and unbiased information. Please let us know your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Greg Preston
Director
USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office

