

Industrial Hemp in Kansas

Part 1 – So you want to grow Hemp

In 2019, 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 be conducting research to gain information valuable to growers across the state. Extension professionals can consult and offer advice, but KSU and its affiliates do not have seed or plants for sale.

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 a pilot research program. All applications must have a research component.
- 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).

Obtaining a license

- Applications for licenses can be found at: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/plant-protect-weed-control/industrial-hemp>
- Applications should be available in early February and are due on March 1 for 2019 growing season.
- Fingerprinting and a background check is required.
- Fees: application fee is \$200, background check is \$47; Fingerprint will vary but is approx. \$20
- 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.
- No data exists evaluating approved varieties for production in Kansas
- Currently unknown who or 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.

