

# Arkansas Hemp Program Orientation PowerPoint



**2026 Growing Season**  
**(Fiscal Year 2026 – Fiscal Year 2027)**

**Quality Control & Compliance Section**  
**Plant Industries Division**  
**Arkansas Hemp Program**

**Published:**  
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# Arkansas Department of Agriculture

Growing Arkansas's largest industry by supporting Arkansas farmers and ranchers while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of Arkansas, the nation, and across the globe.

## Mission Statement:

**The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its Farmers and Ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation.**

<https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov>



# Program Orientation PowerPoint: Information Overload!

This PowerPoint Presentation Covers:

- Important program information
- Updates/changes to the program
- Summary of program rules
- Licensing paperwork guidelines and deadlines

**Reference this PowerPoint throughout the season for all the details you need about the AR Hemp Program.**



# Arkansas Hemp Program: Orientation PowerPoint Overview

- 1) Program Overview & Updates
- 2) Crop Production
- 3) Criminal History Background Checks
- 4) Growing Locations
- 5) Sourcing Planting Materials
- 6) Reporting Requirements
- 7) Sampling & THC Testing of Hemp
- 8) Restrictions on Sale and Transfer



# Program Overview & Updates



PLANT INDUSTRIES  
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# AR Hemp Program's Website

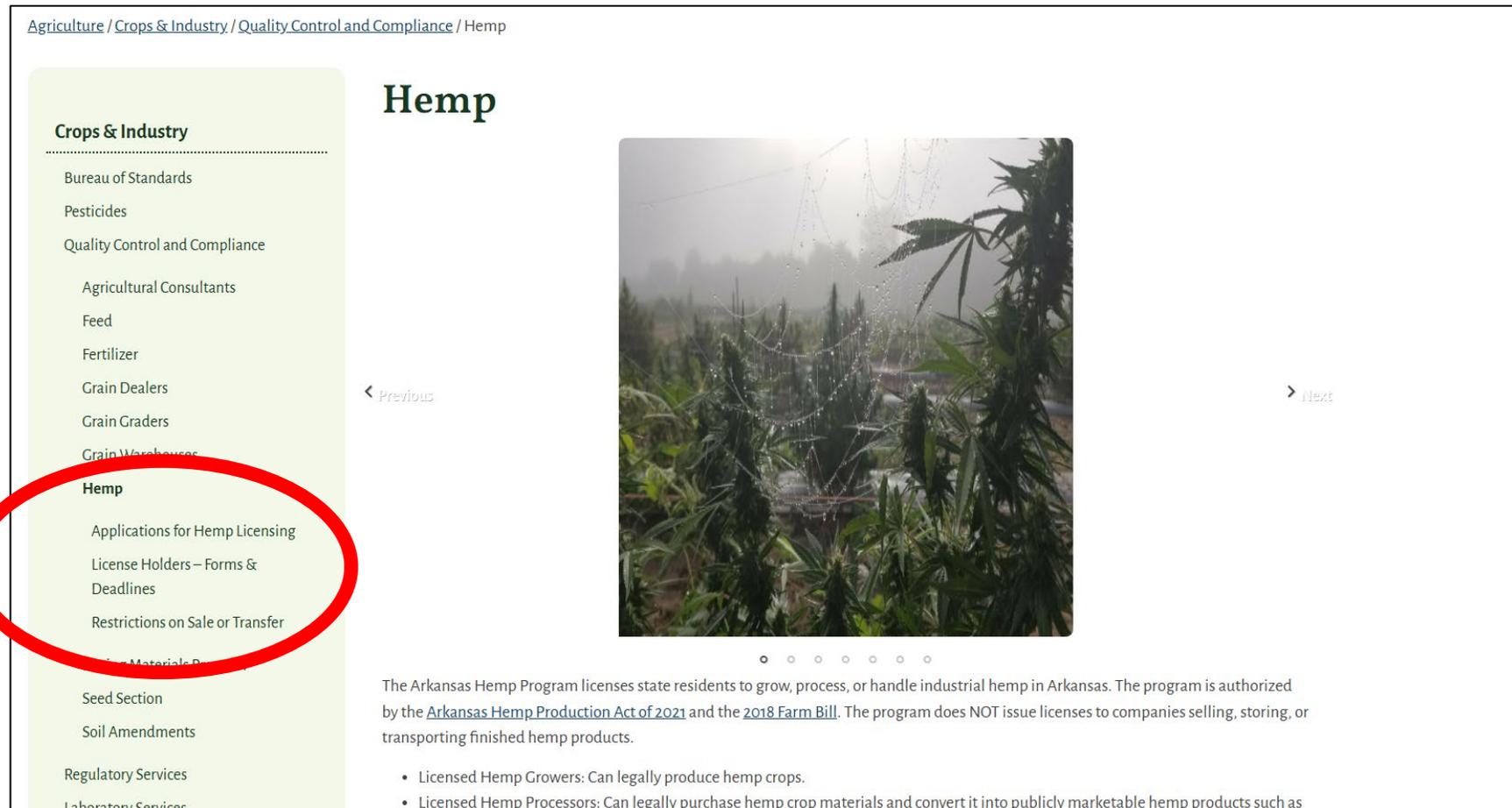
All information about the AR Hemp Program are located on the Program's website:

<https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/crops-industry/quality-control-and-compliance/hemp-home/>



# Program Website & Tabs: Hemp Home

Visit <https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/crops-industry/quality-control-and-compliance/hemp-home/> and familiarize yourself with all the Program webpages.



The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu on the left, with the 'Hemp' section highlighted by a red circle. The main content area features a large image of a hemp field with spider webs, and a list of links for 'Applications for Hemp Licensing', 'License Holders – Forms & Deadlines', and 'Restrictions on Sale or Transfer'. Below the image is a paragraph of text and a list of bullet points.

Agriculture / Crops & Industry / Quality Control and Compliance / Hemp

## Hemp

**Crops & Industry**

- Bureau of Standards
- Pesticides
- Quality Control and Compliance
- Agricultural Consultants
- Feed
- Fertilizer
- Grain Dealers
- Grain Graders
- Grain Warehouses
- Hemp**
- Applications for Hemp Licensing
- License Holders – Forms & Deadlines
- Restrictions on Sale or Transfer
- Processing Materials
- Seed Section
- Soil Amendments
- Regulatory Services
- Laboratory Services

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> Next

The Arkansas Hemp Program licenses state residents to grow, process, or handle industrial hemp in Arkansas. The program is authorized by the [Arkansas Hemp Production Act of 2021](#) and the [2018 Farm Bill](#). The program does NOT issue licenses to companies selling, storing, or transporting finished hemp products.

- Licensed Hemp Growers: Can legally produce hemp crops.
- Licensed Hemp Processors: Can legally purchase hemp crop materials and convert it into publicly marketable hemp products such as



# Arkansas Hemp Program Staff

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**Program E-mail: [industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov)**



# Communications with the Department

- **E-mail is the primary method of communication utilized by the AR Hemp Program**
- **IF WE SEND IT, READ IT!**
- **Make sure to add the following emails to your 'safe' list:**
  - **[Caleb.allen@arkansas.gov](mailto:Caleb.allen@arkansas.gov)**
  - **[Mike.stage@arkansas.gov](mailto:Mike.stage@arkansas.gov)**
- **We kindly ask that you check your e-mail regularly if issued a license. This program is time-sensitive, so regular communications with the Department is critical.**



# Communications with Hemp Program Staff

- E-mail any general questions/program forms to [industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov)
- Provide your name, the name of the license holder, and license number in all communications.
- Please do not send separate emails or voicemails to multiple staff members and duplicate program workload. CC to others is perfectly okay.



# AR Hemp Program Background:

## AR Hemp Research Program (2019-2021)

- **2014:** The 2014 Farm Bill allowed states to create research pilot programs to study the feasibility of introducing hemp as an agricultural crop.
- **August 2017:** House Bill 1778 became Act 981, creating the Arkansas Industrial Hemp Act of 2017.
- **June 2018:** Arkansas State Plant Board approved rules for the “Arkansas Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program.”
- **August 2018:** First hemp program rules were officially approved and implemented in Arkansas.
- **October 2018:** Department received the first application to grow industrial hemp.
- **2019:** First legal hemp planting and harvest in Arkansas in over 80 years.
- **January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022:** AR Hemp Research Licensing Program became known as the Arkansas Hemp Program, under the 2018 Farm Bill.



# AR Hemp Program Background:

## AR Hemp Research Program (2019-2021)

The Hemp Research Licensing Program effectively allowed licensed growers to conduct research operations and generate industry data in order to assess the agricultural and economic potential of industrial hemp production in Arkansas. 2021 was the final season for the AR Hemp Research Licensing Program, meaning that licensees are no longer required to conduct research plan operations in order to obtain a license.

### Number of Research Licenses Issued:

- 2019 Season: 125 Hemp Growers, 31 Hemp Processor/Handlers
- 2020 Season: 121 Hemp Growers, 38 Hemp Processor/Handlers
- 2021 Season: 49 Hemp Growers, 22 Hemp Processor/Handlers



# Hemp Program Background:

## AR Hemp Program (2022 – CURRENT)

- 2022 was the first season of commercial hemp production in Arkansas permitted under the 2018 Farm Bill authority & the AR Hemp Production Act of 2021.



### Number of Hemp Licenses Issued:

- **2022 Season:** 28 Growers, 14 Processor/Handlers
- **2023 Season:** 15 Growers, 5 Processor/Handlers
- **2024 Season:** 14 Growers, 4 Processor/Handlers
- **2025 Season:** 13 Growers, 3 Processor/Handlers

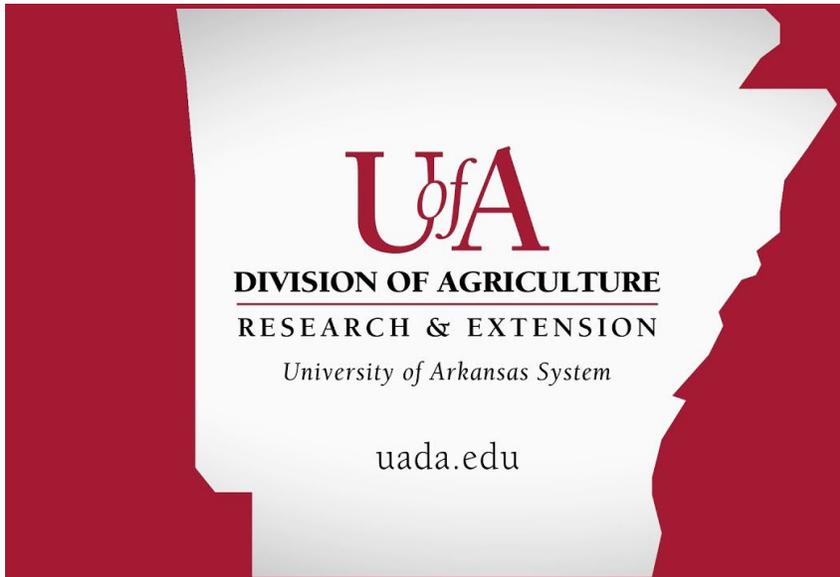


# AR Hemp Program Updates for 2026 Season:

- Observing more state industry focus on seed/grain production, as well as fiber production. This aligns with national hemp production trends.
- Proposed hemp production rules were presented to the AR State Plant Board in early 2022. The rules were approved after a 30-day comment period but ultimately delayed due to industry concerns.
- The proposed rules from 2022 expired within the approval process in mid-2025.
- During the last legislative session in early 2025, the AR Legislature adopted a new state law, Arkansas Code § 20-56-501 *et seq.*, which directly regulates what is defined as “consumable hemp products” and outlaws what is defined as “intoxicating hemp products.”
  - This new state law puts primary regulatory and rulemaking authority with the state’s Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Board.
- In November 2025, the U.S. Congress changed the federal definition of hemp, clarifying in federal law what was already not permitted in both state and federal hemp production rules.
  - This actions ends the perceived loophole created in the 2018 Farm Bill, so many products that used to be sold as ‘legal hemp’ will be considered illegal under federal law within a year.
- The program anticipates another rulemaking process to begin in 2026. The program will update licensees and stakeholders once that rulemaking process has begun.
- No major changes are expected between the 2025 and 2026 program seasons.
- Hemp Program Licensees must consult with their own private legal counsel to ensure their operations abide by state and federal hemp laws/rules, especially if any products are being made or manufactured for human consumption purposes.



