



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Commissioner



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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Hemp Research Pilot Program (HRPP) FAQs
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Hemp Research Pilot Program (HRPP)

• **What is the current status of the Hemp Research Pilot Program?**

[Public Act 19-3](#), AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR HEMP PRODUCTION creates three (3) types of hemp licenses: growers, processors and manufacturers. During the 2019 growing season, all growers and processors will be operating under the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DOAG) Hemp Research Pilot Program (HRPP). Manufacturers of hemp products will be regulated by the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). The processor license will be required to produce all animal food, and non-consumables, such as textiles and building products. The manufacturer license will be required for the in-state production of all consumables, which are defined as hemp products intended for human ingestion, inhalation, absorption or other internal consumption.

• **Will a research goal be required to get a hemp grower or processor license under the HRPP?**

Yes. During the 2019 growing season, all licensed growers and processors will be operating under the DOAG Hemp Research Pilot Program. This requires that each licensee have a research plan, which can be as simple as studying and documenting the yield of the planted crop, and a marketing plan which describes the intended commercial use of the harvested hemp.

• **What are the research goals of the HRPP?**

The HRPP supports research that advances the Department of Agriculture's understanding of hemp agriculture at national, regional and local levels. Research could include topics as simple as hemp seed planting depth or as complex as genomics-assisted crop improvements. It could also include processing and marketing topics.

• **Do I need a license to grow or process hemp in the State of Connecticut?**

Yes. Our state law says:

"Any person who cultivates or processes hemp shall: (1) Be licensed by the commissioner...." Marketing and handling of hemp and hemp products are permitted activities for grower and processor licensees. See Application/License FAQ below.

For more information concerning manufacturing products intended for human ingestion, inhalation, absorption or other internal consumption, containing Hemp or Hemp derived products see the [Department of Consumer Protection](#) website.

Difference Between Hemp and Marijuana

• What is the difference between hemp and marijuana?

Hemp and marijuana are varieties of the cannabis plant that differentiated based on selective breeding. Hemp is bred for its fiber and seed oil. By both federal and state law, hemp cannot contain more than 0.3 percent THC on a dry weight basis. Marijuana is defined as cannabis that contains greater than 0.3 percent THC on a dry weight basis. *Cannabaceae*, the family that both hemp and marijuana belong to, also contains hops and sugarberry trees.

• What is THC?

THC is short for tetrahydrocannabinol and is the psychoactive component of marijuana, which gets you "high."

• How much THC is allowed in hemp?

By law, all hemp must contain a THC concentration of 0.3% or less by dry weight.

• What happens if my field of hemp tests over 0.3% THC?

If your field, greenhouse, harvest, or any other aspect of your hemp project tests over 0.3% THC it no longer meets the definition of hemp under the law. The plot represented by the sample will have to be destroyed by the grower, unless retesting performed by the DOAG demonstrates that the plot's crop tests at 0.3% or less THC. On a case by case basis the department may authorize salvage of stalk and fiber.

Growing Hemp

• Is growing hemp legal in the United States?

Yes, under the 2018 Agricultural Improvement Act (Farm Bill) hemp is no longer a controlled substance. However, the 2018 Farm Bill still requires that every site where hemp is grown be credentialed with the state or federal government under a program with requirements for inspection and testing.

As soon as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) adopts regulations for the submission of state plans, each state will have to submit their program to USDA for approval. The State of Connecticut has already passed legislation to remove hemp from the state controlled substances act in compliance with the Farm Bill requirements. Until there are USDA regulations, the 2018 Farm Bill extended the 2014 Farm Bill Industrial Hemp authorization for state-created hemp research programs to permit cultivating hemp by *"...an institution of higher education...or a state department of agriculture may grow or cultivate industrial hemp if...the industrial hemp is grown or cultivated for purposes of research conducted under an agricultural pilot program or other agricultural or academic research..."*

• Can I grow hemp commercially in Connecticut?

Yes, the 2018 Farm Bill legalized commercial sales of hemp, if grown under a state research pilot program. The Connecticut legislature approved the establishment of the HRPP by DOAG. You will need to obtain a license from DOAG to grow hemp.

• Will I be able to grow hemp outdoors?

Yes. Normally, hemp is grown outdoors—like any other crop. However, there may be some research projects that require studying hemp indoors.

• Will I need security to grow hemp outdoors?

Crop security will be up to each grower individually. Hemp is an agricultural product and, due to the minimal THC content, is not a controlled substance.

• Will there be minimum or maximum field sizes for hemp cultivation?

Yes, there is minimum field size of at least one-quarter acre for hemp cultivation. Before determining the size of your hemp crop, you may want to research hemp processors and manufacturers so you don't end up with a lot of hemp and no one to sell it to.

Application/License

• Where can I get an application for a license to grow hemp?

