

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**INDIANA’S FAMILY OF FARMERS CELEBRATE BEING EVERYDAY ENVIRONMENTALISTS  
AT EARTH DAY INDIANA 2010**

**INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.** (April 20, 2010) – Indiana’s Family of Farmers are exhibiting at Earth Day Indiana 2010 on Saturday, April 24, 2010, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at White River State Park at 801 W. Washington St., Indianapolis.

“As stewards of our environment, we have always been aware that nurturing and protecting our farms and the products we grow is in the best interests of all our families and the communities in which we live,” said Heather Hill, a farmer from Greenfield, Ind.

The first Earth Day was held in 1970. It began as a way to position environmental concerns at the forefront of American policy discussions. Enthusiasm has grown over the years as more people search for ways to become everyday environmentalists.

“Earth Day is a great way to remind everyone that being environmentally conscious and tending to the earth respectfully is the best way to provide sustainable methods of growing healthy food for our future,” added Lynn Teel, a farmer from Chalmers, Ind.

Among the many exhibits on display on behalf of **Indiana’s Family of Farmers** is an activity your youngsters will not want to miss! Thanks to the Marion County Young Farmers, your kids will learn how to grow sweet corn in CowPots – manure-fiber based seed starter pots that allow for unrestricted root growth – resulting in stronger, healthier plants. You sow the seeds, plant the pots and harvest the crop.

In addition to the kids’ activities, farmers – Indiana’s *everyday environmentalists* – will sponsor informational booths about the sustainability of Indiana agriculture as well as offer information about Indiana agricultural products. The Biofuels Mobile Learning Center will be there courtesy of Indiana soybean and corn farmers.

For more information about the free Earth Day Indiana 2010 event on April 24, visit [www.earthdayindiana.org](http://www.earthdayindiana.org)

For more information about the organizations represented by Indiana’s Family of Farmers, visit <http://www.farmersfeedus.org/in>

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Following are some Fun Facts from **Indiana’s Family of Farmers** about sustainability and environmental stewardship practices accomplished right here in Indiana:

- ★ Pork producers have worked with state and federal regulatory agencies to develop and present environmental workshops for more than 5,000 producers throughout the nation. These cooperative and educational efforts have improved operational efficiency while protecting the environment for future generations.
- ★ Cattlemen also are recyclers, raising their animals on the abundant source of grains available in this country and then turning the manure into natural fertilizers
- ★ Between 1987 and 2007, corn farmers have reduced soil loss per bushel of corn by 69 percent and land use per bushel of corn by 37 percent.
- ★ Soybean farmers are planting biotech crops like soybeans that are resistant to herbicides. This allows farmers to come close to eliminating plowing on their fields. The resulting environmental benefits include better soil health and conservation, improved water retention, decreased soil erosion and decreased herbicide runoff.
- ★ Indiana farmers using biotech crops have contributed to the elimination of 379 million pounds of pesticide applications globally.
- ★ Of the 65,000 dairy farms in America today, most are smaller farms with less than 200 cows. The vast majority of U.S. farms – big and small – are family owned and operated.
- ★ One benefit of fertilizing the soil with cow manure is to help conserve water. When manure is used as a soil treatment, the water-holding capacity of soil is increased by 20 percent, resulting in reduced groundwater needed to grow crops.

**Indiana's Family of Farmers** includes the following organizations:

Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Indiana Farm Bureau

Indiana Pork

Indiana Soybean Alliance

Indiana Corn Marketing Council

Indiana Beef Cattle Association

Milk Promotion Services of Indiana

Indiana Sheep Association

Indiana State Poultry Association

Additional Links:

For a link to the organizations above, visit <http://www.farmersfeedus.org/in>

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