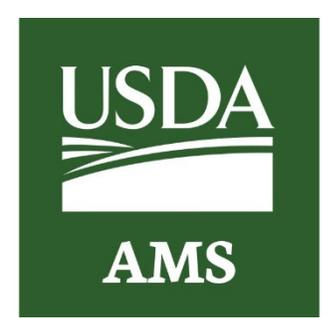
# Hemp Crop Research in Arkansas is Supported by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture (UADA)



- Most hemp research in Arkansas is conducted by the UADA Research & Extension in Fayetteville, AR.
  - Researcher contact information is located on the AR Hemp Program website's public licensee list.



# USDA-AMS: U.S. Domestic Hemp Production Program



- The 2018 Farm Bill directed USDA to establish a national regulatory framework for hemp production in the U.S.
- USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Hemp Program published an Interim Final Rule for hemp production on October 31, 2019.
- The USDA-AMS Hemp Program built on the Interim Final Rule by incorporating public comments and lessons-learned during the 2020 growing season to create a Final Rule.
- The [Final Rule](#) became effective on March 22, 2021.
- The Arkansas Hemp Program received federal approval from the USDA-AMS team to regulate hemp production in Arkansas on December 9, 2021.
- AR Hemp Program began reporting licensee information to USDA-AMS on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/hemp>

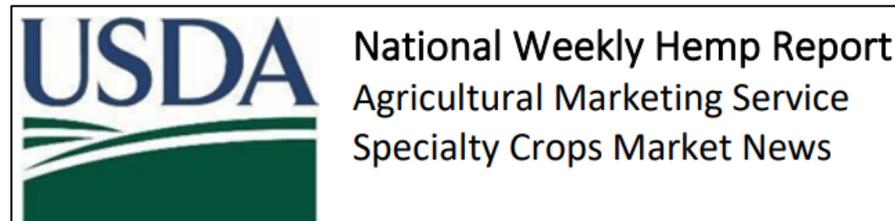


# USDA – National Weekly Hemp Report (FVHEMP)

- The USDA-AMS Specialty Crops Market News publishes a weekly hemp report, located here:

<https://esmis.nal.usda.gov/publication/national-weekly-hemp-report-fvhemp>

- This weekly report provides free and unbiased pricing and volume data for multiple hemp commodities.
- This report contains the weekly retail advertised prices for selected hemp commodities, as well as total import volumes and values for all hemp commodities entering the US for both the current week of the report and for the year to date.



# FDA and Cannabis-derived Products: (Still) Waiting for FDA Guidance



- The FDA is in the process of developing potential regulatory pathways for products containing cannabis and cannabis-derived compounds.
- We are still awaiting FDA guidance on how cannabis products will be federally regulated.
- The FDA and the Arkansas Department of Health maintain that CBD and any other cannabinoids are not permitted to be an additive to food or drink products.
- The FDA has issued several warning letters to CBD companies making health/medical claims on products.



# The FDA and Cannabis-derived Products: GRAS Hemp Seed-Derived Food Ingredients

- Hemp material that is OK for human consumption/food products and are “generally recognized as safe (GRAS)” include: **(1) hemp seed oil (GRN778), (2) hemp seed protein powder (GRN771), and (3) nonviable hulled hemp seed (GRN765).**
- It is the Program participant’s responsibility to ensure state and federal food safety laws and rules are being followed, including any licensure, permits, certifications, etc.



<https://www.fda.gov/food/cfsan-constituent-updates/fda-responds-three-gras-notice-hemp-seed-derived-ingredients-use-human-food>



# Newer Grain Markets: Hemp as a Feed Ingredient for Producing Animals

- Hemp is still limited in terms of feed ingredients for livestock and poultry.
- However, on August 7, 2024, **hempseed meal for egg-laying hens** was officially approved as a feed ingredient by AAFCO, marking the first federal feed approval for hemp in the United States.
- Hempseed meal is a byproduct of hemp oil extraction, rich in protein, amino acids, and essential fatty acids.
- The next rumored markets to receive similar approvals: broiler chickens, dairy cattle, pets, and other livestock. Some of these markets are already under active review and research trials.
  - Livestock typically receives these approvals first, followed by companion animal pets.
- Approvals for hemp feed ingredients require FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine review, as well as AAFCO ingredient definition adoption.



# Arkansas Hemp Program:

## What does each hemp license permit me to do?

### Processor/Handler License

- **NO Live Plants**
- Process Harvested Crop into Publicly Marketable Products
- Extract Hemp for CBD
- Process, Handle, Store, Market
- Brokers, Labs, Seed Cleaners
- Dry, Chop, Grind other person's harvest
- Handle other person's harvest

### Grower License

- Purchase Viable Seed for Planting
- Purchase Live Plants
- Grow Live Plants
- Grow in Fields
- Grow in Greenhouses
- Produce Transplants
- Store your hemp
- Dry, Chop, Grind (your own hemp)
- Market your own Crop



# Fiscal-Year (FY) Licenses

- Licenses in the Program are on the state's financial Fiscal-Year, **not the normal calendar year.**
- The 2026 Season will cover FY2026 ***and*** FY2027 licensing.
  - FY2027 license is from the License Issued Date through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027.
- This means that if issued a license with this Program, your license will expire on **June 30<sup>th</sup>** of each year.



# Review Questions:

- Does Federal Law/Rules require testing for Total THC?

- **Yes**    **No**

- Does a Hemp Grower License enable you to extract CBD from hemp material?

- **Yes**    **No**

- When does a Grower License expire?

- **December 31<sup>st</sup>, annually**

**June 30<sup>th</sup>, annually**



# Submission of Program Paperwork Forms:

## Two ways to submit program forms:

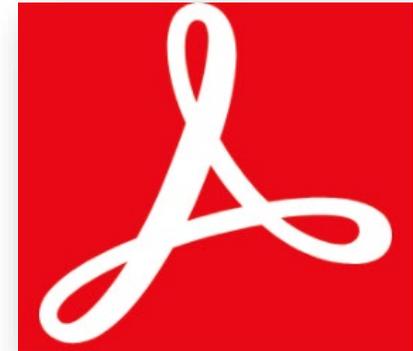
- 1) Adobe “Fillable” PDF via Email*
- or*
- 1) Microsoft Forms via Electronic Submission*

Visit the [“LICENSE HOLDERS – FORMS & DEADLINES”](#) webpage for more information



# Submission of Program Paperwork Forms: Adobe “Fillable” *PDF Forms via Email*

- Program forms can be completed directly using Adobe PDF on your computer or smartphone.
- Program forms are “fillable PDFs” available on the “[LICENSE HOLDERS – FORMS & DEADLINES](#)” website.
- Download Adobe Reader for free, [CLICK HERE](#)
- **PDF PROGRAM FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO=>**  
[industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov)
- *Email or electronic form submissions are faster and easier for staff to process, especially during time-sensitive harvest season.*



# Submission of Program Paperwork Forms: *Microsoft Forms via Electronic Submission*

- Electronic Microsoft Forms are available on the “[LICENSE HOLDERS – FORMS & DEADLINES](#)” webpage.
- MS Forms are incredibly easy to use with your smartphone device.
- If you are newer to hemp program paperwork, **start with the Adobe “Fillable” PDF version of program forms before utilizing the electronic forms.**
- Make sure you retain copies of what you submit to the program. If you forget to save a copy of a submitted form, email the program requesting for a copy of what you submitted.

*Email or electronic form submissions are faster and easier for staff to process, especially during time-sensitive harvest season.*



# Licensed AR Hemp Seed Dealer License List

- A list of licensed AR Hemp Seed Dealer/Labeler licenses is maintained by the Department's Seed Section.
- The Seed Section's program website is: <https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/crops-industry/quality-control-and-compliance/seed-section/>
- *Any person engaging in agricultural seed distribution into, from, or within Arkansas must abide by AR Seed Laws & Rules, which includes the need for an AR Seed Dealer/Labeler License.*

***NOTE:*** *Viable hemp seed for planting is legally considered "industrial hemp," which means an individual or entity must be licensed with the Department Hemp Program in order to have viable hemp seed in their possession within Arkansas. This includes hemp seed companies that physically handle and/or store viable hemp seed in Arkansas.*



# Hemp Crop Consultants in Arkansas

- If you are acting as an Agricultural Crop Consultant within Arkansas, including hemp crop consulting, you need an Arkansas Agricultural Consultant License issued by the Department.

For more information, visit: <https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/crops-industry/quality-control-and-compliance/arkansas-agricultural-consultants/>



# Hemp Transplant Providers

- If your hemp growing operations will be regularly sending seedlings/clones/propagules/rooted plants across state lines to other license holders in state hemp programs throughout the season, **an Arkansas Nursery Dealer License is required from the Department.**
- If you will be purchasing seedlings/clones/propagules/rooted plants from another state to bring into Arkansas, **a Phytosanitary Certificate issued by a state's department of agriculture is required prior to bringing the plants into Arkansas.**

*For more information about the Department Nursery/Landscaping Licensing Program, visit <https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/crops-industry/regulatory-services/nursery-licensing/>*



# A Note About Organic Hemp



- “Organic” is strictly regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- **You cannot market your hemp as “organic” unless you have been Certified Organic.**
- Organic hemp products must be grown by a certified organic farm AND processed by a certified organic processor.
- If interested in applying for organic certification, visit <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program> to locate a certifying agent approved by USDA.
- Certification can sometimes be a multi-year process.



# Licensed Hemp Licensee Lists: Growers & Processor/Handlers

- The Department maintains a public list of Licensed Hemp Growers & Hemp Processor/Handlers available on the Program's website.
- This list is intended to help with marketing efforts.
- This list includes Business/Company Names, mailing city, contact person, phone and email.

*If any of this information needs to be updated/corrected, please email a request to [industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov)*



# Notes for Growers RE: Processors

- The Department will not buy your hemp or mandate specific processor/handlers.
- Secure a buyer before planting and carefully review your contracts.
- You may work with multiple licensed processor/handlers.
- The Department does not limit which or how many processors you work with, but **you MUST only sell to licensed growers/processors that are licensed through a state's department of agriculture or approved USDA hemp production plan.**
- **You can only sell to license holders that can legally possess the materials in their jurisdiction.**



# Questions

- What is the best way to reach the Hemp Program Staff?
  - By phone
  - By letter
  - **By email to [industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov)**
  
- What is the best way to submit program forms and/or requests?
  - By mailing a physical copy
  - **By typing directly into the fillable form using Adobe PDF & emailing attachment to [industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov) , OR**
  - **By submitting an electronic MS Form submission**



# Crop Production



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# Industrial Hemp Production: 3 Main Types

- Floral/Cannabinoid Production
- Grain/Seed Production
- Fiber Production



Floral hemp production is the most popular production type in the United States. In 2025 in Arkansas, ~48% of planted hemp was intended for floral purposes, with ~31% for grain/seed, ~7% for fiber, and ~14% for research only purposes.



