# INDUSTRIAL HEMP: AGRONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS

**Kendra Meier**, BSc., MSc. Candidate, A.Ag Agronomist

Hemp Genetics International, Inc. Hemp Production Services, Inc.

Garry Meier, Bert Vandenberg, Kevin Friesen





# Where it began...



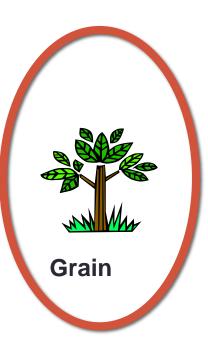




### What is Industrial Hemp?

- Cannabis Hemp
  - Contains cannabiods
  - < 0.3% THC

- Dual Purpose
  - Grain and Fibre

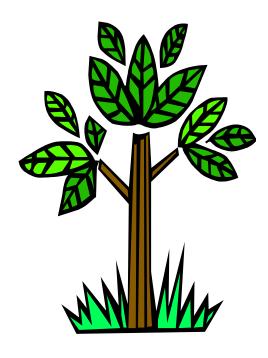








**Fiber** 



**The Other Stuff** 

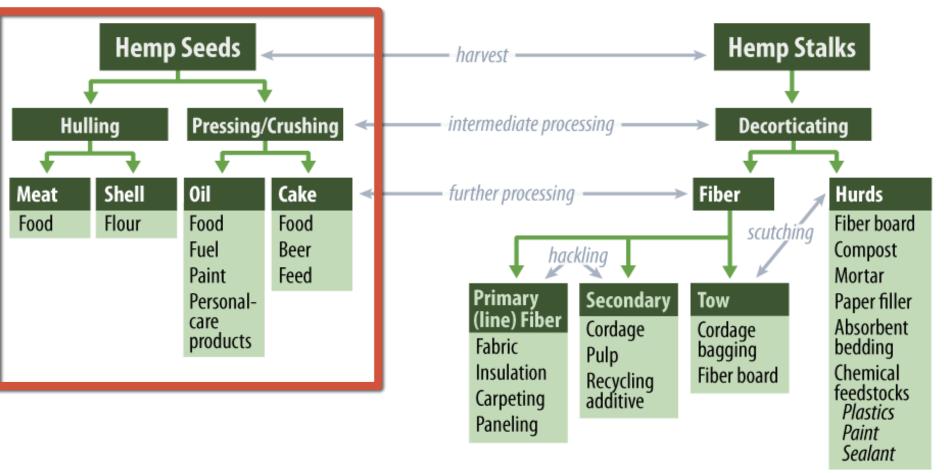
> 0.3% THC





#### Market Prospects

#### **Industrial Hemp**



Adapted from Kraenzel et al., 1998





# Industrial Hemp









#### Industrial Hemp Acres in Canada: 2014

	АВ	SK	MB	Totals
Finola	18282	14218	1109	33709
CFX-2	3443	23981	1064	28488
HempNut	3630	11406	4537	19573
CRS-1	160	417	15032	15609
CFX-1	0	2257	49	2726
			_	

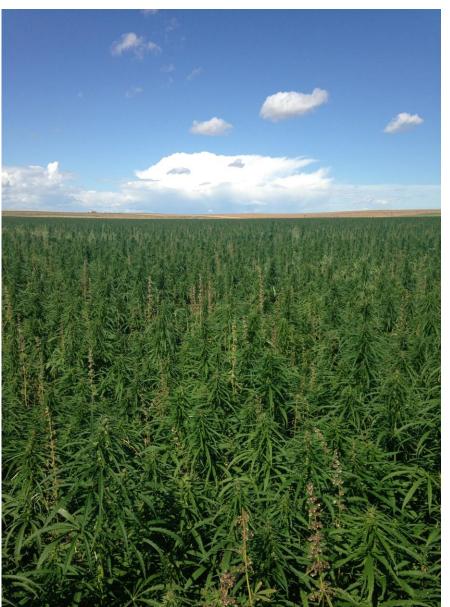
**Totals** 





#### Recipe for Success

- Health Canada Regulations
  - Licenses
  - THC Sampling
- Genetics
- Agronomy
- Consultation
- Luck with Mother Nature

