



# Human Resources Legal Fact Sheet: Indiana

Updated July 2025

*Disclaimer: This factsheet summarizes state laws and regulations on a variety of human resource issues for dairy farms, including wages, paystubs, deductions, child labor, and more. It is not intended to provide legal advice. The factsheet is simply an overview of select issues with a high-level explanation of key requirements for each one, with links to more information and resources throughout the document. This factsheet does not include all legal requirements for dairies. It was created in July 2024, and while it will be periodically updated, it may not reflect the current state of the law on every topic covered. Dairies should also review the federal factsheet because employers—depending on size—may be required to comply with some or all of the applicable federal laws and regulations as well. Additionally, employers should review the provisions of their collective bargaining agreement(s). By using this factsheet you understand that there is no attorney-client relationship between you and the attorneys who were involved in developing the factsheet. This factsheet should not be used as a substitute for competent legal advice from a licensed attorney.*

## Are there Indiana state laws for dairy farms about the following?

### Hiring

Topic	Answer	Summary
Pay Notice	NO	Not required under Indiana law.
Reporting	YES	<a href="#">New hires</a> and rehires must be reported to the Indiana New Hire Reporting Center within 20 business days.

### Wages

Topic	Answer	Summary
Paydays <sup>1</sup>	NO	Agricultural labor is exempt from state payday law.
Final Pay <sup>2</sup>	NO	Agricultural labor is exempt from state final pay law. It is recommended that employers pay former employees on the next regular payday following the employee's employment separation.
Overtime <sup>3</sup>	NO	Agricultural labor is exempt from state minimum wage; federal rules may apply. Employers are encouraged to review the federal factsheet.
Minimum Wage <sup>4</sup>	NO	Agricultural labor is exempt from state minimum wage; federal rules may apply. Employers are encouraged to review the federal factsheet.
Hours Worked	NO	Indiana law does not explicitly address the definition of 'hours worked' for the purposes of calculating compensable time. Employers should follow federal laws summarized in the federal factsheet.
Reporting Time Pay	NO	Indiana law does not require reporting time pay, i.e. an employee is only required to be paid for actual hours worked.
Pay Stub <sup>5</sup>	NO	Agricultural labor is exempt from state pay stub law; federal rules may apply. Employers are encouraged to review the federal factsheet.
Taxes and Withholding <sup>6</sup>	YES	<p>Employers are required to withhold <a href="#">Indiana income tax</a> if they are also required to withhold federal income tax. You must give your employees a statement of taxes withheld, like a federal Form W-2, 1099-MISC or 1099-R.</p> <p>Employers must pay <a href="#">Indiana Unemployment Insurance</a> taxes if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You paid cash wages to farm workers of \$20,000 or more in a quarter in the current or preceding calendar year; OR,</li><li>You employed ten or more farm workers for some part of a day in 20 or more weeks of the current or preceding calendar year.</li></ul> <p>Certain family employment is excluded from coverage requirements (a parent employed by their son/daughter, a person employed by their spouse, or a child</p>



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		<p>under 21 employed by a parent). Unemployment taxes are paid by the employer; they are not taken out of employee pay. You can credit the amount you pay to Indiana in calculating how much you owe for federal unemployment taxes.</p> <p><a href="#">More information.</a></p>
Deductions <sup>7</sup>	YES	<p>Deductions required by law or courts (for ex. tax withholdings) do not require written authorization from the employee. All other deductions (called assignments in Indiana) can only be made where there is a written agreement signed by the employee. That written agreement must be revocable at any time by the employee upon written notice to the employer. For the deduction to be valid, the employee must give the employer a signed copy of the deduction consent within 10 days of signing it.</p> <p><u>Deductions that are allowed include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• insurance policy premium payments;</li> <li>• contributions to a charitable or nonprofit organization;</li> <li>• payments for federally issued or guaranteed bonds or securities, at the purchase price;</li> <li>• payments for employer-issued stocks at the purchase price;</li> <li>• labor union dues;</li> <li>• payment to any credit union;</li> <li>• amount of loan made to the employee by the employer (must have written agreement, and amount cannot exceed 25% of employee's disposable income for that week, OR, the amount by which the employee's wages are above 30x the current federal minimum weekly wage, whichever is smaller);</li> <li>• reimbursement for education or employee skills training, unless the training benefits were wholly or partially provided through an economic development incentive from any federal, state, or local program;</li> <li>• contributions of the employee to a hospital service or medical expense plan;</li> <li>• payment to an employee's direct deposit account;</li> <li>• an advance for payroll or vacation pay;</li> <li>• drug education and addiction treatment services; or</li> <li>• purchase of uniforms/equipment (cannot exceed either \$2,500 per year or 5% of the employee's weekly disposable wages, whichever is smaller).</li> </ul> <p>Deductions that are not listed in the law are not allowed. The full list is available in <a href="#">Indiana Code §22-2-6-2</a>.</p>
Bonuses <sup>8</sup>	YES / NO	<p>Generally, discretionary bonuses would not be considered wages, while nondiscretionary bonuses can be considered wages and may fall under Indiana wage laws.</p> <p>A nondiscretionary bonus is one where the amount and criteria for getting the bonus are announced in advance. For example, performance goals (like meeting somatic cell count goals) that workers know about in advance. Discretionary bonuses are ones that are not announced in advance, not expected by the employee, and not an</p>