# Federal Law: Redefinition of Hemp in late 2025

“The term ‘**hemp**’ means the plant *Cannabis sativa L.* and any part of that plant, **including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers**, whether growing or not, with a **total tetrahydrocannabinols (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)** concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.”

*The Arkansas Hemp Program has analyzed regulatory samples using this testing standard since the first year of the research program in 2019.*



# Federal Law:

## New Definition of Industrial Hemp in late 2025

- U.S. Congress also provided a new definition for “industrial hemp,” separating cannabinoid hemp from hemp for more industrial purposes.
- This action at the federal level clarifies that hemp in the U.S. was always intended to be agricultural and non-intoxicating.
- The new industrial hemp definition and redefinition will be officially enforced by federal law on November 12, 2026.
- This means that state hemp production plans that permitted intoxicating loophole products may need to re-draft their hemp production plans to be approved by the federal government; Arkansas’s Hemp Production Plan remains intact and compliant.



# Federal Law:

## New Definition of Industrial Hemp in late 2025

7 U.S.C. § 1609(o)

(2) INDUSTRIAL HEMP.— the term ‘industrial hemp’ means hemp—

- (A) Grown for the use of the stalk of the plant, fiber produced from such a stalk, or any other non-cannabinoid derivative, mixture, preparation, or manufacture of such a stalk;
- (B) Grown for the use of the whole grain, oil, cake, nut, hull, or any other non-cannabinoid compound, derivative, mixture, preparation, or manufacture of the seeds of such plant;
- (C) Grown for purposes of producing microgreens or other edible hemp leaf products intended for human consumption that are derived from an immature hemp plant that is grown from seeds that do not exceed the threshold for total tetrahydrocannabinols concentration specified in paragraph (1)(C)(i);
- (D) That is a plant that does not enter the stream of commerce and is intended to support hemp research at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965) or an independent research institute; or
- (E) Grown for the use of a viable seed of the plant produced solely for the production or manufacture of any material described in paragraphs (A) through (D).



# Hemp Grower License

- Allows you to legally grow hemp in Arkansas.
- Every provision in the Application is legally binding and serves as your *Licensing Agreement* between yourself and the Department.
- Keep copies of your License Certificate(s) AND Application(s) with you, near the crop, and harvested materials.
- Make as many copies of your license certificate as needed.
- You do NOT have to use 100% of the acreage you were initially approved/licensed for, but an outdoor plot must be a **MINIMUM** of a quarter acre (0.25) AND 1,000 plants.



# Pesticide Use on Hemp in Arkansas

- Pesticide products used in Arkansas must be registered with the AR Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Section.
- The EPA has approved hemp as a labeled use site for over 100+ pesticide products since April 2023– but not ALL of these products may be registered for use in Arkansas.
- Some minimum use pesticides (sometimes called 25b pesticides) are labeled for hemp or can be applied to hemp, even without specific labeling.
- It is the Hemp Grower Licensee's responsibility to confirm any pesticide product applied to hemp is both registered for use in Arkansas and labeled specifically for hemp crop use.
  - Adhere strictly to label instructions– “the label is the law.”
  - Communicate with your licensed processor or buyer to determine their acceptable pesticide use.



# Hemp Grower Licenses and Other Cannabis Programs in the state

- **Hemp Grower Licensees are NOT permitted to plant or grow any cannabis that is not industrial hemp: see 2 CAR § 31-103(e)(1)**
- If a Hemp Grower produces a Lot that exceeds the acceptable hemp THC level, the Lot is **NOT** eligible for transfer to another state cannabis program.
- Legally produced hemp material is only permitted to be sold from **hemp licensee to hemp licensee**. The receiving party must be licensed through a state's department of agriculture or the USDA to grow or process hemp.
- For more information, please review Hemp Program rules, as well as the Restrictions on Sale or Transfer slides/website.





# Grow At Your Own Risk!



- Limited production knowledge combined with an uncertain federal regulatory environment and unstable pricing creates significant risk for the grower.
- **Crop failures happen.**
- **Crop insurance is now available in Arkansas at limited capacity for select Arkansas counties. Contact your local crop insurance agent for details.**
- **Millions of pounds of unsold hemp flower produced in 2019 – 2025 are still in storage nationwide.**
- **“Don’t plant more than you can afford to lose.”**



# Questions

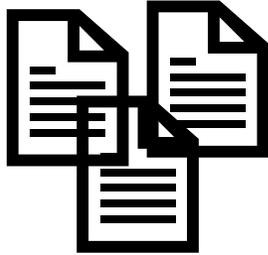
- Is hemp production a low-risk farm enterprise?
  - Yes or **No**
  
- I was approved for 1 acre, but I only want to plant 10 individual hemp plants in my approved outdoor field plot. Is this acceptable?
  - Yes or **No**





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# Criminal History Background Checks



# Arkansas State Police: Criminal History Background Checks

- All license holders (**including signing authorities and company key participants**) are required to submit criminal history background checks with Arkansas State Police (ASP) on an annual basis.
- Background check should have occurred 60 or less days prior to the date of application or licensure renewal.
- Background check must be free from felony convictions and drug related felonies for the past 10 years.
- Refer to the hemp program's "[Applications for Hemp Licensing](#)" webpage for more information.
- Follow instructions on ASP-122 Form. Under 'release to' input:  
*"AR Department of Agriculture – Hemp Program."*

**ASP-122 Form (rev:9/21/22):**

<https://static.ark.org/asp/criminal/pdfs/ASP-122-ID-State-Background-Check-Current-On-Website-Fillable-Form-9272022.pdf>



# What are company key participants?

- This is a person who has ***direct or indirect financial interest*** in the entity producing hemp such as an owner or partner in a partnership.
- This includes signing authorities.
- Including without limitation an entity's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Operating Officer (COO), Chief Financial Officer (CFO), or any other positions that have these same job responsibilities.
- Farm managers, field managers, shift managers, and similar job roles are not considered key participants and do not have to file an ASP background check.



# Background Check for Individual Applicants

- Individual applicants (license would be in your proper name) are only required to submit a background check on themselves and any signing authority associated with the individual license.
- No need to submit background checks on secondary contacts.



# Questions

- As an individual applicant, must you submit a background check for your secondary contacts or farmhands?
  - Yes or **No**
  
- Are criminal history background checks required every year I participate in the Department Hemp Program?
  - **Yes** or No



# Growing Locations



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# Growing Locations: Aerial “Location ID” Maps

- All hemp program applicants are required to submit an Aerial Location ID map as part of their application.
- These maps detail all licensed locations where hemp materials may be grown, processed, handled, or stored.
- A “Location ID” is a unique name that you as the applicant assign to a requested site, for example, “FIELD#1,” “NW FIELD,” or “GH#1.”
- Each Location ID is associated with a six-digit “Decimal Degrees” GPS coordinates and a street address.
- *“Decimal Degrees” GPS format example: (34.123456, -92.123456)*
- **Detailed instructions for creating Aerial “Location ID” Maps** are located within the AR Hemp Program’s “Applications for Hemp Licensing” document located on the [“APPLICATIONS FOR HEMP LICENSING”](#) webpage.



# Growing Locations

- If property does not have an address, you must give an estimate.
- There is a \$200 Site Modification Fee if you need to add or remove Location IDs *after your application has already been approved*. **Make sure the Location IDs requested within your application are final in order to avoid the \$200 Site Modification Fee.**
- All growing locations are subject to land-use restrictions as detailed in 2 CAR § 31-103 of Hemp Program rules.
- Two license holders can grow at the same address as long as they are licensing different fields.
- Growing, storing, processing, or handling hemp materials at an unregistered or unapproved location is a violation of Hemp Rules.



# Growing Locations: Lots & Location IDs

The way you license Field Location IDs is especially important for ‘Lot’ information and the Department’s sampling and testing of hemp Lots at the time of harvest.

If you will plant an outdoor hemp Lot more than 20 feet away from another planted outdoor hemp Lot, *the secondary Lot must be registered as its own Field Location ID.*

In other words, if there is a “break” in planted outdoor field Lots more than 20 feet away from one another, both locations need to be licensed as their own Field Location IDs since they are non-contiguous.

*A “Lot” is a grouping of hemp, containing the same variety throughout, in a contiguous area in a field, greenhouse, or grow location.*

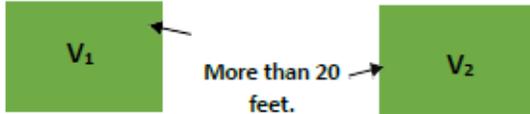
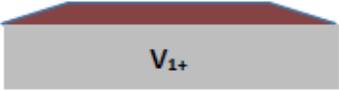
Refer to the *Application Instructions Packet*, posted on the “[Applications for Hemp Licensing](#)” webpage for more information, or reference the next few slides.



# Growing Locations: Lots & Location IDs

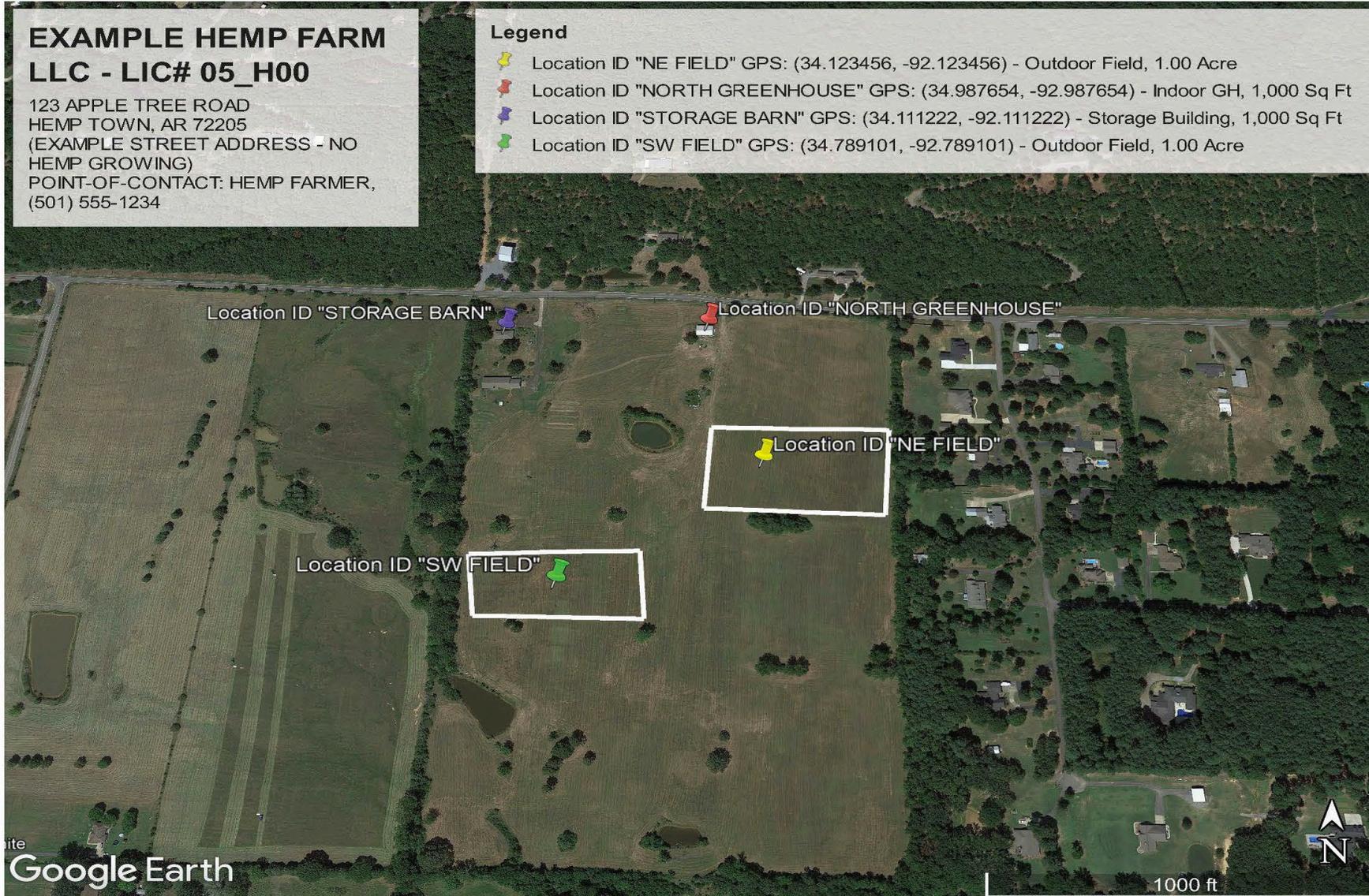
## What is a contiguous location?

