



Industrial Hemp

Rebooting a Wisconsin Agricultural Tradition

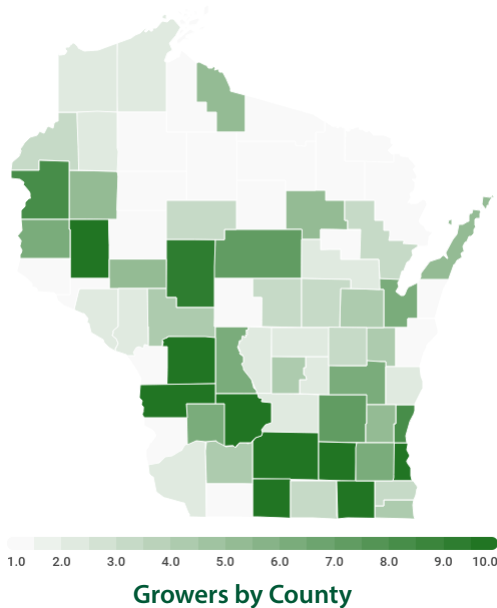
An industrial hemp research pilot program was developed in Wisconsin in 2016. Prior to that, industrial hemp had not been legally grown in Wisconsin since 1957, causing a lapse in infrastructure development, production experience, and state policy to support the hemp industry.

The 2018 Farm Bill legalized industrial hemp and directed participating states to develop industrial hemp programs under a set of federal guidelines. Wisconsin now has an opportunity to support this budding industry and help farmers expand into an emerging market.

Wisconsin Farmers Union supports legislative initiatives to protect farmers' right to develop new cultivars, plant hemp seed, and grow and sell industrial hemp fiber, seed, and flower without unnecessary restriction. We further support the production, retail, and possession of CBD oil and CBD-based products that are derived from the state industrial hemp program.

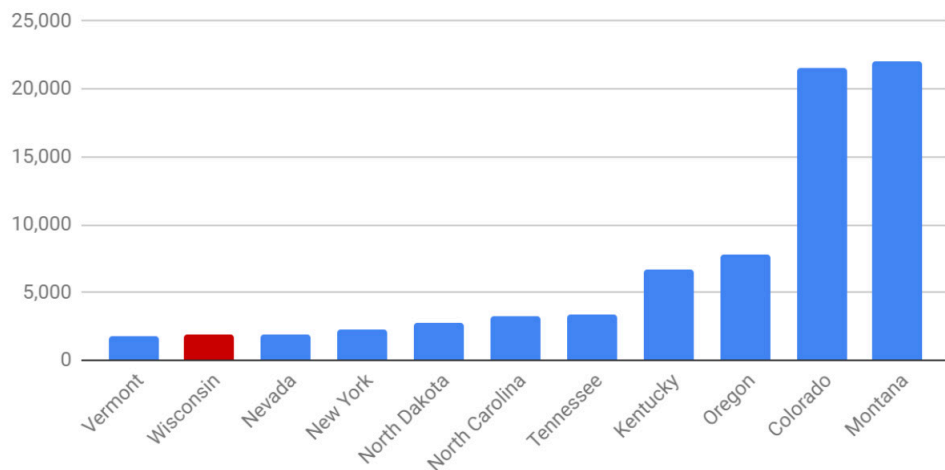
Industrial hemp is a variation of the Cannabis sativa plant that has a THC concentration of 0.3% or less and does not produce a psychoactive effect. Hemp fiber from plant stalks is used for rope, cloth, and as a component of building materials. Hemp seeds, which are rich in fiber, fatty acids, and a wide range of vitamins and minerals, can be found in common food products such as crackers, granola bars, and breakfast cereal. Hemp flowers are used to extract CBD, one of hundreds of compounds found in the Cannabis plant, which has pain relief as well as anti-inflammatory and anticonvulsant properties.

Where is Wisconsin's Hemp?



Source: <http://thedenmarknews.com/2018/06/22/hemp-industry-taking-root-in-wisconsin/>

Acres of Industrial Hemp Grown in 2018



Source: 2018 U.S. Hemp Crop Report <https://www.votehemp.com/u-s-hemp-crop-report/>



IMPROVING THE STATE'S INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROGRAM

What can the state do?

REMOVE INDUSTRIAL HEMP from the list of controlled substances in Wisconsin statutes to align with federal legalization.

FULLY LEGALIZE THE PRODUCTION, SALE, AND POSSESSION OF CBD PRODUCTS and make it known to law enforcement and retailers.

DIRECT DATCP TO LOWER THE FEE of an individual field location/variety test from \$250 per field test to \$50 per field test. As farmers experiment with different varieties, soil types, and other growing conditions to determine which conditions are most desirable, the cost of testing THC content for each such condition can be prohibitive.

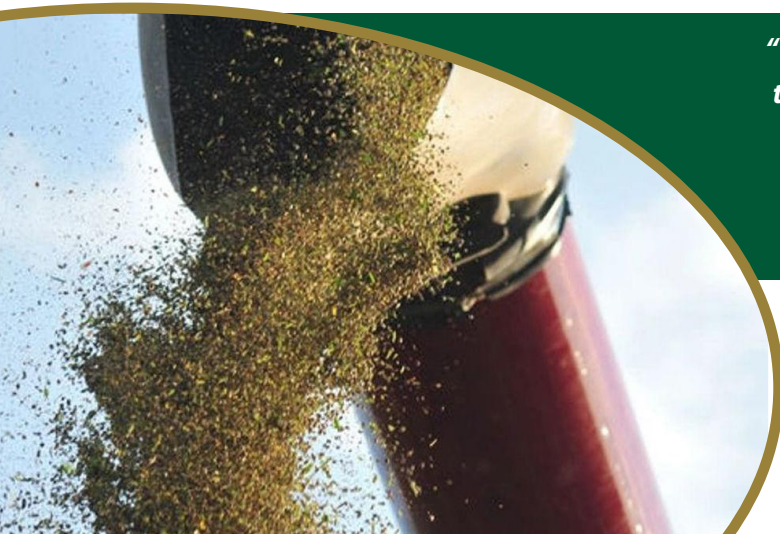
DIRECT DATCP TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT for a background check and any permitting or licensing application deadlines. Upon federal legalization, industrial hemp should be treated as closely as possible to any other crop that is legally grown in Wisconsin.

CLARIFY A PROCESS for law enforcement to distinguish industrial hemp from marijuana, such as requiring that a copy of the THC field test is carried when transporting industrial hemp flowers.

CREATE A VOLUNTARY PLATFORM for licensed industrial hemp growers and processors to connect with one another to form business partnerships, while ensuring farm locations are not revealed without growers' consent due to theft and biosecurity concerns.

ADD INDUSTRIAL HEMP TO THE LIST OF CROPS that cannot be grown by corporations under Wisconsin's anti-corporate farming law, to allow family farmers and rural communities to reap the economic benefits of industrial hemp.

AMEND THE STATE'S PRODUCER SECURITY LAW to ensure that farmers who grow industrial hemp have the same right to timely payment as do producers of milk, vegetables, and grain.



"Wisconsin has a real opportunity here. The potential for this crop to bring some much needed profitability back to the small family farm is real. Whether for grain, fiber, oil, or medicine, there is a future for hemp on the hillsides of Wisconsin again."

- Steve Acheson, WI Farmer & Veteran

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