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incentive for the employee. For example, when the farm reaches a certain financial goal and decides to give all employees a bonus.

Employers should follow any written policy they have about paying bonuses as a best practice.

### Recordkeeping

Topic	Answer	Summary
Payroll <sup>9</sup>	YES	<p>Employers must keep the following records for all employees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name</li> <li>• Address</li> <li>• Occupation</li> <li>• Daily and Weekly Hours Worked (not required for agricultural employees)</li> <li>• Wages Paid Each Pay Period (not required for agricultural employees)</li> </ul> <p>A wage investigation can be conducted because an employee filed an application to investigate issues like impermissible deductions of wages or payment of minimum wage. The IN Department of Labor may request access to the following business records:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracts</li> <li>• Payroll records</li> <li>• Company policies and procedures</li> <li>• Court documentation and police reports if the employer alleges that employee theft is the cause of a wage discrepancy</li> </ul> <p>The records must be provided within 10 business days of a written request.</p>
Personnel File Access	NO	Indiana law does not require private employers to let employees view their personnel file.
Unemployment Insurance <sup>10</sup>	YES	Employers subject to contributions must submit <a href="#">quarterly wage reports</a> . <a href="#">More information</a> for employers.
Workers' Compensation <sup>11</sup>	YES	Employers must keep a record of all work-related injuries and fatalities. This will be made available to the Workers' Compensation Board upon request.
OSHA <sup>12</sup>	YES	The Indiana OSHA recordkeeping requirements is the same as the federal standard. See the federal factsheet for details.
Federal	YES	There are numerous federal rules about recordkeeping. Employers should review the federal factsheet.

### Working Conditions

Topic	Answer	Summary
Bathrooms <sup>13</sup>	YES	Indiana has incorporated the federal Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO). The PMO specifies that dairy farms have one or more toilets that are conveniently located, properly constructed, properly operated, and maintained in a sanitary manner.
Working Hours	NO	No max hour or day requirements for adults.



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Rest and Meal Breaks	<b>NO</b>	Indiana law does not require rest or meal breaks for adults. Employers that choose to provide rest and meal breaks must follow the applicable federal rules. Refer to federal fact sheet. See Child Labor (below) for rules for minors.
Labor Relations	<b>NO</b>	Indiana law does not address farm workers' right to collective bargaining.
Whistleblower Protection <sup>14</sup>	<b>YES / NO</b>	Indiana whistleblower law for employees of private employers only applies to employers that are under public contract. However, topic-specific laws (like wage discrimination, wage laws, etc.) may protect employees that report unlawful practices. And specific employee disclosures (for example, OSHA-related violations) are protected from retaliation. Additionally, Indiana courts have ruled in favor of employees that were discharged in retaliation for refusing to commit an illegal act for which he/she would be personally liable.
Paid Vacation or Sick Leave	<b>NO</b>	Not required under Indiana law. Employers who choose to provide such benefits must follow their written policy/contract.
Breaks for Nursing Mothers <sup>15</sup>	<b>YES</b>	Employers with 25 employees or more must, to the extent reasonably possible provide a location, other than a toilet stall, for an employee to express breast milk in privacy during any period away from their assigned duties. The employer must also provide a refrigerator or other cold storage or allow the employee to provide her own cold storage device to store the expressed milk until the end of the employee's work day.
Pregnancy Accommodations <sup>24</sup>	<b>YES</b>	On April 20, 2021 Indiana Governor Holcomb signed into law a pregnancy accommodation bill that takes effect on July 1, 2021. Under this law an employee may request an accommodation related to pregnancy, childbirth, or any related medical conditions. Employers must respond to the employee's request within a reasonable amount of time, but employers are not required to provide an accommodation. The law does prohibit employers from retaliating against employees that request an accommodation.  Although employers are not required to provide reasonable accommodation, there are requirements under the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. Employers should refer to the federal factsheet.
Family, Parental, and Pregnancy Leave	<b>NO</b>	Federal law requiring unpaid family or medical leave for may also apply depending on the size of the employer. Refer to federal fact sheet.
Jury Duty and Witness Leave <sup>17</sup>	<b>YES</b>	Employers may not discharge an employee, deprive employment benefits, or threaten to do so because the employee: (a) receives a summons; (b) serves as a juror; (c) attends court for prospective jury service; (d) responds to a subpoena in a criminal proceeding. Jury duty leave can be unpaid.
Crime Victim and Witness Leave <sup>16</sup>	<b>YES</b>	Employers cannot retaliate against an employee for responding to a subpoena in a criminal proceeding. Interfering with witness service is a Class B misdemeanor.
Military and Military Spouse Leave <sup>18</sup>	<b>YES</b>	The Indiana Military Family Leave Act applies to employers with 50 or more employees for each working day during at least 20 calendar work weeks. Employees may be eligible for this leave if a qualified family member of the employee is ordered to active duty. Qualified family members include spouses; parents; court appointed guardians or custodians; grandparents; children; or siblings. The employee must have been employed by the employer for at least 12 months and



