

Powerful Combo: Ag and Innovation

Agriculture is at the very roots of our state – and country’s – history. And while it will never enjoy the overall economic dominance it once held, don’t try diminishing its importance to any of the thousands of farmers and their families who work the land across the state.

Innovation is at the forefront of today’s business conversations. Create the next big thing – and do it better, smarter and faster than the competition. That applies to products and services, as well as new organizations that evolve from start-ups to standouts.



The agriculture legacy and the promise of innovation are not exclusive of each other. The cover depiction of drones flying over a farmer’s field is a fast-approaching reality and an area of unquestioned future growth.

This issue’s *Indiana Vision 2025* section on Dynamic and Creative Culture, with innovation in the spotlight, features:

- Drones and the next steps for Indiana despite not being selected as a federal testing site
- Velocity Indiana, a promising southeastern Indiana accelerator and co-working initiative
- Launch Indiana, building on the success of Launch Fishers and seeking to connect more entrepreneurs to the resources they need
- A one-on-one conversation with Kent Parker, an Indiana native who is back home part-time after a successful career

On the agricultural front, we focus on the continuing economic impact of the industry. We also highlight two intriguing stories:

- Twin brothers Ted and Tom McKinney, the former the current leader of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the latter a seventh-generation family farmer
- Beck’s Hybrids, which continues its expansion of what is already the largest family-owned seed business in the country

The Indiana Chamber communications team recently earned four Indiana Society of Professional Journalism awards and two national APEX honors, bringing the *BizVoice*® total to 69 national and state honors since 1999. Your comments and suggestions on magazine stories and future topics are most welcome and appreciated.

Thank you, as always, for reading *BizVoice*.

Kevin M. Brinegar
President and CEO



Indiana Chamber Mission:

Cultivate a world-class environment which provides economic opportunity and prosperity for the people of Indiana and their enterprises.



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