



Office of Indiana State Chemist & Seed Commissioner

(A statement prepared by Robert Waltz, Ph.D., State Chemist & Seed Commissioner, 2/2019)

Indiana Hemp Programs in 2019

Background: The United States Congress passed the 2018 farm on December 21, 2018. This new law did several things for agriculture in general, but in particular for changing long-standing laws regarding all hemp as a schedule 1 drug under DEA enforcement. Hemp is now the new accepted term for what was “industrial hemp” defined as a plant or any part of a plant, containing 0.3%THC dry weight, or less, (and licensed by our office), and marijuana is anything 0.4% THC dry weight and above (or any hemp grown and not licensed by our office). The parenthetical remarks are practical results of the law.

Result and Indiana Program Updates:

Hemp is no longer a schedule 1 drug; no longer requires a federal DEA permit to handle it; is recognized as an agricultural crop, and is regulated by USDA. Under federal law, background checks of growers are required. These will still be required in Indiana. USDA will publish new federal rules of what states will be required to do to participate in the new federal hemp program. It is fully expected that the Indiana program will be compliant.

The Indiana legislature is making conforming changes to Indiana law to be compliant with federal law. After any new conforming law is passed, and signed by the governor, the Office of Indiana State Chemist must submit new rules for adoption. ***In short, the 2019 hemp season will be very much like the 2018 season, i.e., restricted to the current state law limited to researchers and their cooperators. In 2020, it may be anticipated that any farmer wanting to grow hemp can be and must be licensed through our office.***

For the 2019 growing season, there is an opportunity and a need to accommodate research that will contribute to Indiana’s hemp infrastructure. It is here that Purdue University professors and Cooperative Extension Educators with CCA certification can be very useful to potential licensees who need science oversight of their research planning and drafting a proposal to be licensed. *Extension Educators working with hemp in the field, growing, or handling hemp while assisting their cooperators, must be licensed.* Please see the state chemist website for helps on drafting a proposal, applications to grow hemp, and related. Contact Don Robison, if you should have any questions.

Please be aware that feeding hemp in any form to animals is prohibited by federal law (FDA), with the single exception of devitalized hemp seed that may be sold only in wild bird feeds. Hemp, devitalized or not, is not allowed to be used in poultry feed, feed for other birds, or livestock.

Helps:

See the regularly updated OISC Hemp FAQ located on the Indiana State Chemist website:

https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/seed/hemp/hemp_faq.pdf

Or the website more generally (includes link to the Purdue Hemp Research website):

https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/seed/industrial_hemp.html

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