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Ag is community asset

As March turns into April, I am reminded of the fact that we are heading into a busy season for a successful business cluster in Boone County. The agricultural business cluster is one of many fast growing and innovative business clusters in our county, and the agricultural community will soon come out of winter planning mode and head into a busy spring and summer production cycle.

I want to take this time to say thank you to the business people that make our agricultural businesses prosperous and remind everyone that farming is in fact one of the most important business clusters in the Indianapolis Metropolitan Region.

The agricultural industry remains a strong and growing sector in Boone County and annually pumps millions of dollars into the local economy through capital investment and revenues from production. The family farmer is more likely to spend most of their revenue locally and



**DAX
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Boone EDC

build a supply chain network within a 50-mile radius of their businesses.

One of Boone County's competitive advantages is our ag-urban setting. We should all be proud to claim an agricultural business cluster that continues to thrive and play an important role in the economic success of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Region while being located only minutes from the heart of the 13th largest city in the country. Boone County ranks in the top 10 annually in

Soybean and Corn production and companies dedicated to agricultural research and best practice development are thriving here in our county. Central Indiana's agricultural history and strength has attracted companies such as Dow Agro-Science, Monsanto,

Remington Seeds, Ag-Reliant and many more to our region. We need to thank our family farmers for assisting us with the attraction of these companies because of their continuing efforts to find innovative methods to maintain the strength of the agricultural business sector in our region.

The Boone County EDC has recently energized our Ag Task Force and is in the process of completing an Ag Resume for Boone County. The will be used as a tool to educate the public and market our county and region to ag-related businesses around the world. This May the EDC and partners will kick off the Inaugural Boone County Ag

Roundtable. The Ag Roundtable will bring together a diverse group of elected and civic leaders, planners, educators and students who have a common appreciation for agriculture as an economic driver in ag-urban settings. I am excited about the growing relationship between the Boone EDC and the agricultural community and believe this relationship will assist with our mission to grow a healthy and sustainable economy in Boone County.

The next time you find yourself behind a slow moving piece of farm equipment while driving on one of our many state highways or county roads, remember that those wheels are the wheels of a successful industry turning. Be cautious and patient and you will likely find yourself on the receiving end of a warm smile and friendly wave from one of the many agricultural business sector CEOs that are out there keeping the Boone County economy healthy and fed.