- A contiguous field will NOT have any breaks, fence lines, bodies of water, or roads dividing the field. Any field division shall be seen as two or more separate fields.
- Greenhouses and other indoor growing structures are treated as individual structures and need separate GPS coordinates within the application.

Contiguous Locations?	Diagram V = variety
Yes, 1 Field	
Yes, 1 Field	
<b>NO, 2 Fields</b> <u>Reason:</u> Field divided by trees.	
<b>NO, 2 Fields</b> <u>Reason:</u> Field divided by river or stream.	
<b>NO, 2 Fields</b> <u>Reason:</u> Field divided by space of more than 20 feet.	
Yes, 1 Building/Structure	
<b>NO, 2 Separate Buildings</b> <u>Reason:</u> Two separate buildings or structures.	



# EXAMPLE AERIAL "LOCATION ID" MAP



## Aerial "Location ID" Map

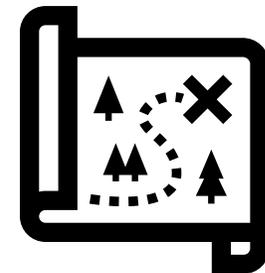
### Checklist of Requirements:

- Individual or Company Name (Applicant Name) on Map
- Hemp License Number, if known
- Street Address on Map
- All Location IDs Labeled and Indicated at one Street Address on one Map
- All Entrances Marked "E"
- Zoomed out enough to show whole site location and nearby labeled public road name
- All Location IDs labeled with different names; no repeating Location ID names
- GPS Coordinates for each building and/or Field plot in six-digit Decimal Degrees Format (34.123456, -92.123456)

***\*NOTE\* This map is for example and illustrative purposes ONLY. There is no hemp or any cannabis growing at any of these locations.***

# DETAILED MAP-MAKING INSTRUCTIONS USING GOOGLE EARTH PRO LOCATED IN APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS PACKET:

[APPLICATIONS FOR HEMP LICENSING WEBPAGE \(AR HEMP PROGRAM\)](#)





# Legal Land Description Information

- All licensed field or greenhouse Location IDs for Hemp Growers must have legal land description information provided within an application.
- This information is usually detailed in a land title/deed. You may have to contact the land or property owner for this detailed information.
- This information is required as attachments within the Grower application for **each** licensed growing site.

## Legal Land Description includes:

- 1) Township #
- 2) Range #
- 3) Section #



# Land Use Restrictions

- 1) Cannot grow, process, or store industrial hemp in any structure that is used for residential purposes.
- 2) Cannot grow, process, or store industrial hemp at any site that is located within 1,000 feet of a school, daycare, or similar public area frequented by children.
- 3) Cannot include any property within the original application or Site Modification Request that is not owned or completely controlled by the applicant or licensed grower.



# Land Use Restrictions (continued)

- 4) **Cannot plant or grow any cannabis that is not industrial hemp.**
  
- 5) Cannot plant or grow industrial hemp on any site not listed within the application or approved Site Modification request.



# Land Use Restrictions for Licensees (continued)

**NOTE: This rule is often overlooked by hemp growers, read carefully**

6) Plant industrial hemp in an outdoor growing location of less than one-quarter (0.25) acre **AND** 1,000 plants unless prior approval is received in writing from the Department. Industrial Hemp shall be physically segregated from other crops unless prior approval is obtained in writing from the Department.



# Field Plot Signage: REQUIRED!!!

- The Department has provided Field Plot Signage templates posted on the [“License Holders – Forms & Deadlines”](#) webpage.
- Available in fillable PDF in two sizes:
  - 8.5” x 11”
  - 11” x 17”
- Signage needed for each licensed Field Location ID, especially once you plant!



PLANT INDUSTRIES  
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## Arkansas Hemp Program

License Holder Name:  
CALEB ALLEN

License Number:  
05\_H000

Location ID:  
FIELD #1

Arkansas Department of Agriculture  
agriculture.arkansas.gov | (501) 225-1598

EXAMPLE





# Program Fees



- Licensees will be issued the following Program Invoices via e-mail for the current season:
  1. Licensing Invoice
  2. Site Modification Invoice
  3. Sampling Invoice
- All Program Invoices will be e-mailed to the e-mail address(es) on-file.
- All invoices are due by the due date listed on the invoice, usually within 30-days.
- A detailed fee schedule can be found in 2 CAR § 31-114.
- **All Program Invoices MUST be paid via post-mail or online.**

FEE DESCRIPTION	FEE AMOUNT	LICENSE TYPE	PROGRAM INVOICING TYPE
APPLICATION FEE	\$50.00	BOTH	N/A
LICENSE FEE	\$200.00	BOTH	LICENSING INVOICE
SITE MODIFICATION FEE	\$200.00	BOTH	SITE MODIFICATION INVOICE
APPLIED ACREAGE FEE	\$50.00 - \$1,000.00	GROWER LICENSE ONLY	LICENSING INVOICE <u>OR</u> SITE MODIFICATION INVOICE
APPLIED GREENHOUSE FEE	\$100.00 / EACH	GROWER LICENSE ONLY	LICENSING INVOICE <u>OR</u> SITE MODIFICATION INVOICE
GPS VERIFICATION FEE (EACH STORAGE LOCATION ID)	\$100.00 / EACH	BOTH	LICENSING INVOICE <u>OR</u> SITE MODIFICATION INVOICE
APPLIED PROCESSOR/HANDLER (PRODUCER) FEE	\$500.00 - \$1,500.00	PROCESSOR/HANDLER LICENSE ONLY	LICENSING INVOICE <u>OR</u> SITE MODIFICATION INVOICE
HARVEST/COMPLIANCE SAMPLING FEE	\$100.00 / EACH	GROWER LICENSE ONLY	HARVEST/COMPLIANCE SAMPLING INVOICE



# Program Fees - Continued

**Make sure to budget your operations accordingly, taking the Program Fees into consideration!**

- **Failure** to pay a Program Invoice by the due date indicated on the Invoice may result in the Department referring the matter to a debt collection agency.
- **Grower applicants/licensees need to take into consideration:** (1) how many different hemp varieties they will be planting for the season and (2) how many different Location IDs (Indoor/Outdoor growing sites) hemp will be grown at. These two factors are extremely important during Harvest time when each compliance sample (“Lot”) collected by the Department is \$100.
- Payments that are post-mailed to the Department must have the Program Invoice accompanying payment in the mailing envelop. **Always include paperwork when mailing payment to the Department.**



# Program Fees – Online Payment Portal

<https://payments.statesolutions.us/?AID=63236C49690A4EF484D709986A07A969>

## Online Payment Instructions:

- Fill-out all the payment portal information, including your license number and company name. Do not leave any info blank, or the portal will not let you proceed.
- When prompted to search for a product, search “HEMP” and select the line item that you are trying to pay for.
- Scroll down to the bottom of the page, select “Update,” and you should see the Total Amount reflected.
- Select “Pay,” and fill-out the remaining card and billing information.
- Need help? E-mail [industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov)



# Site Modification Requests

- Submit a Site Modification Request Form for any NEW locations/sites after licensing approval.
- \$200 Site Modification Request Fee will be charged to you upon approval.
- Additional Fees: Consider other program fees (e.g., Extra Greenhouse Location ID: \$200 Site Mod Fee + \$100 Greenhouse Fee = \$300)
- Processing of Site Mod Request Forms can take up to three weeks.
- Important Tip: **Plan all sites in the original application to minimize modification fees later!**



# Questions

- What is the minimum planting required at an outdoor growing site?
  - 100 plants
  - **1,000 plants AND 0.25 acre**
  - 10 acres
- Can 2 different applicants license the same field or greenhouse?
  - Yes or **No**
- Can a licensed grower plant hemp in their yard (adjacent to their house), within 500 feet of a school or next to a public park?
  - Yes or **No**



# Sourcing Planting Materials



# Picking A Hemp Variety

- Genetics are EXTREMELY important, especially with the USDA's "Negligent Violation" requirement.
- If crop tests above 1.0% Total THC three times within a 5-year period, results in license suspension, per federal hemp rules.
- **CAUTION:** Watch the ratio of THC:CBD on new varieties – if you are seeking 10% CBD, calculate where that THC would be if you reach that level of maturity. THC and CBD both increase as the plant matures in relatively the same ratio.



# Varieties and Intellectual Property

## Intellectual Property:

- License holders are prohibited from growing for replication any intellectual property or genetic lines for which they do not have a license or written permission from the varietal owner.
- A copy of any license or permission from the varietal property owner shall be provided in writing to the Department upon request.
- License holders must attest that the planned activities conducted under the Hemp Grower License will NOT infringe on the intellectual property rights of any person.



# Summary of Varieties List

- The annual Summary of Varieties List includes all hemp varieties planted and tested in Arkansas.
- Find the latest list on the “[License Holders – Forms & Deadlines](#)” webpage.
- Some varieties are designated as **Varieties of Concern** once the variety receives one (1) pre-harvest test result in AR above 0.300% THC.
- Planting is allowed without pre-approval, but growers should exercise caution when growing a Variety of Concern by conducting independent third-party THC% lab testing to ensure THC levels do not surpass the acceptable hemp THC level.
- **New Varieties:** To grow a variety not listed, submit a **New Variety Request Form** on the “[LICENSE HOLDERS – FORMS & DEADLINES](#)” webpage.



# Sourcing Hemp Seed Guidelines

- **Licensing Required:** Only licensed hemp entities can receive or sell viable hemp seed or transplants in Arkansas.
  - **Selling to unlicensed entities is prohibited.**
- **Variety Approval:** Check the Summary of Varieties List or submit a New Variety Request Form to confirm approval.
  - **Program staff will confirm if your requested variety is approved or not approved.**
- **New Variety Request Form Requirements:**
  - **Certificate of Analysis (COA) detailing “TOTAL THC” content for each requested variety.**
  - **Arkansas Seed Dealer/Labeler License from the seed source.**
- **When Buying Planting Materials:**
  - Request a COA for the mature plant’s floral material.
  - Review the THC/CBD levels and ratios to ensure they abide by the acceptable hemp THC level.
- **Seed Dealer Licensing:**
  - All seed companies must be licensed by their state or the USDA hemp program.
  - To deal hemp seed in Arkansas, obtain an **Arkansas Seed Dealer/Labeler License** (contact the Department’s Seed Section or visit their website).



