



University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

An Agricultural Law Research Project

## **States' Right-To-Farm Statutes**

**State of Indiana**

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## States' Right-to-Farm Statutes

### STATE OF INDIANA

Ind. Code §§ 32-30-6-1 to 32-30-6-1.5, 32-30-6-6 to 32-30-6-9.5,  
32-30-6-11

*Current with all legislation effective July 1, 2018.*

#### **32-30-6-1 “Agricultural operation” defined**

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, “agricultural operation” includes any facility used for the production of crops, livestock, poultry, livestock products, poultry products, or horticultural products or for growing timber.

#### **32-30-6-1.5 “Forestry operation” defined**

Sec. 1.5. As used in this chapter, “forestry operation” includes facilities, activities, and equipment used to plant, raise, manage, harvest, and remove trees on private land. The term includes site preparation, fertilization, pest control, and wildlife management.

#### **32-30-6-9 Agricultural operations; limitations on nuisance actions**

Sec. 9. (a) This section does not apply if a nuisance results from the negligent operation of an agricultural or industrial operation or its appurtenances.

(b) The general assembly declares that it is the policy of the state to conserve, protect, and encourage the development and improvement of its agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products. The general assembly finds that when nonagricultural land uses extend into agricultural areas, agricultural operations often become the subject of nuisance suits. As a result, agricultural operations are sometimes forced to cease operations, and many persons may be discouraged from making investments in farm improvements. It is the purpose of this section to reduce the loss to the state of its agricultural resources by limiting the circumstances under which agricultural operations may be deemed to be a nuisance.

(c) For purposes of this section, the continuity of an agricultural or industrial operation shall be considered to have been interrupted when the operation has been discontinued for more than one (1) year.

(d) An agricultural or industrial operation or any of its appurtenances is not and does not become a nuisance, private or public, by any changed conditions in the vicinity of the locality after the agricultural or industrial operation, as the case may be, has been

in operation continuously on the locality for more than one (1) year if the following conditions exist:

- (1) There is no significant change in the hours of operation.
- (2) There is no significant change in the type, size, or matter of operation.
- (3) The operation would not have been a nuisance at the time the agricultural or industrial operation began on that locality.

**Sec. 9.5. Court costs; attorney's fees**

Sec. 9.5 (a) If a court finds that an agricultural operation that is the subject of a nuisance action:

- (1) was not a nuisance under section 9 of this chapter and that the nuisance action was frivolous, the court shall award court costs and reasonable attorney's fees, to the defendant in the action; or
- (2) was a nuisance under this chapter and that the defense of the nuisance action was frivolous, the court shall award court costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, to the plaintiff in the action.

(b) Reasonable attorney's fees under subsection (a):

- (1) shall be calculated based on the reasonable and customary hourly rates charged in the county in which the action occurred; and
- (2) may include fees for only one (1) attorney, no matter how many attorneys were actually employed by the party.

(c) The determination that an action was initiated or maintained frivolously may not be based on the mere fact that a party did not prevail.

**32-30-6-11 Forestry operation not a nuisance**

Sec. 11. (a) This section does not apply if a nuisance results from the negligent operation of a forestry operation.

(b) For purposes of subsection (d), a forestry operation is considered to be in continuous operation if the locality supports an actual or a developing timber crop.

(c) A forestry operation that:

- (1) existed before a change in the land use or occupancy of land within one (1) mile of the boundaries of the locality; and
- (2) would not have been a nuisance before the change in land use or occupancy;

is not a private or public nuisance.

(d) A forestry operation that conforms to generally accepted forestry management practices and that has been in continuous operation is not a private or public nuisance as a result of any of the following:

- (1) A change in the ownership or size of the forestry operation.
- (2) Enrollment in a government forestry conservation program.
- (3) Use of new forestry technology.
- (4) A visual change due to removal of timber or vegetation.
- (5) Normal noise from forestry equipment.
- (6) Removal of timber or vegetation from a forest adjoining the locality.
- (7) The proper application of pesticides and fertilizers.