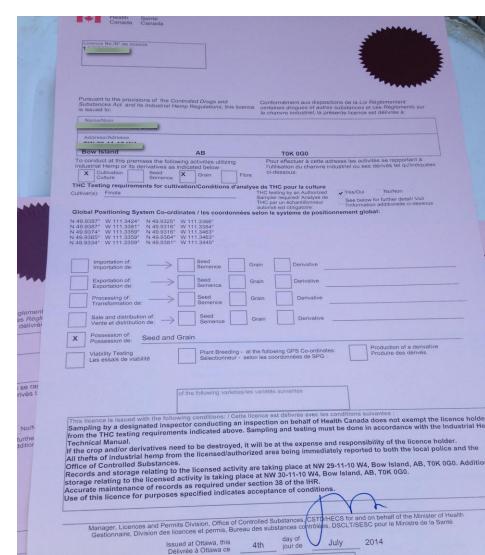






#### Health Canada Regulations

- Cultivation license is require
  - Hemp controlled substance
  - License is free
    - Map with GPS Coordinates
    - Landowner Consent
    - Criminal Record Check
  - THC Sampling
    - Some varieties exempted
    - Approved HC sampler
    - Cost \$300/field







#### Genetics

- Different genotypes for different regions and farming systems
- Breeding Objectives:
  - Higher yields
  - Shorter plants
  - Larger seeds
  - Shortened maturity
  - Low stable THC content
  - Easier harvestability
  - More weed control options







### Agronomy

- Field selection
- Seeding
- Fertility
- Weed Management
- Disease Management
- Harvest Management







#### Field Selection

- Pick your best land
  - Well drained
  - Medium textured
  - Fertile(!!)
  - No residual herbicide
  - Allergen Free (wheat)







### Seeding

- Last crop seeded
- 20-25 lbs/acre
- Warm soils
  - 8-10°C
- Shallow, but seed into moisture
  - ½ to ¾ inch







# **Fertility**







### Fertility: Conventional Production

- The more fertility, the more productivity
- Fertilize according to high protein wheat and canola

0 lb N 100 lb N





#### Fertility: Organic Production

- Grow on your best land
- Follow: perennial alfalfa breaking, green manure plowdown or fallow







#### Fababean Plowdown: SSNS 1

- Small seeded
- Fallow in spring
- Plant July 1<sup>st</sup>
- Incorporate in fall
- 70+ lbs N/acre







#### Weed Management

- Field Selection
- Crop Competition
- Crop Nutrition
- Working on more options....







#### Disease Management

- Few disease vectors
- ROTATION IS IMPORTANT
- Sclerotinia sclerotiorum
  - Humid conditions
- Botrytis cinerea
  - Secondary infection





### Pest Management

- Little Economic Impact
  - Bertha Army Worms
  - Flea Beetles
  - Grasshoppers











## Harvest Management

- Timing
  - Green plants
  - Minimizes fibre wrapping and seed damage
    - 12-18% moisture
    - Less than 25% green seeds in bracts





# **Straight Combining**

- Minimizes fibre wrapping
- Draper headers
- New knife and guards











### **Swathing**

- Advised when crop is susceptible to shelling from wind or maturity
- Only if no rain in forecast
- Best crops 5ft tall or less
- Let dry for approximately 2 days

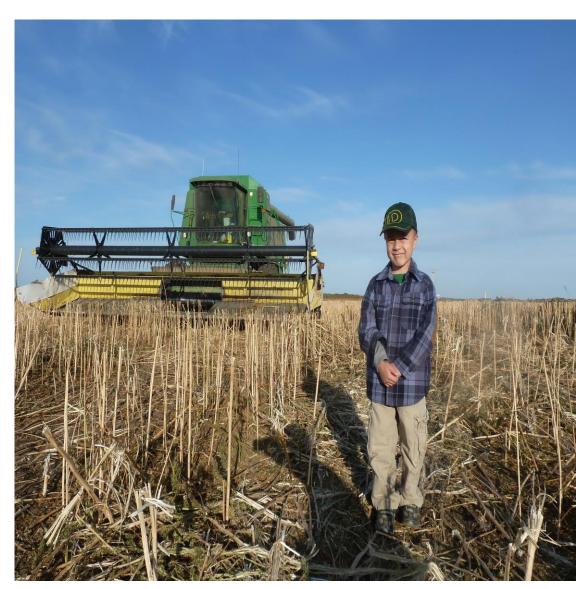






### Fibre Management

- Depends on height of fibre
- Incorporate with disk
- Bale and remove
- Harrow and burn







# Coming in 2016

- New Varieties
  - Picolo: Small seeded, short stature
  - Katani: Larger seeded, moderate short height
  - Grandi: Larger seeded, moderate height
- Agronomic Research







#### Summary

- Obtain proper agronomic information based on your farming system
- Do the proper paper work
- Pick the best fields
- Exceptional fertility
- Have proper equipment
- Good luck with mother nature!



