

# AGVOCACYCOALITIONS

SUSTAINING AGRICULTURE'S LEGACY,  
LEADING THE FUTURE OF RURAL ENERGY

## 2025 REPORT

*This report highlights the 2025 key activities  
and accomplishments of Agvocracy Coalitions:  
IN-CLIMATE and IN-ACRE.*

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Welcome to our annual summer report for Agvocracy Coalitions. You'll notice some exciting changes, transitions, and new programs in these pages as our team Agvocracy Coalitions continues to evolve with the needs of rural Indiana and the work we do to maintain both agriculture's legacy and support the growing rural energy economy. This year has been, well, interesting, and we all recognize that the challenges in bringing stakeholders together, and often those with divergent viewpoints, is a critical element of progress. Yet, progress has pain points and takes time to establish a good cadence for development that respects tradition and feeds the need to fuel us all. We are grateful for the part we play in convening and facilitating the dialog to bring prosperity to our home state. Thank you for those who support us with resources both financial and with expertise and engagement!

*Sarah Beth Aubrey*

**Sarah Beth Aubrey**

Founder



## KEY INITIATIVES AND METRICS

AgVocacy Coalitions has four major performance areas for 2025 & 2026.  
Below is a short report description on the 2026 goals and measurements.

1

### **Continued Farmer and Indiana Landowner Mobilization**

#### *A. Launch the new Rural Land Use Council (R-LUC).*

Description: Establish R-LUC by engaging 4 distinct stakeholders: farmers, local elected officials, renewable developers, and traditional agriculture companies through a quarterly roundtable program.

Metric: engage as attendees and panelists more than 100 farmers through the R-LUC.

**\*\* This was launched in November 2025 with 60 in attendance.**

#### *B. Engage more (net new) organizations*

Description: Focus on building more strategic partnerships to leverage dollars and other resources.

Metric: Engage 5 new traditional ag organizations and 5 new additional collaborative partners.

2

### **2026 Goal: Peer-to-Peer Learning Opportunities for Landowners with Local Elected Officials**

#### *A. Continue special meet-up opportunities during events and online with introductions.*

Description: Create engagement opportunities for farmers and elected officials to discuss real concerns and questions and allow farmers with existing renewable projects to share their perspectives low-pressure, peer learning environment.

Metric: Increase number of these events from four in 2025 to eight in 2026.

3

### **2026 Goal: Continue Increased Focus on Local Community Leaders and Siting**

#### *A. Expand our specific county presence and engagement from eight to fifteen counties.*

Description: Use our network and 'ears to the ground' with landowners to find and attend specific county meetings and other engagement opportunities to support siting of renewable energy projects and farmer advocacy.

Metric: Track number of Megawatts within county and project areas worked, track number of local elected officials met with and specifically engaged on issues with our grower and landowner members.

4

### **2026 Goal: Conduct High Impact Events and Demonstrate Advocacy**

#### *A. Participate in Rural Energy Tours, R-STEP Collaboration Events, R-LUC Roundtables.*

Description: Continue to be a leader in convening stakeholders within the state and specifically around counties where more support for siting is needed by hosting and attending important events and bringing landowners to these events.

Metric: Increase landowner attendance at all events by 25 percent, participate in two more statehouse days, attend five more outreach events that are net new.





# INCLIMATE SUMMIT 2025

We pride ourselves on being able to pivot bringing the most important and relevant opportunities for dialog to the table for Indiana’s climate conversation. We hosted two IN-CLIMATE events this year. The first in February was our Emerging Energy Series Webinar, a conversation with Indigo Ag where we discussed tax credits and the quickly shifting priorities at the federal level and how they will affect opportunities for biofuels and carbon credits. This was an updated session based on a roundtable we hosted with 25 leaders on the same topic during the December 2024 Indiana Farm Bureau Convention.



Summit 2025 was transformed into a smaller event of 60 people by private invitation hosted at Indiana Farm Bureau on June 24, 2025. We opted to move away from the broad summit concept and instead focus on the most pressing issue facing us today - rural land use and energy project siting. See the full report on page three.



