

MEMORANDUM

Subject: EDC Agriculture and Food Sector Strategies

Whitley County has a rich history of farming and agricultural production. The EDC's mission is to grow the overall economy and we continue to work on diversifying the industrial sector, which accounts for the majority of the wages and GDP. A key strategy for us is to increase the significance of Agribusiness and here is the approach:

Support and Expand Existing Companies

- Production: Numerous small to moderate livestock production facilities
- Supply Chain: Farmers Grain; Ag Plus
- Niche: Eel River Bison; Bee Great; Lunar Infusions
- Processing: Integrity Meats; Sugar Creek
- Promote WC Farmers Market

Attraction Targets & Opportunities

- Indoor vertical farming
- Food and Beverage facilities
- Agri Tourism
- Farm to Fork initiatives
- Sustainable initiatives

Education

- Support the WCCS and Whitko Career Academy
 - Agri Business Management Instructor
- Purdue University
 - Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Advisory Committee
 - Whitley County Extension
- Huntington and Grace program support

Associations

- FFA; Scholarship support
- 4 H Involvement

Government/ Advocacy

- Communicate with local and state elected officials to keep them informed on our efforts
- WC Farm Bureau liaison
- FSA office liaison

Entrepreneurship

- Encourage Agri start-ups
 - Small Grant Competition