

Technology Success for Diverse Properties in Rural Counties

JURISDICTION:

Marshall and Washington Counties, Indiana

INDUSTRY:

Government

CHALLENGE:

Managing change and identifying new construction over a large amount of agricultural land in the State of Indiana.

SOLUTION:

Implementation of ChangeFinder to review properties that have changed or added structures without leaving the office.

PRODUCTS:

ChangeFinder™,
CONNECTExplorer™



With a third of the world's land categorized as agricultural, there is a defined need for the ability to review and assess agricultural areas. In the state of Indiana, a large percentage of the area is agricultural, creating challenges for assessors to stay on top of changes and new construction.

"Rural areas offer a unique challenge in terms of assessing and gathering data," commented Robert Locke, Senior Vice President for Government Sales. "We are focused on providing imagery and data to meet every jurisdiction's need. There are extremely different assessment challenges when comparing urban areas to rural areas, but that is where aerial imagery and change detection data can make a real difference."

EagleView company, works with counties across the country to not only provide aerial imagery but to deliver important software, data and GIS support that make the imagery captures valuable on many levels. Whether it is assessment, public safety, land use or tourism, counties are finding a wealth of knowledge and data by utilizing aerial imagery.

One county that has embraced this technology is Marshall County, Indiana, in the north central portion of the state. With a population of just over 47,000, the county is known for large expanses of agricultural land and also as a haven for tourists with its motto being "Time to Unwind." The county seat is in Plymouth, Indiana where Marshall County assessor Debra



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Washington County, Indiana Assessor

Dunning is located. A EagleView customer, Dunning has incorporated Pictometry aerial imagery as a foundational tool for fair and equitable property assessment.

Recently, a new zoning law caused a rush of farmers to build poultry barns before the new zoning laws could take effect. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), whose mission is to implement federal and state regulations to protect human health and the environment, had enacted new livestock laws that included the need for upgraded poultry barns.

“It was an important environmental movement for the state but the new poultry barns were only required to have IDEM permits,” noted Dunning. “We had no way of getting the permit information so we needed to find out where the new barns were being built in order to have accurate representation of properties in the county.”

Dunning worked with EagleView to incorporate ChangeFinder data analysis. “We were able to receive a list of properties that had changed and then visually review them using CONNECTExplorer,” Dunning stated. “We could make fair assessments but, more importantly, we captured a realistic analysis of new structures, creating a strong map and historic view of our county. We were able to use that for several purposes including public safety and land use planning.”

South of Marshall County is Washington County, Indiana. Known for also being a largely agricultural county with a population of over 28,000, they have continually commissioned aerial flights along with change detection analysis and data. With a large population of farms it has been critical that they confirm ongoing construction on agricultural land that, in the past, may not have submitted proper permit applications.



“The undocumented buildings were a liability for the assessment office but also of great concern to public safety and other county departments,” stated Jason Cockerill, Washington County Assessor. “Pictometry imagery technology is critical to our county in discovering unreported value and undocumented structures.”

“We have large segments of specialized agriculture,” Cockerill continued. “We had to incorporate additional review systems since many times permits are not pulled for new construction.”

Cockerill notes that it is not only an assessment issue but a public safety concern. If the county is not aware of additional structures it can affect public safety officials including fire safety, crime and disaster response. “We believe that the aerial imagery and ChangeFinder data are essential in staying current to the construction and remodeling that is happening throughout the county.”