# Seed Certification = Increased Reliability

- Sourcing a certified hemp seed variety can give hemp growers peace of mind in an already volatile industry.
- Sourcing a certified hemp seed variety can provide genetic reliability, compliance with THC% thresholds, disease & pest resistance, as well as traceability & transparency.
- This in turn provides buyer confidence, premium pricing at market, help with insurance & financing issues, product consistency, and potentially increase export potentials.
- While somewhat paperwork heavy, using a certified hemp seed variety may safeguard your operations/investments, provide access to more secure markets, and shield the licensed hemp grower from regulatory risks.
- For more information and sourcing:  
<https://aosca.org/programs-services/national-variety-review-boards/hemp/>



CERTIFIED SEED			
Grower	██████████	Kind	HEMP
County	██████████		03/21 Date Tested
Lot No.	██████████	Variety	██████████
		Net Weight	38.55 % Pure Seed
			0.00 % Weed Seed
			0.00 % Other Crop
			0.05 % Inert
			3.4 % Germination
			3 % Certified Seed or Hand Seed
			37 % Total Value



# Sourcing Hemp Transplants, Clones or Seedlings Guidelines

## Receiving from Out-of-State:

- **The source must be a Licensed Hemp Grower in their state (verify hemp license certificates, obtain copies of hemp license certificates).**
- The variety must be approved by the AR Hemp Program.
- Provide EITHER:
  - 1) A Nursery License, OR
  - 2) A Phytosanitary Certificate (for rooted plants)
- Obtain copies of COAs from the transplants/clones/seedlings source.
- Include transportation documentation (e.g., bill of lading).
- ***All pieces of documentation mentioned above should always be in possession of the transporter.***

## Sending Out-of-State:

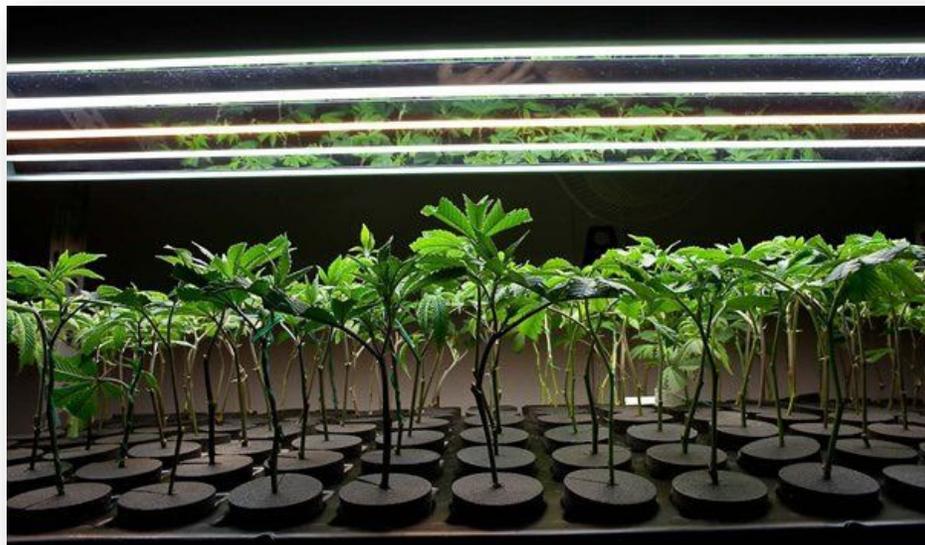
- **Only sell to licensed hemp growers (verify hemp license certificates, obtain copies of hemp license certificates).**
- Verify the receiving state's transfer requirements.
- Obtain EITHER:
  - **1)** A Phytosanitary Certificate (for occasional or rare transfers), OR
  - **2)** an Arkansas Nurseryman's License (for regular or frequent transfers across state lines)
- Obtain copies of COAs from the transplants/clones/seedlings source.
- Include transportation documentation (e.g., bill of lading).
- ***All pieces of documentation mentioned above should always be in possession of the transporter.***



# Sourcing Hemp Transplants, Clones or Seedlings Guidelines

## Transfers Within Arkansas:

- Only sell to license hemp growers (verify hemp license certificates, obtain copies of hemp license certificates).
- Include transportation paperwork (e.g., bill of lading).
- Obtain copies of COAs from the transplants/clones/seedlings source.
- **All pieces of documentation mentioned above should always be in possession of the transporter.**
- A phytosanitary certificate or Nursery License is NOT required for transplants being transported WITHIN Arkansas.
- When in doubt, submit your question to [industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov)



# General Planting Material Sourcing Information

- **ALL high CBD strains of hemp will exceed 0.3% THC if allowed to fully mature—they must be harvested early to remain legal.**
- When buying planting materials, always demand a Certificate of Analysis (COA) on the parent plant floral material and check your THC/CBD levels and ratios.
- ***It is nearly impossible to get 10% CBD content without going over the legal limit of THC!***



# General Planting Material Sourcing Information



**Saved seed from the year before can be VERY unstable, depending on how it has been stored. Saved seed not stored under proper conditions may have elevated THC levels come harvest time.**



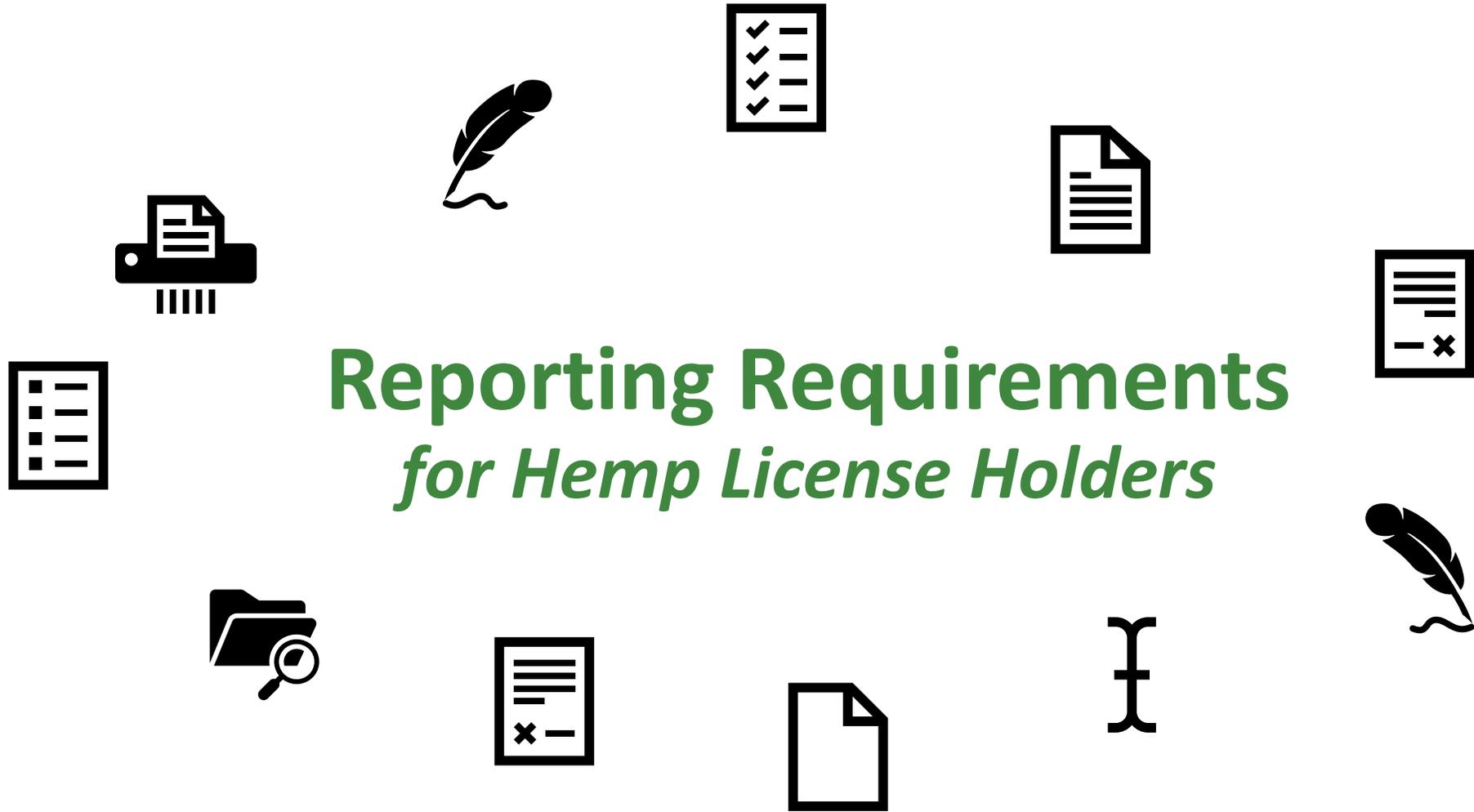
# Questions

- Can a license holder purchase or plant any variety/strain of cannabis seeds they choose?
  - Yes or **No**
- What form must be completed to request permission to bring a hemp variety into Arkansas?
  - Site modification request form
  - **New Variety Request Form**
  - Hemp Material Transfer Request Form





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# Reporting Requirements *for Hemp License Holders*



# Reporting Requirements

- **Be aware of due dates!!**
- **All Reporting Forms MUST be electronically submitted via:**
  - 1) **E-mail to [industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov), or**
  - 2) **MS Electronic Forms**
- **Do NOT submit paper copies of reports via post-mail.**
- The Department does NOT recommend that any reporting be completed by another party on your behalf.
- **NOTE on Record Retention:** You must retain your hemp program records for up to three (3) years.



# Hemp Program Website: “License Holders – Forms & Deadlines”

All Program Requests and Report forms are located on this webpage!

<https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/crops-industry/quality-control-and-compliance/hemp-home/license-holders-forms-deadlines/>

[Agriculture](#) / [Crops & Industry](#) / [Quality Control and Compliance](#) / [Hemp](#) / License Holders – Forms & Deadlines

## License Holders – Forms & Deadlines

### Licensee Forms

#### MANUAL 'FILLABLE PDF' FORMS

MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL TO HEMP PROGRAM; MUST HAVE ADOBE PDF READER DOWNLOADED ON MOBILE DEVICE OR COMPUTER. <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

[Destruction Request Form \(pdf\)](#)

[Harvest Request Form \(pdf\)](#)

[New Variety Request Form \(pdf\)](#)

[Field Planting Report Form \(pdf\)](#)

[Greenhouse/Indoor Planting Report Form \(pdf\)](#)

[Site Modification Request Form \(pdf\)](#)

[Processor/Handler Production Report Form \(pdf\)](#)

[Grower Production Report Form \(pdf\)](#)

[QCC OCSE FORM \(pdf\)](#)

#### MICROSOFT ELECTRONIC FORMS (MS E-FORMS)

EASY TO USE & SUBMIT WITH YOUR MOBILE DEVICE OR COMPUTER! NO DOWNLOADS NECESSARY, SUBMIT FORMS DIRECTLY ONLINE.

NOTE: IF YOU ARE A NEW PROGRAM LICENSEE OR HAVE MULTIPLE LOTS TO REPORT, IT IS RECOMMENDED TO FILL-OUT THE PROGRAM'S MANUAL 'FILLABLE PDF' FORMS FIRST.

