



Like many other states, Indiana does not require adults to wear a motorcycle helmet. Our first experience of riding without a helmet was in March of 2004 when we rented motorcycles in Texas with our friends, Rob and Rosanne. Unfortunately we rented Harleys and we didn't have earplugs so at the end of our riding day, our ears were ringing and did for days afterwards.

Our second helmet-less ride came when we returned to Texas this spring and I have to say, though it was quieter, it felt weird; like riding in a car without a seatbelt. We have adjusted to that free feeling and since then have taken advantage of every state that has no helmet law. With the hot weather we have been having here lately, we are grateful for being able to feel the wind in our hair and no doubt it will take some getting used to when we have to wear helmets again.

First thing this morning, after breakfast in Nappanee and before 8:00 AM we decided to drive up to the new (today was the grand opening) [American Countryside Farmers Market](#) just south of Elkhart. Where else could we go so early? It is a huge, 51,000 square foot, Amish built, wood-peg barn; an impressive building and a great place to check out, just one more attraction in this part of the world. The expansion plans for the property surrounding it include an amusement park, an RV Park and many more things for visitors to the region.

Once we were done there, we exchanged vehicles and rode the bike to Shipshewana for some more back road touring. With the hot sun, the gorgeous scenery and the peacefulness of the Amish countryside, it couldn't have been a nicer way to explore the area.