



PRESS RELEASE

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Kansas Hemp Farmers Licensed through USDA in 2025

– State relinquishes oversight, removing burdens to boost production of sustainable crop –

Kan. - Beginning January 1st, 2025, hemp producer licensing in Kansas will be administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Joining more than a dozen other states and tribes in this transition, the move is an important step in the crop's march toward acceptance as a row crop commodity grown on American farms.

To obtain a license to produce hemp under USDA's Domestic Hemp Production Program, applicants must create an account using the Hemp eManagement Platform (HeMP) and use HeMP to submit a USDA Hemp Application. Individuals that have been convicted of a felony related to a controlled substance in the last 10 years are not eligible to receive a license from USDA per 2018 Farm Bill requirements.

"This is major progress for Kansas hemp producers, processors and all the ancillary businesses working toward hemp's mainstream integration in our food and manufacturing supply chain," said Sarah Stephens, president of the Kansas Hemp Consortium. "As industry advocates involved in hemp production since the start of 2019, we're getting pretty good at growing hemp grain and fiber crops in Kansas. We've learned so much in the past six years and hemp is poised to really scale in Kansas. I'm certain the lower fees in USDA's hemp program are going to encourage more growers to give it a try and find success."

Under USDA's Domestic Hemp Production Program, producers are required to submit crop acreage reports with their local Farm Service Agency and are responsible for contracting with certified hemp sampling agents and testing laboratories for official compliance sampling and testing. Additionally, producers are responsible for all applicable reporting requirements in USDA's Final Rule on Establishment of a Domestic Hemp Production Program.

"The time has finally arrived for agricultural hemp to be treated like other crops, and we are excited this reality is starting to come true for Kansas farmers and processors in 2025. While this transition is a necessary step, we do expect to see further expansions of markets while also removing barriers for fiber/grain producers within a Farm Bill and alleviating ongoing issues or limitations," Kelly Rippel, president of Planted Association of Kansas.

Licensed and planted hemp acres increased over 130% from 2023 to 2024 with a strong trajectory of increasing harvested acreage year-over-year since 2021. Along with Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri are among the most recent states to transition a state run hemp program to the USDA. For more information about eligibility and licensing, please visit the [USDA's Domestic Hemp Production Program website](#).

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