Applications for licenses are now available through the State of Connecticut [eLicense](#) website. **Applications, supporting documents and payments will only be accepted through the DOAG E-License portal.** Paper applications will **not** be accepted. You will have to create a username and password, and have a valid email address to start the application. You will need several pieces of information in order to complete an application.

• What's the difference between an application and a license?

Applying is the first step. You will fill out an application and submit it to the appropriate department to obtain either a grower, processor or manufacturer license (Agriculture for Grower and Processor, and Consumer Protection for Manufacturer). See question above for how to apply for these licenses. If your application is approved, you will receive a license that allows you to grow, process or manufacture hemp. If your application is denied, then you will not be allowed to grow, process or manufacture hemp.

Fees

• How much will it cost to get my license?

The Connecticut General Assembly established user-fee rates as part of the adoption of "AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR HEMP PRODUCTION."

The amount it will cost to participate will depend on a number of factors, including type of application, number of acres, and THC testing rates.

- Grower application fee: \$50
- Processor application fee: \$50
- Manufacturer application fee: \$50
- Biennial Grower License fees are \$50 per acre
- Biennial Processor License fees are \$250
- Biennial Manufacturer License fees are \$250
- THC testing fees are paid by the grower directly to the laboratory they choose, and may range from \$80 to \$2000 depending on the number of samples tested and any testing in addition to THC levels.

Seed/Certified Seed

• What is certified seed and will I need to use certified seed to begin my hemp research project?

Certified hemp seed may be obtained from other countries, and from other states. The grower is responsible for obtaining seed; DOAG is not involved in that process. The

Public Act defines certified seed as: hemp seed for which a certificate or any other instrument has been issued by an agency authorized under the laws of a state, territory or possession of the United States to officially certify hemp seed and that has standards and procedures approved by the United States Secretary of Agriculture to assure the genetic purity and identity of the hemp seed certified.

Certified seed is a type of seed that has been bred to, over many generations, have certain traits. Plants with all the same traits are called "varieties." A variety is bred and maintained so that its characteristics are uniform, distinct and stable across generations. Plant traits that certified seed breeders breed for are things like plant height, plant uniformity, drought resistance, etc. There are different organizations that certify crop seeds. All hemp seeds used to do licensed research projects through the HRPP will need to be certified by an agency authorized under the laws of a state, territory or possession of the United States to officially certify hemp seed and that has standards and procedures approved by the United States Secretary of Agriculture to assure the genetic purity and identity of the hemp seed.

Organic Certification

- Can my hemp be certified as organic?

Yes. Under [guidelines](#) issued by the USDA on August 23, 2016, hemp grown under legal state hemp pilot programs may be certified as organic. Hemp must follow the same process as other crops certified in accordance with the USDA National Organic Program.

Pesticides

- Which pesticides can I use on my hemp crop?

There are no pesticides that are specifically labeled for use on hemp by the EPA. Hemp and hemp products may be subject to testing for the use of non-approved pesticides if they are grown for human or animal consumption. Products that are deemed consumables under the act will be tested for contaminants such as pesticides, therefore the use of pesticides may impact the sale of the crop cultivated by the grower.

Processing/Manufacturing

- Can I process or manufacture hemp into products under the HRPP?

Yes. Processing, or making agricultural hemp into a non-consumable product, is permitted. There is a manufacturer license overseen by DCP for the production of all consumables. Consumables are defined as hemp products intended for human ingestion, inhalation, absorption or other internal consumption that contain a THC concentration of not more than 0.3 per cent on a dry weight basis. There is a grower license and license fee, and processor license and license fee, which are issued and regulated by DOAG for all other products.

- What products/uses of hemp will be permitted in Connecticut?

Hemp products are regulated by several different federal and state mandates, which can be confusing. It is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure any products or substances derived from hemp meet the requirements of all state and federal laws and regulations.

- Can hemp be sold/commercially distributed as an ingredient in animal feed?

Not at this time. Before any ingredient may be sold or distributed as part of animal feed, the ingredient must be Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) by FDA and/or listed as a "recognized feed ingredient" by the American Association of Feed Control Officials (AAFCO). As part of the approval process, testing is currently being conducted to ensure

the safety and nutritional value of hemp. **Growers are advised that any research project that involves feeding hemp products to their own animals may result in regulatory restrictions in the sale of products (meat, milk, eggs, etc.) from these animals.**

- Is growing hemp to process or manufacture CBD (cannabidiol) allowed?

Yes, under the language in the state hemp law, hemp can be grown in Connecticut for the purpose of processing and manufacturing CBD, CBD extract, and any other CBD component. However, any person conducting such processing or manufacturing must be licensed as a processor with DOAG (non-human CBD uses), or as a manufacturer with the Department of Consumer Protection (human CBD uses), depending on the products made. It is the licensee's responsibility to ensure that the processing and manufacture of CBD substances complies with all state and federal laws and regulations.

For more information on FDA's position regarding CBD, please see the [FDA website](#).