



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor  
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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *Local Economic Development Program Looks at Agriculture*

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture has brought the Agricultural Economic Development Initiative to Switzerland County. Successfully piloted in 2005 in Southwest Indiana, the Initiative is being rolled out across Indiana.

“Agricultural development is an important part of Governor Daniels’ efforts to revitalize Indiana’s economy,” said Indiana Agriculture Director Andy Miller. “This successful agricultural economic development program will enhance local efforts to keep agriculture a vital component of each economy. Through this Initiative, we have repeatedly discovered that when you put local leaders in the same room with the same goal of improving their local economy, great things start happening.”

The Agricultural Economic Development Initiative is a three-level program. The initiative brings together city planners, farmers, economic development leaders, elected officials and agribusinesses to collaborate on economic development opportunities that capitalize on local, regional and statewide strengths. First, at the county level, the program helps local leaders determine the most strategic opportunities for growing the agricultural sector in their communities. Next, regional groups look at opportunities that can build in other county and local strengths. Finally, a statewide advisory committee connects the activities of the entire initiative.

Switzerland County has finalized their plan to incorporate agriculture into their economic development plans. Their county strategies include:

- **Diversification:** identify and pursue present and future financially viable alternative agriculture opportunities, products and services while retaining the uniqueness of Switzerland County.
- **Food Processing:** attract more local producers of small livestock, poultry and aquaculture by securing funding for a processing facility and support resources.
- **Introduce the Switzerland County Agriculture Economic Development plan to the citizens,** elected officials and other interested parties at the FFA Community Breakfast on April 21, 2007.

“Agribusiness is a central part of Switzerland County’s Economic Development Strategy,” said Jon Bond, of the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation. “The AEDI project brought people together who do not normally meet on a regular basis, and it was a big help to our efforts to make agriculture in Switzerland County more profitable.”

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