

**Memorandum of Understanding  
on Collaborative Efforts**

**between the**

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5**

**and the**

**Illinois Farm Bureau**



**October 2020**

## **Memorandum of Understanding on Collaborative Efforts between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the Illinois Farm Bureau**

### **I. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to formalize and enhance collaboration between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB).

The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment. The IFB prioritizes building and maintaining relationships with key policy stakeholders at each level of government, while offering opportunities for current and future generations of farmers to learn, lead and network with one another. We share the goal of well-managed, sustainable farms that produce food for our communities and a clean environment for everyone to enjoy.

This MOU formalizes a voluntary partnership to expand the collaborative activities of the parties related to communication, education, outreach, sharing information, and promoting training on agricultural practices that are economically viable and have positive environmental benefits. We amplify our commitment to carry out these activities and to engage the broader agricultural community in the pursuit of solutions for environmental protection and sustainable agriculture that move us forward towards achieving our shared goal.

### **II. Activities - Together, EPA and the Illinois Farm Bureau intend to:**

#### Enhance Communication and Coordination

- Attend annual meetings with EPA Region 5 and IFB leadership to communicate priorities and activities, share effective approaches, and identify opportunities to collaborate on issues pertaining to agriculture and the environment.
- Share updates throughout the year on relevant environmental and agricultural programs, policies, and activities to ensure communication and coordination on areas of common interest.

#### Promote Education and Outreach

- Host Agriculture Roundtables and/or Educational Farm Tours to foster a dialogue between EPA and the agricultural community on the successes, challenges, and opportunities to work together to achieve well-managed, productive farms and a clean environment.
- Participate in agricultural events such as State fairs, farm shows, and technical field days to expand open discussion between EPA and the agricultural community.

### Recognize Agricultural Environmental Stewardship

- Recognize farmers for their environmental stewardship efforts that contribute to efficient farms, healthy soils, and clean water. Highlight these achievements to the broader agricultural community and the general public.

### **III. Program Accomplishments and Planning**

EPA and the IFB intend to collaborate on an annual accomplishment report to highlight collective achievements realized under this MOU and plans for the coming year.

### **IV. Authorities**

EPA's participation in this MOU is authorized by Section 102(2)(G) of the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(G); Sections 104(a) and (b) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1254(a) and (b); and Sections 103(a) and (g) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7403(a) and (g).

### **V. Limitations**

This MOU is a voluntary agreement that expresses the good-faith intentions of EPA and the IFB. It is not intended to be legally binding, does not create any contractual obligations, and is not enforceable by any signatory party.

Any commitments by EPA and the IFB in this MOU are subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Nothing in this MOU, obligates EPA to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement, or incur other financial obligations that would be inconsistent with Agency budget priorities. Except as provided in an EPA assistance agreement, interagency agreement, or other separate agreement between the parties, the IFB agrees not to submit a claim for compensation for services rendered to EPA in connection with any activities it carries out in furtherance of this MOU. This MOU does not exempt the IFB from EPA policies governing competition for assistance agreements. Any transaction involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures under separate written agreements.

In producing an annual accomplishment report or any other materials associated with this MOU, EPA and the IFB will not conduct or sponsor a collection of information by means of identical questions from 10 or more persons without prior approval of the Office of Management and Budget as required under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Nothing in this MOU constitutes an endorsement by any party of the activities, products or services of any party to this agreement, or any other party. The EPA seal, displayed on

the cover page of this MOU, may only be used for official EPA purposes, including identifying EPA as a party to this MOU.

This MOU does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity, by persons who are not party to this agreement, against EPA or the IFB, their officers or employees, or any other person. This MOU does not apply to any person outside of EPA and the IFB.

**VI. Commencement/Duration/Modification/Termination**

This MOU will remain in effect for five years from the signing date. It may be extended or modified through the mutual written consent of the signatories. Either party may terminate its participation in this MOU by providing written notice to the other party 30 days in advance of the desired termination date.

**VII. Approval:**

Representatives of both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Farm Bureau sign below in recognition of our commitment to move forward with these collaborative efforts.

Signed:



Kurt A. Thiede, Regional Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5



Richard L. Guebert, Jr., President  
Illinois Farm Bureau