

## Points about moving back to the Department of Agriculture

- Moving to a Department that already has ongoing rapport with relevant agencies such as: CDFA, DFW, MCRCD, Farm Bureau, UC, etc. would help expedite and enhance our protocols.
- Being in the Ag Department gives us more access to grants and farm sponsorships.
- What's good for the cannabis cultivator is good for Mendocino County.
- As we have come to the clarity phase of what state and DFW are wanting from the county, we should be able to move permits through more quickly in Ag.
- Cannabis could bring in a lot of money, putting the program back in the Ag Dept. will make it more farmer friendly, actually streamline things and encourage farmers to come in for a permit and start paying the taxes the County so desperately needs. Going to the BPS, no matter how helpful everyone is, is intimidating beyond what a farmer should have to go through.
- There is more of a relaxed and educational atmosphere in the Dept. of Ag. Just the size alone, with classrooms, books, and access to resources helps promote a good attitude towards seeking compliance and learning best practices.
- We can teach our producers who are new and support our producers of old. We can have information on everything from Guardian Dogs and Living with Wildlife classes to soil building, streambed restoration. I personally promise to help or make these events happen. I honestly feel that all people need to know about such things, but the producers are taking from the land, this way they will be giving back too.

I am hoping we can combine efforts and see how we can speak with one voice and change legislation to view cultivation of cannabis as an ag crop.