# SUMMIT 2025 & WHAT'S NEXT

## 2025 IN-CLIMATE Session Overview:


The 2025 IN-CLIMATE Summit became the Rural Land Use Roundtable co-presented by Indiana Farm Bureau. This event was the first of its kind to bring together 4 essential stakeholder types to the discussion of emerging energy and siting issues taking place in rural Indiana. **We convened:**

- **Local elected officials**
- **Farmers and rural land owners**
- **Renewable energy developers**
- **Ag and energy organizations and companies**

The result was a 60-person event for one-half day that left people feeling strongly that we had finally begun to open the dialog in a very productive way. We hosted the Indiana Secretary of Energy as an opening speaker and then focused on 3 panels, each representing and clearly sharing their goals and challenges to forge ahead with energy siting in rural Indiana. This event will now become the actual rebrand of IN-CLIMATE into the Rural Land Use Council. See page 8 for the details of this new roundtable series.

## Future Events & Initiatives – Agvocracy Coalitions

- Rural Land Use Council – Launches November 13, 2025
- Winter 2026 Farmer Sustainability Tour
- WISE Winter Sustainability Tour & Forum – Puerto Rico – February 9-12, 2026
- Winter 2026 Roundtable & Workshop
- Educational Workshops – in-person & online
- **Learn more at [www.agvocracycoalitions.com](http://www.agvocracycoalitions.com)**



### Land Use Summit: Balancing Ag and Energy

hosted by Indiana Farm Bureau

**Wednesday, June 25**  
**8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
 225 South East Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202

**Due to space constraints, this event is invite only. Please reach out to Caitlin Smith (INFB, Director of Policy Engagement) at 260-341-2343 or at [caitlin.smith@infb.org](mailto:caitlin.smith@infb.org) with any questions.**

**8:30 a.m. – Welcome & Introduction**, Sarah Beth Aubrey

**8:45 a.m. – Opening Remarks**, Suzie Jaworowski, Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources

**9:00 a.m. – Current and Future Energy Demands in Indiana**

- A developer led panel that focuses on the state's current energy climate including challenges and anticipating future needs



**9:45 a.m. – Finding Balance in Local Control**

- Discussion around Indiana's current regulatory climate and a deeper dive into how communities choose what's best for them

**10:30 a.m. – Impact on Hoosier Farmers**

- A farmer lead discussion around preserving Indiana's agriculture heritage while finding solutions to help meet Indiana's energy needs

**11:15 a.m. – Closing Comments**



## 2025 Highlights

In 2025, IN-ACRE advanced its mission to connect, educate, and empower members across Indiana through high-impact events:

- **Peer-to-Peer Networking:** Three sessions in June and July fostered knowledge sharing and collaboration, connecting local elected officials with farmers in dedicated networking spaces.
- **Indiana Energy Tours:** Participants visited AES to see battery storage and solar in action and Homestead Dairy to experience on-farm solar and a biodigester firsthand.
- **Online Learning Sessions:**
  - **Solar United Neighbors (SUN) – July 16:** Showcased successful grassroots strategies for engaging landowners in community solar projects.
  - **Online Session:** Sarah Beth Aubrey provided practical tools for sustainable agriculture and energy projects, with a focus on effective messaging for renewable energy initiatives.
- **Membership:** IN-ACRE, a free coalition of landowners, farmers, and rural residents, added 40 new members this summer.
- **R-STEP:** IN-ACRE participated in the R-STEP collaboration hosted by Purdue University through a U.S. Department of Energy grant.

***These initiatives strengthened IN-ACRE's network, amplified the voice of farmers in renewable energy discussions, and positioned the coalition as a leader in advancing rural energy across Indiana.***

## 2025 Engagement

### Advocacy:

IN-ACRE participated in multiple statehouse days during the 2025 Indiana General Assembly session, including sponsoring the Indiana Renewable Energy Day at the Statehouse and attending the Indiana Farm Bureau breakfast, the Agribusiness Council of Indiana event, and the Indiana corn/Indiana Soy association breakfast. We also do advocacy work during the Indiana State Fair during the Ham Breakfast kick off and as a participant in Indiana Renewable Energy Day.



### Public Advocacy:

Represented IN-ACRE at Jasper County Energy Task Force meetings.

### Thought Leadership:

Submitted two op-eds and presented at the IU Sustainability and Resilience Summit.

### Local Siting Work

IN-ACRE is expanding its presence in local siting discussions through participation in the Rural Land Use Council, speaking at events, and attending numerous county meetings. Counties engaged include: Jasper, Montgomery, Boone, Madison, and Hamilton.