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		<p>have worked at least 1,500 hours during the 12-month period immediately preceding the day that leave begins. Eligible employees may take up to ten days of family military leave during each calendar year. Eligible employees may take this leave during any or all of the following: the 30 days before active duty orders are in effect; a period in which the person ordered to active duty is on leave while active-duty orders are in effect; and the 30 days after active duty orders are terminated. Additional details may be <a href="#">found in the text of the law</a>. Employers are also encouraged to refer to the federal factsheet for additional rules around military leave.</p> <p>Employers must allow member(s) of the Indiana National Guard or reserve member of the U.S. armed forces to attend any mandatory assembly/drill. Employees may take a maximum of 15 days of leave per calendar year.</p>
Voting Leave	<b>NO</b>	Indiana does not have a statutory voting leave law covering private employers.
School Activity Leave	<b>NO</b>	Indiana law does not address leave for private sector employees to attend a child's school activity.

### Human Rights

Topic	Answer	Summary
Employment Discrimination <sup>19</sup>	<b>YES</b>	<p>Indiana <a href="#">law prohibits employment discrimination</a> based on race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, and veteran status. Applies to employers with 6 or more employees.</p> <p>Indiana employers with one or more employees are prohibited from discrimination based on age against employees ages 40 -75.</p> <p>Employment discrimination means bias in hiring (including during interviews), promotion, job assignments, firing, pay, and other terms of employment.</p> <p>It is illegal to retaliate against employees for filing or otherwise aiding with a complaint.</p>
Harassment / Sexual Harassment <sup>20</sup>	<b>YES</b>	<p>Indiana law does not explicitly address sexual harassment, but it is typically considered a form of workplace discrimination based on sex. Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct. It becomes illegal when (1) employees have no choice but to tolerate the harassment if they want to keep their job; (2) it is so severe that a regular person would see it as intimidating, hostile, or abusive.</p> <p>Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaging in such conduct is made an implicit or explicit term or condition of employment. Example: A newly hired milker is told that sexual jokes, touching and nude posters are just part of farm life and she should try to ignore it.</li> <li>Acceptance or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for an employment decision affecting an employee. Example: A manager tells a</li> </ul>



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		<p>worker applying for a promotion that the job would be his if he just “treated her right.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The conduct interferes with an employee's work or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. Example: One worker experiences repeated advances from another asking her for dates or “just to go out for drinks after work.” The worker says she isn’t interested, but the co-worker won’t take ‘no’ for an answer.</li> </ul> <p>It is illegal to retaliate against employees for filing or otherwise aiding with a complaint.</p>
Forced Labor <sup>21</sup>	YES	<p>Human trafficking is illegal in Indiana. Trafficking for labor means: recruiting, harboring, transporting, provisioning, or obtaining of a person by any means for subjection to forced labor, forced services, debt bondage, or slavery. <a href="#">More details.</a></p> <p>Employers should ensure they are carefully following all visa requirements or work agreements to avoid any inadvertent violations.</p>

## Child Labor

Topic	Answer	Summary
Child Labor <sup>22</sup>	YES	<p>Indiana child labor laws below do not apply to minors employed by a parent or guardian.</p> <p>Minimum age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During school hours: 16 if not enrolled in a regular school term or has completed an approved career/technical education program</li> <li>Outside school hours: 12</li> </ul> <p>Max hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minors 16 &amp; 17 years old <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>may not work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 9 hours in any one day;</li> <li>More than 40 hours in a school week;</li> <li>More than 48 hours in a non-school week;</li> <li>More than six days in any one week; or</li> <li>Begin a workday before 6am.</li> </ul> </li> <li>May work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Until 10pm on nights followed by a school day in any occupation other than those that are dangerous to life and limb or injurious to health or morals.</li> <li>Until 11pm on a night followed by a school day if the employer has obtained written permission from the minor’s parent and placed the written permission on file in the employer’s office.</li> <li>The same daily and weekly hours and at the same times of day as adults if they are a high school graduate, have completed an</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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approved career and technical education program or special education program, or are not enrolled in a regular school term.

