

Good afternoon folks,

I wanted to reach out and follow-up on my last email. I hope it gave some insight into the current state of affairs on the state and federal levels regarding industrial hemp.

I am more than happy act as a subject matter expert and help to address any questions, comments, or concerns that you might have regarding industrial hemp.

Please feel to reach out to me by phone or email.

Best regards,

-Kevin Nowell

[\(530\) 748-8116](tel:5307488116)

On Thu, Mar 21, 2019 at 10:46 AM kevin nowell <kevin.nowell73@gmail.com> wrote:
Hello folks,

My name is Kevin Nowell. I have been farming certified organic vegetables for just under 7 years in El Dorado County. I have been independently studying and had my finger on the pulse of Industrial Hemp for about 4 years and have watched it develop across the nation as an emerging crop with great economic potential. As a farmer I have been waiting for CDFA to roll out their Industrial Hemp program ever since it was initially approved hidden deep in the text of Prop 64. Since then, we have seen the 2018 Farm Bill and California S.B. 1409 further the development of rules and regs around industrial hemp.

I have been attending the IHAB (Industrial Hemp Advisory Board) meetings in Sacramento at CDFA headquarters for about the last 1.5 years. The IHAB was designed to make recommendations to the CDFA regarding the development of rules and regs regarding industrial hemp. The IHAB consists of 11 people who are members of the public, folks currently within the hemp industry, prospective farmers, folks w/ universities, a Sheriff, an Ag Commissioner. I have had the privilege to attend these meetings, hear the debate and deliberation during the process of rule-making, and also give public comment as well.

With a high level of understanding regarding industrial hemp from state law, federal law, and with a good understanding of the plant itself. Myself and a colleague took it upon ourselves in January to start the process of educating farmers, local governments, university faculty, and others regarding the ins and outs of hemp farming from seed to sale. We decided to do this because there are many caveats and nuances with this crop and thus a somewhat sharp learning curve not to mention the many regulations to keep an eye on. Our goal has been to educate farmers and set them on track towards a successful hemp crop. We have held two major educational workshops, the first being a free 1 day workshop in Lemoore, CA and the second being 6 free educational sessions we held at the World Ag Expo in Tulare. At these workshops and sessions we taught farmers about 1. Federal and state regulations and compliance 2. Crop management from seed through to harvest 3. Harvest and post-harvest logistics and methodology 4. Marketing and potential sales avenues.

We had a number of experienced hemp farmers, processors, and a local sheriff show up to talk to the farmers on these subjects. Our turnout in Lemoore was tremendous with over 150 central valley farmers and an excess of 50,000 of acres represented in the room. At the World Ag Expo we also had a very good turnout across the 3 days where we easily educated between 750-1000 folks about the ins and outs of hemp as a potential new crop for their farms in the coming years.

With all that said, I am reaching out to you today because I wish to open a conversation with you about the potential for industrial hemp as an emerging crop in your county. The crop has a huge potential economic, social, and environmental impact for the county and I would love to have conversations with all of you regarding the potential this crop has to change the county for the better.

Currently 70% of the hemp acreage planted in the USA is being grown for cannabinoid production, 20% for fiber, and 10% for grain. Industrial Hemp is cannabis. Marijuana is cannabis. The differentiation is a man-made definition that hemp has less than 0.3% THC (the psychoactive compound in the plant) by dry weight basis and anything over 0.3% THC is considered marijuana. Firstly, I bring this up because I would imagine the large majority of folks in Mendocino would pursue cultivating female-only industrial hemp plants because of the economics around growing for CBD and other non-psychoactive cannabinoids, let alone the extensive expertise within the folks who live in the county who have been growing cannabis for its flowers for the past 50+ years. Secondly, the worldwide markets for fiber and grain from industrial hemp is currently quite limited in the US and in addition the economic returns per acre are quite small when compared to hemp grown for CBD and other non-psychoactive cannabinoids.

I know there is probably some hesitation from your local communities with worries of cross-pollination likely being towards the top of the list due to the extensive commercial cannabis industry that has taken Mendocino county by storm for better or for worse. One simple fix for that could be an ordinance restricting hemp cultivation to female-only plants. In all reality this is what most folks will likely pursue because of its high economic returns and the extensive expertise within the county in regards to growing cannabis for flower production. The non-psychoactive cannabinoid market is currently an import & export market and I think your county is very well positioned to take full advantage of the progressive laws put forth by the 2018 Farm Bill and California's S.B. 1409.

I don't want to get too much into the nitty gritty in this introduction email. I hope to have conversations with many or all of you in regards to industrial hemp as an emerging crop for Mendocino County.

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime to further discuss. I am also open to having a meeting with any / all of you regarding industrial hemp and the associated nuances, pros, cons, and caveats given the current state of affairs.

Best regards,
-Kevin Nowell
[\(530\) 748-8116](tel:(530)748-8116)

P.S. Below are links regarding the most up to date laws in the US and the state of CA.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2667/text> - Hemp Farming Act of 2018, this is the text that was included in the 2018 Farm Bill

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB1409

SB 1409 - the most recent update to the CA law signed by Jerry Brown on September 30, 2018

https://www.ams.usda.gov/content/hemp-production-program?utm_source=USDA+Guidance&utm_campaign=HIA-USDA-Update&utm_medium=email

The most current update published by USDA to the USDA website as of February 27, 2019