

Industrial Hemp in Kansas

Part 1 – So you want to grow Hemp

In 2020, Kansas residents who have acquired a license from the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) will be allowed to grow, handle, and/or process Industrial Hemp (IH). Kansas State University (KSU) will again be conducting research to gain information valuable to growers across the state. We encourage you to keep up to speed with our efforts on Facebook (@kstateindustrialhemp).

What is Hemp and who can grow, handle, or process it?

- IH is *Cannabis sativa* grown for fiber, grain, or resin with a Δ -9-tetrahydrocannabinol (TCH) content $\leq 0.3\%$
- The IH program is still a research program, however, it may become a commercial program soon.
- Residents of KS who have obtained a license from KDA can participate in the pilot research program.
- There are separate licenses (and fees) to grow (\$1,000), distribute (\$2,000), and process (\$3,000 fiber & grain, \$6,000 floral). There is also an application fee (\$200) and a fingerprint fee (\$47).

Obtaining a license

- Applications for licenses can be found at: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/IndustrialHemp>
- Applications should be available in the fall with a due date of November 30 for the following year.
- Fingerprinting and a background check is required.
- Every person who touches the crop, in any capacity, must be listed on the application and therefore, must be fingerprinted and undergo a background check.

Restrictions

- Only 80 acres can be grown per license. You can have multiple licenses, each requiring the fee.
- Only certified varieties of IH on the [approved list](#) can be grown. The list is available on the KDA website.
- No breeding or feral (naturalized) hemp is allowed. Only certified approved varieties can be grown.
- KDA will sample and test all hemp fields prior to harvest. If THC content exceeds 0.3% of dry matter the crop must be destroyed at the owners expense.

Challenges

- Seed is expensive (\$10 - \$20/lb or more) and may be difficult to locate.
- K-State only has one year of data to make important decisions. The reports can be found [here](#).
- Currently unknown how many processors will be in the state to potentially purchase a crop.
- No herbicides, insecticides, or fungicides are currently labeled for use on IH.
- Specialized or modified equipment will be necessary for harvest.