[Destruction Request Form \(MS Forms\)](#)

[Harvest Request Form \(MS Forms\)](#)

[New Variety Request Form \(MS Forms\)](#)

[Field Planting Report Form \(MS Forms\)](#)

[Greenhouse/Indoor Planting Report Form \(MS Forms\)](#)

[Processor/Handler Production Report Form \(MS Forms\)](#)

[Grower Production Report Form \(MS Forms\)](#)

[Hemp Grower No-Change License Renewal Form \(MS Forms\)](#)

[Hemp Processor/Handler No-Change License Renewal Form \(MS Forms\)](#)



# AR Hemp Program: Licensee Paperwork Timeline Chart

PROGRAM FORM NAME	LICENSE TYPE (GROWER OR PROCESSOR/HANDLER)	FORM DUE DATE
Site Modification Request Form	BOTH LICENSES	File at any time; at least 30-days before implementing site changes
New Variety Request Form	GROWER LICENSE ONLY	File at any time; at least three (3) weeks before receiving seed or seedlings
Field Planting Report Form	GROWER LICENSE ONLY	Within 15-days of Planting a Lot at a Field Location ID; if no planting will occur for the season, "NO PLANTING" Field Planting Report due by July 31 <sup>st</sup>
Indoor/Greenhouse Planting Report Form	GROWER LICENSE ONLY	Within 15-days of planting within an empty greenhouse or indoor structure, then quarterly throughout the calendar year: MAR 31, JUN 30, SEPT 30, DEC 31
Harvest Request Form	GROWER LICENSE ONLY	15-days prior to harvesting any lot
Destruction Request Form	BOTH LICENSES	15-days prior to destroying any cannabis material
Grower Production Report (End-of-Year Report)	GROWER LICENSE ONLY	By December 1 <sup>st</sup> , annually
Processor/Handler Production Report (End-of-Year Report)	PROCESSOR/HANDLER LICENSE ONLY	By December 1 <sup>st</sup> , annually



# Planting Reports: Due whether you plant or do not plant

- There are **two** types of planting reports in the Hemp Program:
  - **Greenhouse/Indoor Planting Report Form**
    - due within 15-days of planting within an empty greenhouse structure, then due quarterly throughout year.
  - **Field Planting Report**
    - due within **15-days of each outdoor Lot planting.**
    - **“NO PLANTING” Field Planting Reports** are due by July 31, *annually.*
- Planting reports are located on the Program website under the “*License Holders – Forms & Deadlines*” webpage.





## The Farm Service Agency (FSA) & Crop Acreage Reports



- All hemp plantings **MUST** be reported to the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) using their Crop Acreage Report form, known as the **FSA-578 FORM**.
- You **MUST** report both your intended and certified crop acreages to your local county FSA office.
  - To find your local county FSA office: [CLICK HERE](#)
  - For crop acreage reporting information:
    - [CROP ACREAGE REPORTING INFOGRAPHIC](#)
    - [CROP ACREAGE REPORT INFORMATION](#)
- New farmers will want to visit or call their local county FSA office to register a new account with their office. Bring hemp license certificate information from the Department, as well as SSN# or Tax ID# information.
- *July 15<sup>th</sup> is the major USDA-FSA deadline for most crops, but acreage reporting deadlines vary by county and by crop.*





# The Farm Service Agency (FSA) & Crop Acreage Reports



**You MUST submit the FSA-578 Form to your local county FSA office every time you plant a new Lot at a licensed location, within 15-days of each planting.**

*A “Lot” is a grouping of hemp, containing the same variety throughout, in a contiguous area in a field, greenhouse, or grow location.*

 **PLEASE, PLEASE make sure you list out every planted Lot on the FSA-578 Form.**

 **The Arkansas Hemp Program will NOT be able to sample or test any hemp Lots come harvest time if a location has not been assigned an FSA lot number.**





## The Farm Service Agency (FSA) & Crop Acreage Reports



The AR Hemp Licensee must enter the “FSA Lot Number” on the appropriate Program Planting Report Form for each Lot of hemp planted.

The “FSA Lot Number” is made up of three parts from the FSA-578 FORM:  
**(Farm Number) - (Tract Number) - (CLU/Field Number)**

**You will be unable to successfully submit an AR Hemp Program Planting Report Form without first registering Lots with your local county FSA office.**



**Please make sure you list-out your hemp varieties on the FSA-578 FORM!!  
The definition of a hemp Lot includes the specific hemp variety name, which needs to be documented on the FSA-578 FORM.**



# Hemp Plantings with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) & Crop Acreage Reports



## Step 1: Report to FSA

- Within 15-days of planting each Lot, visit your local county FSA office.
- Use the FSA-578 Form to report crop acreages (Lots) and list your hemp variety names.

## Step 2: Complete AR Hemp Program Forms

- Use the information from the signed, completed FSA-578 Form to add FSA Lot Numbers to one of these forms:
  - **Field Planting Report Form, OR**
  - **Greenhouse/Indoor Planting Report Form**

## Step 3: Submit to the AR Hemp Program

- Email or submit via MS Forms the completed planting report form, with FSA Lot Numbers, to the AR Hemp Program.

### **Greenhouse Note:**

- Temporary greenhouse use for starts (seedlings or transplants) does not require FSA registration.
- The final grower harvesting the Lot must register with the FSA within 15-days of planting.



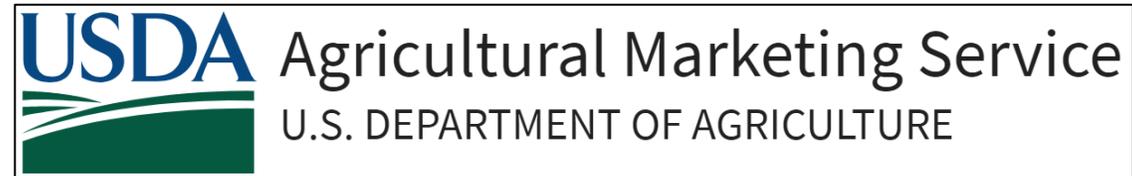
# USDA-AMS: Hemp eLearning Platform (HeLP)

- The USDA-AMS Hemp Team has produced an online FREE course that covers reporting hemp plantings to your local county FSA office.
- To access the Hemp eLearning Platform, visit:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/hemp/hemp-learning-platform>

- The Online Course you are interested in taking is entitled:

*“Reporting Hemp Crop Acreage with FSA”*



# The Farm Service Agency (FSA) & Crop Acreage Reports



***Note: The FSA is an agency part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is NOT part of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture. Legally protected grower information cannot be transferred between the agencies. This USDA-FSA reporting requirement is separate from other reporting required by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Hemp Program.***

**Reporting crop acreages to your local county FSA office is how Arkansas hemp producers may qualify for future USDA programs such as crop protection, grant programs, etc.**

**Questions about AR Hemp Program Planting Reports & FSA Lot Numbers??**



**[industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov)**



# Field Planting Report Requirements

## Submission Deadline:

- Due within 15-days of each outdoor Lot planting.
- Moving transplants from a greenhouse to a field is considered a planting and requires a report.

## Before Submitting:

- Contact your county FSA office within 15-days planting to report hemp crop acreages for each Lot.

## Completing the Form:

- Report each planted Lot.
- Fully spell out the hemp variety name as shown on the seed label or from the source. No nicknames or shorthand.

## No Planting?

- If you're not planting outdoors at a licensed Field Location ID for the season, submit a **“NO Planting”** Field Planting Report Form by July 31<sup>st</sup> annually.

## Location ID Accuracy:

- Location IDs must match your approved application or Site Modification. Check Page 2+ of your license certificate for reference.



# Greenhouse/Indoor Planting Report Requirements

## First Planting:

- Due within 15-days of first planting in an empty greenhouse.

## Quarterly Reports:

- After the first planting report, submit by the quarterly deadlines:
  - Q1: March 31<sup>st</sup> annually
  - Q2: June 30<sup>th</sup> annually
  - Q3: September 30<sup>th</sup> annually
  - Q4: December 31<sup>st</sup> annually

## FSA Registration:

- If harvesting from the greenhouse, register each Lot with your county FSA office within 15-days of planting.
- If using the greenhouse for temporary starts only, FSA registration is not required until planting at the final harvest Location ID.

## Location ID Accuracy:

- Ensure Location ID names match those approved in your application or Site Modification. Refer to page 2+ of your license certificate.



# Greenhouse/Indoor Planting Report Overview

## Purpose:

- Document New Lot Plantings for the Quarter (Question #4).
- Record transfers to/from the greenhouse (Question #5).
- Report current Lot inventory and plant quantities (Question #6).

## Quarterly Reporting:

➤ **For every report, list ALL Greenhouse Location IDs in Questions 4, 5, & 6.**

## ➤ Example Q1 Report Info

- ✓ Covers Lot Plantings from January 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>
- ✓ Question 4: New plantings during this quarter
- ✓ Question 5: Transfers to/from the greenhouse
- ✓ Question 6: Current inventory as of the end of the quarter

❖ ***Due March 31<sup>st</sup>, OR within 15-days of planting in an empty greenhouse***



# Harvest Request & Compliance Guidelines

## Submission Deadline:

- Harvest Request Forms must be submitted 15-days before your intended harvest date.

## Before Harvest:

- Harvesting is prohibited until the Department collects compliance samples.

## Harvest Timeline:

- Entire plot must be harvested within 30-days, starting the day after compliance samples are taken.
- **Multiple harvest Lots greater than 30-days apart?** Submit separate Harvest Request Forms for each Lot.

## Post-Harvest Requirements:

- Harvested Lots must remain separate and cannot be:
  - Mixed or comingled.
  - Transported beyond the processor or outside Arkansas.
  - Transferred or sold until the Department confirms compliance through lab testing.
- Materials are typically stored on-site at a registered Storage Location ID until test results are received.

## Fees & Planning:

- Compliance samples cost \$100 each – plan your Lots accordingly at the beginning of the season.

## For More Details:

- Refer to 2 CAR § 31-110 of program rules and the latest Sampling, Testing, Remediation & Disposals Guidelines Document on the “LICENSE HOLDERS – FORMS & DEADLINES” webpage.



# Destruction Request Forms

## Submission Deadline:

- Submit Destruction Request Forms 15-days before your intended destruction date.

## Approval Required:

- Destruction cannot proceed without written approval from the Department.
- The Department reviews each request and may require a representative or law enforcement to witness the destruction.

## Post-Approval Requirements:

- Provide **photographic proof** of the destruction event as outlined in the approved method.
- Separate forms are required for destruction Lots that will be destroyed more than 15-days apart.

## When to Submit:

- For failed plantings/emergence, research-only plots, noncompliant hemp materials, rogued male plants, or hemp not intended for market.

## Witnessing Destruction:

- The Department and/or law enforcement may be present during destruction.

## Refer to Guidelines:

- See Program Rules 2 CAR § 31-110 and the latest Sampling, Testing, Remediation & Disposal Guidelines Document for approved disposal methods, posted on the “LICENSE HOLDERS – FORMS & DEADLINES” webpage.



# Timely Harvest & Destruction Guidelines

## Harvest Requests:

- Once the Department collects pre-harvest compliance samples, you must harvest the Lot within 30-days.
- Do not wait for test results to begin harvesting.

## Destruction Requests:

- Once approved in writing by the Department, destruction must occur by the specified date.

## Be Prepared:

- Submit requests only when fully ready to harvest or destroy.
- Delays are not permitted after approval or sampling.



