

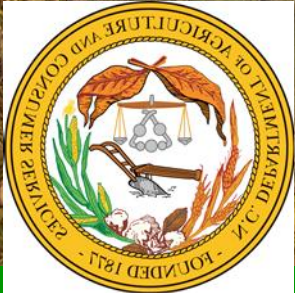
NC Industrial Hemp Update



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NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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History

- *Authorized in Farm Bill 2014*
- *NC passed in 2015 G.S.106-568.50*



What is Industrial Hemp

- *Cannibis sativa* L. with a THC content of 0.3% or less.
- Many uses
 - Fiber (stem)
 - Food (seeds)
 - Pharmaceutical extracts (cannabinoids, or CBDs) from floral bracts



Industrial Hemp Program Participants as of 2/27/18

- 149 Licensed Industrial Hemp Growers
- 2476 Licensed Field Acres
- 322,144 Licensed Square Feet of Greenhouse production



NCDA&CS PARTICIPATION

- Research Stations Division
- Plant Industry Division
- Food and Drug Division
- Agronomic Division



Pilot Program Updates

- Very high interest levels
- Challenges for growers:
 - Soil types
 - Pests
 - Drying process
 - Marketplace opportunities



Pilot Program Updates

- Acquiring industrial hemp seed
 - Import Permits
 - NC Attorney General Advisory Letter



Research

- NC State, NC A&T, NCDA&CS
 - Variety trials and studies
- Farmers
 - Survey sent out by the Commission



NC Hemp Marketing

- Processor registration
- Hemp flower is currently the most developed/highest demand in the industry.
- Co-op growers who sell for fiber
- Some licensees grow for grain



Compliance Issues

- 14 out of 135 industrial hemp samples collected by NCDA&CS Plant Industry staff tested above the 0.3% THC limit.
- Growers were mostly cooperative, some resistance
- Good communication and assistance with local Sheriff's Department



Legal Climate of CBD in NC

- Controlled Substances Act (CSA)
- Law regarding DEA Authority
- Law regarding FDA Authority



Legislative Recommendations

- Change statute definition of “Certified Seed” and add definition for “Verified Seed” in G.S. 106-568.51
- Set fees in rule, not statute



DEA Interactions

- June 2017 meeting
- Further interactions
- May 2017 Attorney General advisory letter



Contact Information

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QUESTIONS?

