

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) is pleased to see the 2018 Farm Bill provisions that lift the controlled substance designation of industrial hemp. This change in federal regulation will offer additional opportunities for Tennessee farmers, processors, and universities.

What's in the 2018 Farm Bill?

- The legislation removes industrial hemp and all of its extracts with no more than 0.3% THC concentration from the list of controlled substances.
- Industrial hemp plants and products will be allowed to cross state lines, providing producers with new options for processing and increased markets.
- Hemp farmers may now access crop insurance and can fully participate in USDA programs for certification and competitive grants.
- The FDA will maintain jurisdiction over the regulation of ingestible and topical hemp products.

What does this mean for Tennessee?

- As a result of the Farm Bill, the USDA will develop rules and regulations regarding industrial hemp. TDA may then adjust Tennessee's program to maintain consistency with federal requirements, if necessary. *We do not anticipate immediate, significant changes to Tennessee's industrial hemp licensing program at this time.*
- We will continue to work with farmers, legislators, and industry to evaluate the needs for Tennessee's industrial hemp program and to alleviate any unnecessary administrative burdens.
- Tennessee's universities will see fewer restrictions and will be able to conduct more research on this plant as an agricultural commodity.

Can I grow hemp without being licensed?

- The 2018 Farm Bill assigns certain responsibilities to state programs, which include testing and inspecting industrial hemp grown in the state. Federal and state laws require Tennessee industrial hemp growers be licensed through the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's industrial hemp program. *It remains illegal to grow hemp in Tennessee without a license.*

How do I apply to grow hemp?

- The 2019 Industrial Hemp Grower Application is open until Feb. 15, 2019.
- The application and more information can be found online at www.tn.gov/agriculture.