# Sampling, Testing, Remediation & Disposal Guidelines

- Read the latest Guidelines on the ["LICENSE HOLDERS – FORMS & DEADLINES"](#) webpage.
- **Important:** Pay attention to remediation methods for noncompliant crops.
  - Noncompliant Lots not properly remediated will not be resampled/retested post-harvest.
  - **Plan accordingly:** Remediating noncompliant crops can be costly, labor-heavy, and time-consuming.
- **Key Information in Guidelines:**
  - Sampling procedures
  - Harvest processes
  - Acceptable THC levels
  - Approved disposal methods
  - Proper remediation methods



# Approved Disposal Methods for Noncompliant Crops

*(from latest Sampling, Testing, Remediation & Disposal Guidelines Document)*

Photo Example	Ag Production Activity	Compliant Outcome	Photo Example
	<b>Plowing Under:</b> Curved plow blades rotate subsoil to surface and bury crop below	<b>Plowing Under:</b> - "Green Manure" - Amends soil directly from crop	
	<b>Mulching / Composting:</b> Fields crops cut and blended with manure or other biomass material	<b>Mulching / Composting:</b> - "Green Manure" - Mulch mixed with manure or other biomass	
	<b>Disking:</b> Leveling of field using tow-behind disk implement	<b>Disking:</b> - "Green Manure" - Amends soil directly from crop while leveling field	
	<b>Bush Mower / Chopper:</b> Commercial lawn mower used to shred and mix thick vegetation	<b>Bush Mower / Chopper:</b> - "Green Manure" - Shredded biomass decomposes into soil	
	<b>Deep Burial:</b> Fields are trenched, surface soil is buried at depth of at least 12"	<b>Deep Burial:</b> - Field biomass buried in trenches and covered with soil	
	<b>Burning:</b> Setting fire to specific production fields or biomatter piled on the field	<b>Burning:</b> - Fields are cleared of all plant material	



# End-of-Season Reporting Requirements

## **Growers:**

- Complete a Grower Production Report Form by December 1<sup>st</sup> annually.

## **Processor/Handlers:**

- Complete a Processor/Handler Production Report Form by December 31<sup>st</sup> annually.

## **Record Keeping:**

- Maintain thorough records and notes throughout the season.
- This information may help improve industry models and ensure accurate data collection.

## **Legal Requirement:**

- Retain all program records, including reports and requests submitted to the Department for up to three years.

## **Data Use:**

- Reports contribute to statistics shared with lawmakers, state agencies, hemp growers, and the public.

## **Importance of Accuracy:**

- Submitting your Production Report is essential for accurate hemp industry data, which in turn supports the hemp industry.



# Questions

- When is the Field Planting Report Form due to the Department?
  - A month after planting
  - Quarterly
  - 15 days before planting
  - **Within 15 days following each planting, after first reporting Lots with the FSA**
- True or False: The Greenhouse/Indoor Planting Report is due within 15 days of the first planting **AND** Quarterly throughout the year.
  - **True** or False
- You have two registered Field Location IDs, but you will NOT be planting at either one of them this season. Do you owe a Field Planting Report to the Department?
  - **Yes, “NO Planting” Field Planting Reports are due by July 30<sup>th</sup>**
  - **No, since I won't be planting, I don't owe any paperwork**



# Questions

- When is the Harvest Request Form due?
  - A month after harvest
  - **At least 15 days prior to expected harvest date**
  - Within 15 days following planting
- Are Arkansas hemp growers required to submit hemp crop acreage information to their local county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office?
  - **Yes** or No
- Will the Arkansas Hemp Program sample and test a hemp lot that is NOT assigned an FSA Lot number?
  - Yes or **No**





# Sampling & THC Testing of Hemp

## Pre-Harvest Sampling:

- 100% of plots intended for harvest are inspected and sampled by the Department before harvest.
- Sampling is done by location and variety, also known as a “Lot.”
- \$100 per pre- and post-harvest sample.

## Third-Party Testing:

- The Department recommends regular THC testing with a licensed, accredited third-party lab up to harvest.

## Federal Requirements:

- Delta-9-THC concentrations must be measured using post-decarboxylation (Total THC).

## Test Results:

- THC compliance test results are sent via email within 30-days of sample receipt at the Department.

## Official Sampling & Testing Program:

- The Department is the **only authorized entity** to conduct official regulatory THC compliance sampling and testing for all licensees in Arkansas.

## Important:

- Review the latest *Sampling, Testing, Remediation & Disposal Guidelines* document.



# Harvest Sample Collection & Inspection

## Grower Presence:

- The licensed grower (or knowledgeable staff) must be present during the Department's harvest sample collection inspection.

## Access for Inspection:

- The Department inspector must be granted full access to all **growing, storage, and handling locations**, including unplanted areas.

## Sampling:

- Compliance samples will be collected from each **harvest Lot** (contiguous planting of the same variety/strain at a Location ID).

## Test Results:

- THC compliance test results are sent via email within 30-days of sample receipt at the Department.

## Harvest Deadline:

- Harvest must be completed within 30-days of the Department's pre-harvest sample collection.



# THC Compliance & Measurement of Uncertainty (MU)

## Legal THC Limit:

- 0.3% Total THC is the federal legal limit for hemp.

## Measurement of Uncertainty (MU):

- All Certificates of Analysis (COAs) will include a **MU Value** next to the reported THC% result.
- The MU value is calculated using laboratory statistical methods and is **method and instrument specific**.

## Purpose of MU:

- The MU Value accounts for potential variance in THC% lab results and in-field sampling.
- The MU Value is reevaluated annually, as lab staffing changes, or as-needed.
- The MU Value will always be published next to lab results; review the latest *Sampling, Testing, Remediation, & Disposal Guidelines Document* for more information.

## Quality Assurance (QA):

- The Department's Laboratory Services Division participates in a national hemp regulatory proficiency testing program to ensure accuracy and reliability of THC% results.
- The lab remains compliant in this QA program, season after season.



# THC Test Results & Compliance Actions

## Refer to Guidelines:

- For specific actions on THC% test results, refer to the Program's Sampling, Testing, Remediation & Disposal Guidelines document.

## Mandatory Destruction:

- Lots testing at or above 1.0% THC from a pre-harvest test must be destroyed for compliance.
- No remediation or post-harvest resample/retest allowed.
- This is considered a **negligent violation** under federal hemp rules.

## Destruction Request:

- If a Lot fails pre- or post-harvest tests, submit a **Destruction Request Form**.

## Post-Harvest Resample/Retest:

- To request a **remediated post-harvest resample**, submit a **Harvest Request Form**.



# Understanding THC Analysis & Lab Results

## Delta-9-THCa:

- Cannabis plants produce **delta-9-THCa** (tetrahydrocannabinolic acid, or “THCA”).

## Decarboxylation:

- **Delta-9-THCa** converts to **delta-9-THC** (psychoactive) through **decarboxylation**.
- This process of decarboxylation occurs naturally over time when exposed to air or immediately with heat (e.g., heating or igniting).

## Total THC:

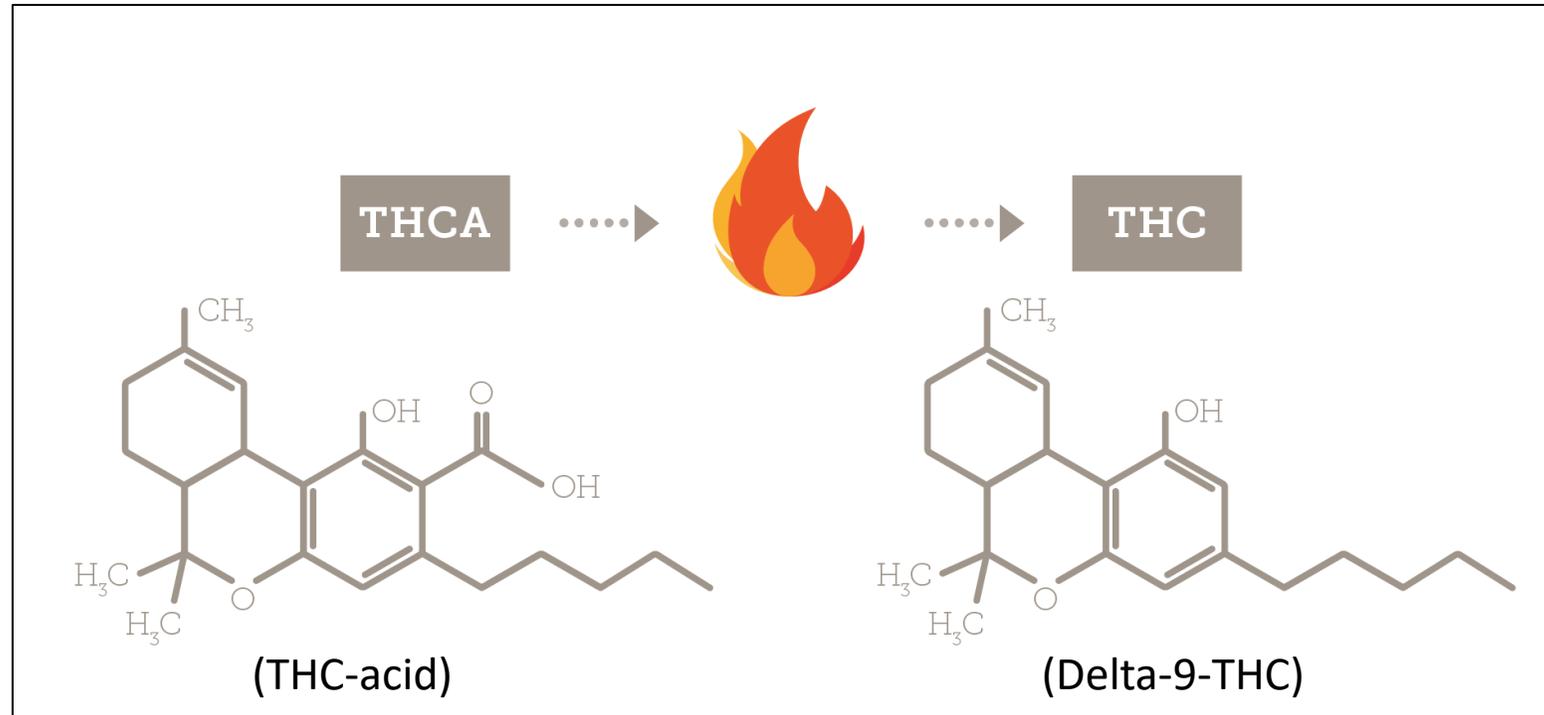
- The decarboxylated test result is referred to as **Total THC**.
- All lab results for Arkansas Hemp Program will report Total Delta-9-THC values.

## USDA Compliance:

- ALL states approved under the USDA federal hemp rules must test for Total THC content.



# Understanding THC Analysis & Lab Results



# Understanding THC Analysis & Lab Results

- If an analysis gives THCa and delta-9-THC, it must be combined mathematically:

$$\text{THC} + (\text{THCa} \times 0.877) = \text{Total THC}$$

**NOTE:** The equation and value above are not arbitrary. The 0.877 conversion factor is based on the molecular weight conversion of THCa to THC via decarboxylation.



