

## **News Release**

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## **USDA Temporarily Restricting In-Person Appointments in Service Centers**

Indianapolis, Indiana, November 30, 2020 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is temporarily restricting in-person visits for numerous Service Centers in INDIANA because of elevated rates of coronavirus community spread, but USDA employees will continue to assist agricultural producers with programs and services.

USDA is using a phased, data-driven approach to determine which Service Centers are open for in-person appointments. Field work, including conservation planning assistance, will continue with appropriate social distancing.

"While many of our Service Centers across Indiana will be physically closed to visitors, we remain open for business," said Steven Brown, State Executive Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Indiana. Added Jerry Raynor, State Conservationist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Indiana: "Throughout the pandemic, our work with producers has continued and we remain committed to serving our customers."

All USDA Service Centers are for open for business, and Service Center staff members from FSA and NRCS will continue to work with producers by phone, email, and digital tools like Microsoft Teams, Box, and OneSpan. Producers can learn more about how to leverage these digital offerings by visiting <a href="https://www.farmers.gov/mydocs">https://www.farmers.gov/mydocs</a>.

Producers wishing to conduct business with the FSA, NRCS, or any other Service Center agency should call ahead to confirm and schedule appointments. More information on Service Center status can be found at <a href="https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status">https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status</a>, and contact information for local Service Centers is available at <a href="https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator">https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator</a>.