

The GLB's current proposed route goes through some of Northwest Indiana's Prime Farmland. The table below shows average corn yield for 2015 for the counties in Northwest Indiana. The data is from the National Agricultural Statistics Service division of the USDA.

Program	Year	Period	State	County	Commodity	County Average Yield (Bu/Ac)
SURVEY	2015	YEAR	INDIANA	BENTON	CORN	169.3
SURVEY	2015	YEAR	INDIANA	PORTER	CORN	151.5
SURVEY	2015	YEAR	INDIANA	LA PORTE	CORN	151.3
SURVEY	2015	YEAR	INDIANA	LAKE	CORN	142
SURVEY	2015	YEAR	INDIANA	WHITE	CORN	128
SURVEY	2015	YEAR	INDIANA	NEWTON	CORN	110.9
SURVEY	2015	YEAR	INDIANA	PULASKI	CORN	109.7
SURVEY	2015	YEAR	INDIANA	JASPER	CORN	98.3
SURVEY	2015	YEAR	INDIANA	STARKE	CORN	97.6

As you can see Porter, LaPorte, and Lake were 50 bushels higher than the counties directly to the south of them. Not only does this area rank high at the county level, the area where the route is proposed yielded well above the county average. Below are actual 2015 corn yields reported to me by farmers from fields that will be disrupted by the proposed route.

Porter County, IN 2015 Corn Yield Field Averages in Proposed Path (bu/ac)
240
240
230
218
202
178

Not only will the railroad take 580+ acres of prime farmland out of production in Porter County, the damage to field tile, damage to surface drainage and the creation of additional point rows will lower the productivity of the remaining acres that border the railroad.

The next page shows where the Prime Farmland is located in Indiana and the large amount already threatened by development. Porter County has worked hard to keep productive farmland from being developed because it sees the value. The large amount of green in Porter County on the map shows how prime farm land is valued in Porter County. The

proposed railroad will encourage unwanted development in these areas as it cuts the swath of prime farm land in half.

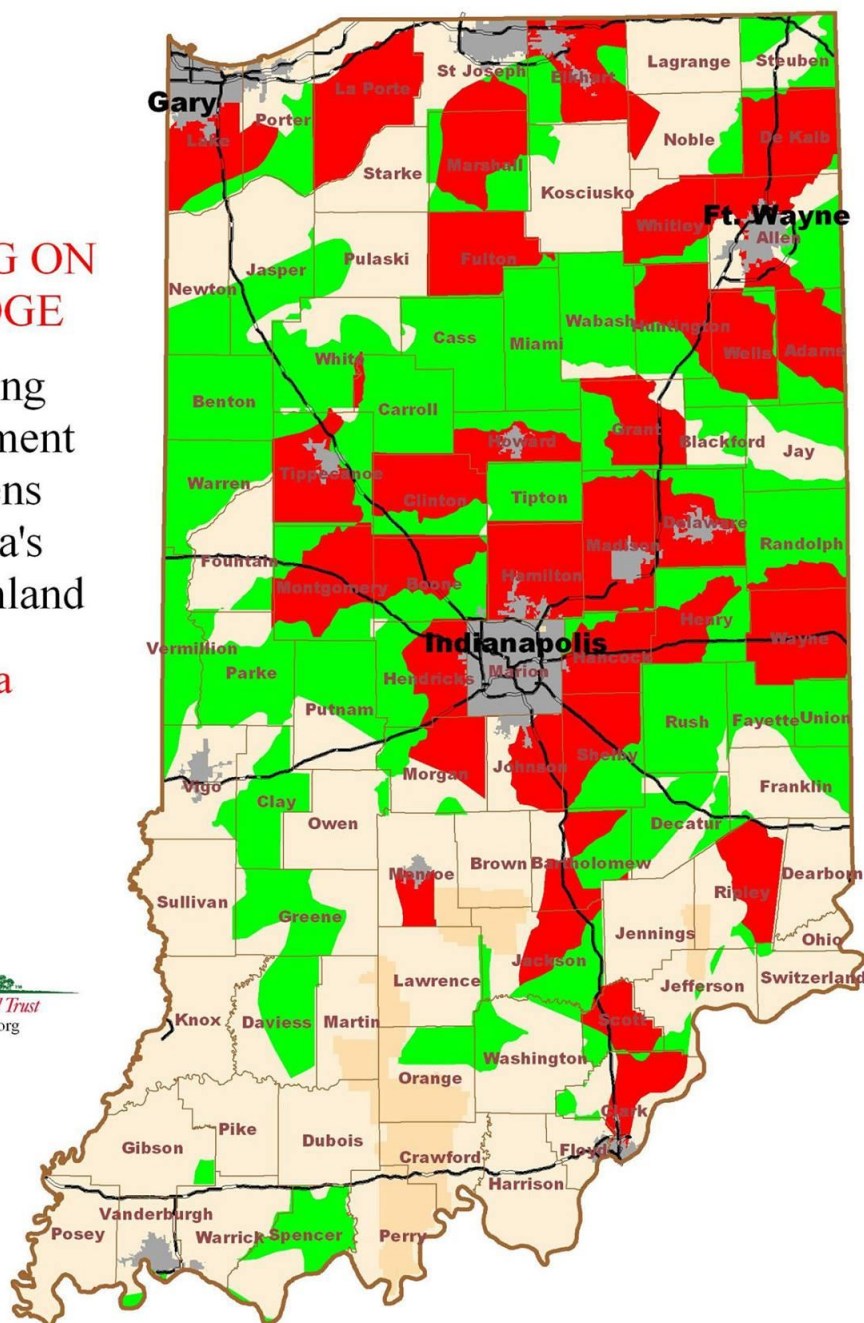
The final route should try to avoid prime farmland. Once it is taken out of production those acres are gone forever.

FARMING ON THE EDGE

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Legend:

- High-Quality Farmland & High Development
- High-Quality Farmland & Low Development
- Urban Areas
- Other Lands
- Federal & Indian Lands

0 12 Miles

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