- Minors 14 and 15 years old cannot work:
  - before 7am or after 7pm on a day preceding a school day.
  - after 9pm on a day that does not precede a school day between June 1 through Labor Day.
- Minors 14 and 15 years old can only work:
  - During non-school time up to eight hours a day and 40 hours a week
  - During school time up to three hours on a school day and 18 hours in a school week.

Each employer that hires, employs, or permits at least five (5) minors who are:  
(1) at least fourteen (14) years of age; and  
(2) less than eighteen (18) years of age;  
to work in a gainful occupation must register with the department.  
Work permits not required for minors working as farm laborers 14 years or older  
outside of school hours. Otherwise, a work permit is required (i.e. if under 14, or, if  
over 14 working during school hours).

Minors who work six or more hours in a shift must be given one or two breaks totaling at least 30 minutes. These breaks may be taken at any point during the minor's shift.

- Follow federal rules on [restricted and prohibited occupations](#) for minors.

### Health and Safety

Topic	Answer	Summary
OSHA	YES	<p><a href="#">Indiana has an approved OSHA 'state-plan'</a>, which means it is at least as effective as federal OSHA. Similar to federal OSHA, IOSHA has a general duty clause that requires employers to provide employees a workplace free from recognized hazards that can cause death or serious physical harm.</p> <p>IOSHA has adopted the federal OSHA Standards for Agriculture, the General Industry Standards that apply to agriculture, and the reporting/recordkeeping requirements. See the federal factsheet for details on requirements.</p>
Workers Compensation <sup>23</sup>	YES	<p>Agricultural employees are exempt from Indiana workers' compensation coverage requirements; but farms can elect to provide coverage.</p> <p>Covered employers <a href="#">must report any work-related injury</a>, illness, or fatalities that result in the employee missing more than one day of work. The report must be made within seven days to either the insurance carrier or, if self-insured, to the Worker's Compensation Board.</p>
Housing	YES / NO	<p>Indiana law does not explicitly address standards for permanent agricultural housing, though general landlord/tenant or public health laws may apply. Employers should follow best practices when providing housing – which includes,</p>



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at minimum, a written housing agreement and properly maintaining the facilities. The FARM HR Manual has guidance around best practices for agricultural worker housing.

<sup>1</sup> Indiana Code §22-2-5-3; id.  
<sup>2</sup> See above.  
<sup>3</sup> See above.  
<sup>4</sup> See above.  
<sup>5</sup> Indiana Code §22-2-2-3; 22-2-2-8  
<sup>6</sup> Indiana Code §6-3-4-8; §22-4-8-2; §22-4-8-3  
<sup>7</sup> Indiana Code §22-2-6-2  
<sup>8</sup> Indiana Code §22-2-9-1  
<sup>9</sup> Indiana Code §22-1-1-15; 610 Ind. Admin. Code 6-2-1; 6-2-2; 6-2-3  
<sup>10</sup> 646 Ind. Admin. Code 5-2-1  
<sup>11</sup> Indiana Code. §22-3-4-13  
<sup>12</sup> 620 Ind. Admin. Code 1-1-1  
<sup>13</sup> 345 Ind. Admin Code 8-3-1  
<sup>14</sup> Indiana Code §22-5-3-3  
<sup>15</sup> Indiana Code §22-2-14-2  
<sup>16</sup> Indiana Code §35-44.1-2-12  
<sup>17</sup> Indiana Code §33-28-5-24.3  
<sup>18</sup> Indiana Code §22-2-13; §10-16-7-4; §10-17-4-4(b)  
<sup>19</sup> Indiana Code §22-9-1-1 et seq; §22-9-2-10  
<sup>20</sup> See above.  
<sup>21</sup> Indiana Code §35-42-3.5-1  
<sup>22</sup> Indiana Code §§ 22-2-18-1 — 22-2-18-50  
<sup>23</sup> Indiana Code §22-3-2-9; §22-3-4-13  
<sup>24</sup> Indiana Code §22-9-12-3