# 2025 ENGAGEMENT CONTINUED



## Farmer Mobilization

Indiana Farmer and Rancher Ag Issues Press Conference

Co-hosted with Indiana Conservation Voters | Moderated by Kent Yeager (formerly of Senator Donnelly's office and Indiana Farm Bureau)

Date: November 5, 2025

We mobilized 15 ag producers statewide to join a live press conference over Zoom with reporters, sharing perspectives on energy, land use, and concerns with today's ag economy. Producers presented statements and took questions from reporters, moderated by Mr. Yeager. We expect to continue bringing these kinds of opportunities together.



## Social Media Outreach

Engaged audiences via LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook with polls and Statehouse-focused posts.



## Collaborations

We value collaborations, partnerships, and group memberships as a way to stay engaged, share our work on advancing rural energy, and strengthen collaborative impact. In 2025, we are proud members of:

- Rural Climate Partnership and Siting Roundtable
- ROOTS Energy Group
- Regenerative Agriculture Alliance
- PACT (Platform for Climate Ag)
- Local Indiana Energy Siting Table
- FACA (Food and Agriculture Alliance)



## Funding and Support

As IN-ACRE is a free membership meant to bring land owners and farmers into the energy conversation, our work relies entirely on funding from various sources. We seek funding through philanthropic sources and secondarily through sponsorship of events and some ticket sales. The IN-ACRE team wishes to express sincere gratitude for funding from our continuous partners and is always eager to speak to new organizations wishing to develop this work and impact in Indiana!





# INDIANA ENERGY TOURS

## Homestead Dairy Tour – June 26

The Homestead Dairy Tour showcased on-farm renewable energy innovations. Participants visited this family-owned dairy to see solar installations and a biodigester converting dairy manure into energy. During a two-hour session, local elected leaders, state officials, and farmers engaged with the Rogers Family, asking questions and witnessing renewable energy production firsthand. The tour highlighted practical, scalable examples of agriculture contributing to clean energy. Many thanks to the Rogers Family for hosting!

## AES Tour – July 9

The AES tour provided insight into large-scale utility energy generation and emerging energy technologies. The visit began with a panel discussion on how traditional utilities are adapting to evolving energy demands, followed by a tour of AES's battery generation facility, demonstrating how energy is stored and distributed to support grid reliability. The tour highlighted the intersection of traditional utility operations with new energy solutions. Thanks to the AES team and Jeff Cummins for coordinating!





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## **Thank You to Our Sponsoring & Partner Organizations**

- AES Indiana
- American Farmland Trust
- Advantage Renewables
- Center for Energy Education
- Corteva Agriscience
- Drive Clean Indiana
- Energy Systems Network
- Farm to Power
- Hoosier Solar
- HSI Solar
- Indigo Ag
- Indiana Conservation Voters
- Indiana Conservative Alliance for Energy
- Indiana Ethanol Producers Association
- Indiana Farm Bureau
- Indiana Land Preservation
- Joe Horstman, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance
- Land & Liberty
- Lochmueller Group
- Midwest Hemp Council
- NIPSCO
- Rural Climate Partnership
- Solar United Neighbors
- Sunovis Ranch
- The Nature Conservancy
- Vault 44.01

These partnerships enhance our ability to advance sustainable energy solutions, foster knowledge sharing, and drive meaningful progress in rural communities.



# LAUNCHING FALL 2025: THE RURAL LAND USE COUNCIL



## About The Rural Land Use Council

Land use and infrastructure siting are defining the future of rural communities. Launching in November 2025, the Rural Land Use Council unites developers, farmers, trade groups, and local officials to foster dialogue, influence policy, and advance sustainable rural development. ***First In-Person Meeting: November 2025 — Indianapolis. Be part of the solution—join the Council and help drive the decisions that will shape Indiana’s rural future. Learn how to get involved—[download the flyer!](#)***



## Who Should Join?

- Energy project developers (renewables, battery storage, carbon sequestration, etc.)
- Farmers and landowners shaping the future of their land
- Agricultural trade groups and ag-support companies
- Local elected officials involved in land use decisions
- Other stakeholders considered on a case-by-case basis



## Membership Benefits

- Priority access to research, briefings, and legislative updates
- A seat at the table for coordinated planning and policy input
- Ongoing strategy sessions to support project adoption and landowner engagement
- Exclusive networking with key players shaping Indiana’s rural future
- **Download our flyer now to join the Rural Land Use Council!**







## The WISE & Corteva Agriscience Second Annual Summer Conference - June 24, 2025

The second annual Summer Conference, hosted by The WISE and Corteva Agriscience, brought 27 attendees together for a day of insights, innovation, and direct engagement with leaders driving sustainability.

