



## **Kentucky Department of Agriculture Hemp FAQs**

Below are answers to some of the frequently asked questions the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) receives in regards to the Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program.

### **Q: How do I get a License/Permit to grow hemp?**

A: KDA's Industrial Hemp program is a [research pilot program authorized by 7 U.S.C. §5940 \(a.k.a., Section 7606 of the 2014 Agricultural Act, or the Farm Bill\)](#). There are no licenses or permits issued. Participants are selected through an application process; the process is selective and not all applicants will be approved. Selected participants execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with KDA for the purposes of conducting research.

Legally speaking, the participant becomes part of KDA for the purposes of conducting research. As a representative of KDA the project must have full disclosure of all activities to KDA. The participant has no authority to make changes or alternations to the research plan without the written approval of KDA.

### **Q: If approved to participate in the program what are my responsibilities to KDA?**

A: As a research pilot program participant it is the responsibility of the participant to collect data on the project. This data has to be reported to KDA both throughout the year and at the end of the season. [Incomplete or tardy research reports would be grounds to disqualify a participant from future participation.](#) Failure to submit the required notifications could result in the immediate revocation of the participant's MOU.

[\*If a producer is unwilling or unable to devote the time and effort - which is significant and during the busiest time of the year on the farm - to complete the notifications and data collection they should not apply. Communication with KDA is frequent and necessary throughout the entire season.\*](#)

### **Q: I'm a processor/manufacturer, can I participate?**

A: In fact, any Kentucky processor/buyer of wholesale quantities of raw industrial hemp materials grown in Kentucky is required to be an approved participant in the program. KDA encourages Kentucky processors or manufacturers interested in sourcing materials for research and product development to apply to the program. Please refer to the document *Transfer Requirements* on the website to see if the material you wish to handle requires an MOU; you only need an MOU to handle *In-Program* materials. Processors will complete a separate application from growers, and have an extended deadline to apply.

### **Q: I'm not a farmer, but I own land or I want to buy a farm and grow hemp. Can I participate?**

A: Experienced, active farmers are given greater consideration than non-farmers. The primary focus of the research program is how industrial hemp will fit into the existing agriculture landscape and economy. There are none better at this task than current agriculture producers.

### **Q: How many participants/acres will be approved for 2016?**

A: KDA does not enter into the application evaluation process with a predetermined number of participants or acreage goal. Selection of participants is made on the basis of the quality of the research projects outlined in the applications.

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**For more information please visit:**

[www.kyagr.com/hemp](http://www.kyagr.com/hemp)

**Q: Is there a minimum/maximum acreage required for participation?**

A: The size of projects has ranged from less than a quarter of an acre to over two hundred acres with a single grower. The size is dictated by the research project and its goals. Provided the acreage is appropriate to the stated research objectives, the applicant's experience level, and resources available to the applicant, the approvable size could be wide ranging.

**Q: How much will KDA pay me/are there grants for participants?**

A: There are zero dollars available from KDA for the participants of the research pilot project. Participants are responsible for all costs of production and data collection.

**Q: How much will I make growing hemp?**

A: The potential profits are unknown, but a complete loss is entirely possible and maybe even expected. Participants can sell their industrial hemp harvest with preapproval from KDA, but markets are limited; revenues should not be counted on. ***If a participant cannot bear a complete loss of all input and production costs they should not participate.***

**Q: Who will buy my industrial hemp harvest?**

A: It is the responsibility of the applicant to secure a market for industrial hemp. An applicant should already have a market selected and established at the time of application. KDA will sometimes communicate to participants if there is a request from a processor or manufacturer for a certain component, but KDA is not able to purchase or market your product.

**Q: Where can I get industrial hemp seed/propagules?**

A: Industrial hemp is a controlled substance, including viable seed. KDA is a registered importer of controlled substances and MOU holders must work directly with KDA to legally source seed or propagation materials. An applicant is encouraged to locate a seed variety and source, and provide the specific information on the application.

**Q: How do I plant hemp? / How do I harvest hemp?**

A: The crop production techniques used depends greatly upon the purpose of the hemp crop. Industrial hemp has three main harvestable components and is produced very differently depending on which component is to be harvested: grain, fiber, or floral materials (phytocannabinoids including CBD; terpenoids; etc.). Seed varieties, planting techniques and densities, and harvest methods differ depending on the purpose of the crop. Planting is ordinarily accomplished with a seed drill. Grain harvest utilizes a combine, and fiber harvest can be accomplished using hay equipment. Production focusing on floral material is in some ways similar to vegetable or tobacco production. **Hemp does not grow well in poor soils and does require fertility inputs for a successful crop.**

Much of the research being conducted is focused on the most efficient production methods. The University of Kentucky has published a brief production overview that offers some details.

[www.kyagr.com/marketing/documents/HEMP\\_UK-agronomic-recommendations.pdf](http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/documents/HEMP_UK-agronomic-recommendations.pdf)

**For additional information and a copy of the KDA Industrial Hemp Pilot Program Application visit our website at: <http://www.kyagr.com/hemp>**