# Total THC vs. Delta-9-THC

## THC Analysis and Compliance

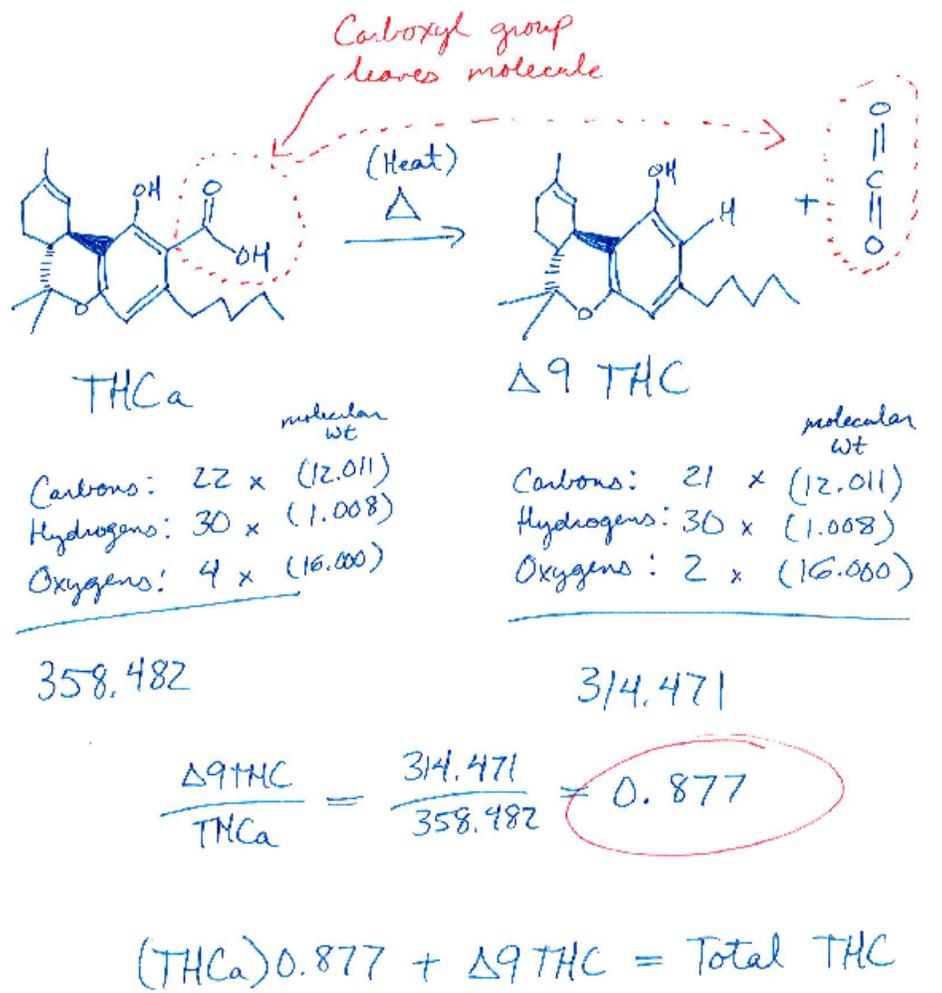
- THC Analysis: Delta-9 THC measured after decarboxylation gives accurate measurement of intoxication potential.
- Pre-decarboxylation THC = 0.28%, Post-decarboxylation THC = 22.27% (after heating or igniting).

CANNABINOID PROFILE		
CANNABINOID	%(w/w)	mg/g
THC	0.28%	2.8
THC-A	25.07%	250.7
CBD	0.00%	0.0
CBD-A	0.92%	9.2
CBN	0.00%	0.0
CBG	0.09%	0.9
<b>TOTAL CANNABINOIDS</b>	<b>26.36%</b>	<b>263.6</b>

Actual lab test of flower material courtesy of CDA.



**THC-A converts to THC at a rate of 87.7% resulting in a change in molecular weight.**



## Why combining THC-A content matters: 22.27% Total THC!

Per federal law, all state hemp programs must test for Total THC Compliance.



# Questions

- Is the Arkansas hemp program a “delta-9 Only” or “Total THC” state?
  - Delta-9-THC Only
  - **Total (decarboxylated) THC**
- How will I receive my compliance lab report from the Department to let me know if I can market/sell my harvested crop to a licensed hemp Grower or Processor?
  - Via mail
  - **Via e-mail**
  - Via fax



# Restrictions on Sale or Transfer



# Transfer Requirements

- These requirements were designed to keep you legal.
- Failure to comply with the *Transfer Requirements* may result in expulsion or other disciplinary measures, including but not limited to civil penalties.
- Program Hemp Staff are available to help answer your questions.  
[industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:industrialhemp@agriculture.arkansas.gov)



# Restrictions on Sale or Transfer

- The growth, storage, handling, processing, and marketing of hemp is administered by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture as authorized by the Arkansas Hemp Production Act (Arkansas Code § 2-15-501 *et seq.*) and the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill).
- The restrictions on the manufacture, sale, and transfer of hemp materials in Arkansas are located in 2 CAR § 31-112 of the Department's Hemp Program rules.

## [AR Hemp Program Restrictions on Sale or Transfer](#)



# Publicly Marketable Hemp Products

*(can be sold to the general public)*

The following hemp products are considered “**out-of-program materials**” and can be sold or transferred to the general public/non-license holders:

- **Fiber** – including the whole stalk, stripped of leaf and seed materials, and decorticated fiber (base and/or hurd).
- **Roots** – including dried and/or ground roots.
- **Leaves or Floral Material** – in the form of cannabinoid extract and all products derived from extracts.
- **Grain (Food Products)**– including crushed, ground, dehulled, seed cake/meal, roasted or toasted AND proven nonviable, and seed oil.

## 2 CAR § 31-101(a)(34) & 2 CAR § 31-112(c)

Publicly marketable hemp products are considered “**Out-Of-Program Materials**” because they can be sold to the general public and fall outside of the Department Hemp Program’s purview.



# Transfer Requirements for “Out-of-Program Materials”

- Eligible for transfer to anyone, no hemp license required.
- License Holder’s responsibility to ensure compliance with other state and federal laws.
- All products must meet regulations of other authorities (Food Safety, FDA, etc.).
- All floral extracts or their derivatives **MUST** be tested and ensured to be no more than 0.3% Total THC ***in final-product form***.
- All testing information must be kept on file for inspection by the Department when requested.



# Non-Publicly Marketable Hemp Products (*Hemp License-Holders Only*)

**At this time, state law and the Department’s Hemp Program Rules indicate that hemp material (viable seed, live plants, leaf and/or floral material) should only be in the possession of an industrial hemp license holder, licensed under a duly authorized hemp program, such as a state’s department of agriculture or approved USDA hemp program.**

It is against AR Hemp Program Rules and the Arkansas Hemp Production Act to sell, transfer, or market any raw hemp materials, otherwise known as “**in-program materials**,” to the general public.



# Hemp License Holders Only

The following industrial hemp materials are considered “in-program materials” and *should only be in the possession of a hemp program licensee in Arkansas:*

- **Fiber**– in the form of whole stalks, including leaf and seed materials, and bales of stalks.
- **Roots**– including raw roots.
- **Leaves or Floral Material**– including fresh, unprocessed, dried, and/or ground biomass.
- **Grain (food product)**– in the form of a raw, unprocessed seed.
- **Seed (for replication)**– including whole seed, clean or uncleaned.
- **Transplants**– including rooted plants, cuttings, seedlings, immature plants.

**2 CAR § 31-112(a), 2 CAR § 31-112(b), & 2 CAR § 31-112(h), & 2 CAR § 31-117(b)(15)**

These hemp materials are considered “**In-Program Materials**” because they are only permitted to be in the possession of an industrial hemp program licensee and are regulated by the Department Hemp Program.



# Transfer Requirements for “In-Program Materials”

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR TRANSFERS OR SALES OF HEMP MATERIAL:

- 1) Licensee Transfer Documentation that details legal origin and destination of material. Also known as a bill of lading or transfer manifest document.
- 2) Copies of **all** Hemp License Certificates and any other necessary license certificates, like Seed Dealer Licenses, Nurseryman’s Licenses, etc.
- 3) Valid Lab Analysis Sheets or Certificates of Analysis with compliant THC-results relating to the material being sold or transferred.

***Note: All documentation mentioned above must remain in possession of the transporter.***



# Transfer Requirements for License Holders ONLY

- **You MUST verify Hemp Licenses.**
- Licensees MUST keep all required documents in possession of the transporter at all times during transfer or included within the shipping container.
- You may transfer to other Hemp Programs in other states, but the company **MUST** be licensed through their state's Department of Agriculture or the USDA to grow or process hemp.
- Transfers into other state Hemp Programs are at your own risk. You must satisfy that state's transfer requirements, as well as Arkansas's transfer requirements.
- Transfer paperwork must document legal origin and destination, including street addresses, license numbers, type of material, amount of material, etc.



# Restrictions on Sale or Transfer Infographic

Arkansas Hemp Program: Restrictions on Sale or Transfer Infographic			
MATERIAL IN POSSESSION OF <b>HEMP LICENSEE ONLY</b> IN ARKANSAS		MATERIAL ABLE TO BE <b>MARKETED TO THE PUBLIC</b> IN ARKANSAS	
Photo Example	Material Description	Material Description	Photo Example
	<b>FIBER:</b> <i>In the form of whole stalks that include leaf/seed/floral materials, and bales of stalks</i>	<b>FIBER:</b> <i>Including the whole stalk, stripped of leaf/seed/floral materials. Also includes decorticated fiber (base and/or hurd)</i>	
	<b>ROOTS:</b> <i>Including raw and/or wet hemp roots</i>	<b>ROOTS:</b> <i>Including dried and/or ground hemp roots</i>	
	<b>LEAVES OR FLORAL MATERIAL:</b> <i>Including fresh, unprocessed, dried, and/or ground biomass</i>	<b>EXTRACTED LEAVES OR FLORAL MATERIAL:</b> <i>Including cannabinoid extract and all products derived from extracts</i>	
	<b>GRAIN (Food Products):</b> <i>In the form of raw, unprocessed seed</i>	<b>GRAIN (Food Products):</b> <i>Including crushed, ground, dehulled, seed cake/meal, roasted or toasted AND proven nonviable. Also includes seed oil</i>	
	<b>SEED (For Replication):</b> <i>Including whole viable seed, clean or uncleaned</i>		
	<b>PLANTS OR TRANSPLANTS:</b> <i>Including rooted plants, cuttings, seedlings, immature plants</i>		



# Bottom Line for the 2026 Hemp Season:

- 2022 was the first year of the AR Hemp Program permitted under the federal 2018 Farm Bill.
- The 2025 federal redefinition of hemp closes the perceived national loophole from the 2018 Farm Bill; Arkansas laws are largely consistent with that shift and remain enforceable.
- The program expects to begin a rulemaking process sometime in 2026.
- The Department's Hemp Program staff are here to assist you as much as they possibly can in navigating this new industry. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We would rather you get the information directly from the Department as opposed to being misled by misinformation.



# Questions

- Which of the following materials shall not be sold to any person who does not hold a hemp license:

- a) Whole hemp buds
- b) Ground hemp floral material
- c) Ground hemp leaf material
- d) All of the above

- Does a licensee need an approved *Hemp Material Transfer Request Form* from the Department in order to transport, sale, accept or deliver hemp material?

- a) Yes, an approved Transfer Request Form is needed every single time from the Department.
- b) No, **but** Licensees must still abide by transportation record-keeping requirements, keeping all necessary documents in possession of the transporter at all times and retaining these documents for up to three years.



# Proceed with Caution!

- There are no guarantees in this program!
- Most growers experience financial loss.
- This is a new industry, new companies, new production techniques, etc. There is a learning curve for all parties involved!
- The price model is not well developed, and some companies have had trouble making payments or following through on contracts.
- **“Do not plant more than you can afford to lose!”**





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