### Event Highlights:

- Exclusive Guided Tour: Explored Corteva's headquarters and sustainability initiatives in action.
- Executive Insights: Leaders shared firsthand perspectives on advancing agricultural sustainability.
- Networking: Connected with peers and industry leaders to foster collaboration and innovation.



### Featured Speakers

#### Robin Jenkins

Climate Strategy Program Leader,  
Corteva Agriscience

#### Paige Oliver

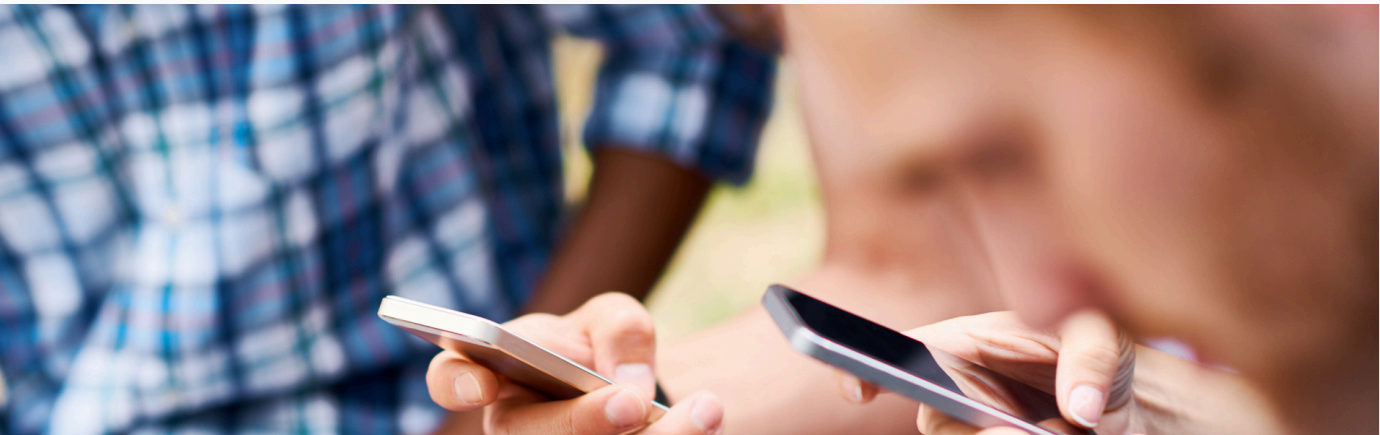
R&D Sustainability Lead,  
Corteva Agriscience

#### Cody Reyes

Procurement Sustainability Manager,  
Corteva Agriscience

#### Aly Wells

Biodiversity Program Lead,  
Corteva Agriscience



## SOCIAL MEDIA & OUTREACH IMPACT

In 2025, AgVocacy Coalitions significantly expanded its digital presence, leveraging social media as a key driver of growth and visibility.

### Highlights

- Expanded supply chain reach through targeted campaigns.
- Promoted the Second Annual WISE Conference and increased IN-CLIMATE Summit sponsorship.
- Built a diverse network of sponsors and speakers, enhancing event credibility.
- Boosted visibility with sponsor spotlights and custom graphics.
- Launched ticket sales and promotions via redesigned website.
- Participated in key industry events and panels, including **Sustainable Manufacturing Expo, Solar Grazing Summit, Regenerative Agriculture Conference, Fair Oaks Energy Tour, Northeastern REMC, Solar Siting Table for the Rural Climate Partnership, Roots Clean Energy (ROOTS) Group, Federal Agriculture Committee Advisory (FACA) membership, R-STEP, and Women in Green Breakfast sponsored by the US Green Building Council.**
- Leveraged social media campaigns to strengthen sponsor relationships and extend AgVocacy's cross-industry reach.

### Team Members



#### Jayden Simpson | Policy and Coalitions Engagement Intern

Jayden, a rising senior at Purdue University studying Agricultural Economics with a concentration in Policy and Pre-Law, was instrumental in organizing the Summit, engaging sponsors and speakers, and managing daily social media campaigns.



#### Marketing Specialist

Our Marketing Specialist leads digital media strategy across the coalitions, managing website features, coordinating campaigns, and driving social media and content efforts to expand AgVocacy's reach and visibility.