

AM I READY TO BE A HEMP FARMER? TO GROW HEMP?

This is like taking your mortgage payment to the casino to gamble – are you prepared to lose it?!

BEFORE YOU PUT IN AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPT OF AGRICULTURE (ADAI):

- 1) READ and understand the USDA Hemp Regulations and the ADAI Hemp Rules.
- 2) Have your company registered, documented, organized. This paperwork is required for a company to be issued a hemp grower license.
- 3) Have your property cleared and ready to plant.
- 4) Have all lease/rental agreement documents prepared and in order.
- 5) Have your greenhouse or indoor growing structure(s) built and ready for planting.
- 6) Close to the annual registration dates, be prepared to apply for a criminal background check through the AL Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) in Montgomery.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE YOU APPLY FOR A HEMP GROWER LICENSE:

- Do I have land to grow on? Do I want to grow outdoors?
Is my land ready to plant? Have I completed soil samples (for nutrients ACES?) (for heavy metals and pesticides Independent Labs?)
- Do I have land to lease? \$\$ Do I have a lease agreement?
Is the land ready to plant? Have I completed soil samples (for nutrients ACES?) (for heavy metals and pesticides Independent Labs?)
- Do I have a greenhouse? Do I need to buy/build a greenhouse? \$\$
- Will I need to heat and cool my greenhouse? \$\$\$
- How will I irrigate my hemp? \$\$
- Will I have to have a well dug? \$\$ Will I be using city/county water? \$\$
- Am I prepared to filter city/county water sources? \$\$
- Do I have a place to dry my harvested hemp? Do I need to build a place to dry my harvested hemp? \$\$
- Do I know who my processor is? Do I have a buyer?
- Am I prepared for crop loss due to theft? \$\$
- What will I do if I must hold my harvested hemp material for any length of time – am I able to hold out for future revenue returns?

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- Do I know what the hemp plant is?
 - Do I know what the parts of the hemp plant are?
 - Do I know what the parts of the hemp plant are processed into?
 - What do I want to plant for (processed end products)?
 - What is my motive for being a hemp grower? Long Term? Short Term?

- Am I financially stable to invest in this endeavor at every junction?
 - Costs \$ Application(s) and License fees
 - \$ City/County Business License
 - \$\$\$ Seeds and/or Propagules (multiple times a year?)
 - Do I know what varieties to use? What genetics work best for what my grow plan is? Do I know my variety's strengths/weaknesses?*
 - \$\$\$ *Will I use plasticulture? What does that involve?*
 - \$\$\$ *Irrigation (What type of irrigation system will I use?)*
 - \$\$\$ *Heating and cooling (Will I need to heat and cool any of my buildings?)*
 - \$\$\$ Labor (for planting, growing, watering, pest issues, harvesting, bucking, trimming)
 - \$\$\$ Contracts with buyers/processors
- Harvest: Will I have staggered harvests that will require multiple ADAI samplings? \$250 *per sample, per site, per variety* \$\$\$
- How many people will I need to hire for harvest and post-harvest work?
- Am I prepared to have to hold/store my harvested hemp material for extended periods of time? *Some processors have backlogs on hemp material – can have work for 6 months or longer! When the market drives the price down, can I wait to recoup investment?*
- Do I have a secure place to hold/store my harvested hemp properly? [Critical so quality of material is maintained over the course of extended storage]
 - Temperature control is critical*
 - Stored – how?*