

HOME (/)
ABOUT
JOURNAL (/ABOUT)
MASTHEAD (/NEW-PAGE)
PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS (/PROSPECTIVE-MEMBERS)
SUBSCRIBE (/SUBSCRIBE)
STAFF RESOURCES (/STAFF-RESOURCES)
PUBLICATIONS
PUBLICATION ARCHIVE (/PUBLICATION-ARCHIVE)
VOLUME 1 (2009) (/VOLUME-1-2008-2009)
VOLUME 2 (2010) (/VOLUME-2-2009-2010)
VOLUME 3 (2011) (/VOLUME-3-2010-2011)
VOLUME 4 (2012) (/VOLUME-4-2011-2012)
VOLUME 5 (2013) (/VOLUME-5-2012-2013)
VOLUME 6 (2014) (/VOLUME-6-2013-2014)
VOLUME 7 (2015) (/VOLUME-7-2014-2015)
VOLUME 8 (2016) (/VOLUME-8-2015-2016)
VOLUME 9 (2017) (/VOLUME-9-2016-2017)
VOLUME 10 (2018) (/VOLUME-10-2018)
SYMPOSIUM
INFORMATION (/SYMPOSIUM)
BLOG
FULL BLOG (/FULL-BLOG)
BLOG ARCHIVE (/BLOG-ARCHIVE-1)
SUBMISSIONS (/SUBMISSIONS)

October 22, 2014 (/full-blog/2014/10/22/watkins)

UK Successfully Harvests First Legal Hemp Crop (/full-blog/2014/10/22/watkins)

Agriculture (/full-blog?category=Agriculture)

By: Elyse Watkins, Staff Member

After years of legislative consideration, the University of Kentucky ("UK") recently harvested in mere minutes its first legal hemp crop under the Industrial Hemp Program.^[i] In September, UK yielded ten-foot stalks at Spindletop Farm in Lexington, Kentucky.^[ii] The harvest marked Kentucky's first legal hemp harvest in seventy years.^[iii] UK planted the hemp in conjunction with the Kentucky^[1] Department of Agriculture ("KDA") under the Industrial Hemp Program ("Program") established by the Federal Farm Bill.^[iv]



The KDA's Program is the result of two laws: The Federal Farm Bill and Senate Bill 50.^[v] The Farm Bill allows state agricultural departments to administer industrial hemp pilot programs, together with universities, in states that have legalized industrial hemp for the purposes of research and development.^[vi] Senate Bill 50 removed industrial hemp from Kentucky's controlled substances act, encouraging state-sponsored research pertaining to the cultivation of industrial hemp, while maintaining that Kentucky follow all federal rules and regulations with respect to industrial hemp.^[vii]

Initially, the KDA is administering five pilot programs in different areas of the state, each with a distinctive research objective and university affiliation.^[viii] The first pilot program, located in eastern Kentucky, will focus on the cultivation of Kentucky Heirloom hemp seed in affiliation with Kentucky State University.^[ix] The second, affiliated with Murray State University, will cultivate European seed in order to study hemp fiber in Western Kentucky.^[x] The third pilot program, affiliated with the University of Louisville, will concentrate on the detoxifying and environmental effects of industrial hemp on an urban brownfield.^[xi] The fourth, in central Kentucky, is linked with both UK and Eastern Kentucky University, and will focus on the basic agricultural

issues involved in the production of industrial hemp.[xii] Finally, the fifth pilot program is also affiliated with UK and will focus on cultivating cannabinoids for medical research purposes in eastern Kentucky.[xiii] The KDA is seeking to expand the number of growers and is pursuing processors.[xiv]

Although the purpose of the industrial hemp program is to promote the research and development of markets for Kentucky's industrial hemp and hemp products, the state continues to lack jurisdiction over many factors that hemp producers will face. The abolition of state laws banning industrial hemp conflict with federal laws, which consider any and all cannabis varieties as Schedule I controlled substances under the Controlled Substances Act. [xv] Moving forward, the law remains unclear because the crop is still illegal under federal law, despite Kentucky's legalization of industrial hemp production.[xvi] In response to this ambiguity, the KDA will work with Kentucky's Attorney General to pursue a blanket waiver from the Drug Enforcement Administration to allow Kentucky producers to grow industrial hemp for commercial purposes.[xvii]

Considering that the goal of these pilot programs is to move this new hemp industry forward while working to achieve independence for farmers to pursue the production of industrial hemp in a free and open market it is imperative to remove the existing conflict between state and federal law. [xviii] Currently, there is legislation filed in both houses of Congress to exclude "hemp" from the legal definition of marijuana: House Resolution 525 and Senate Bill 359[xix] Despite the existing conflict, Kentucky will continue to harvest hemp through its five pilot programs in an effort to explore its many benefits.

[i] Gregory A. Hall, *UK Harvests Its Hemp Crop*, The Courier Journal (Sept. 25, 2014, 12:23 PM), <http://www.courier-journal.com/story/money/2014/09/23/uk-harvests-hemp-crop/16095035/>.

[ii] Janet Patton, *UK Harvest First Legal Hemp Crop*, Lexington Herald Leader (Sept. 23, 2014), http://www.kentucky.com/2014/09/23/3443696_uk-harvest-first-legal-hemp-crop.html?rh=1.

[iii] *Id.* (http://www.kentucky.com/2014/09/23/3443696_uk-harvest-first-legal-hemp-crop.html?rh=1)

[iv] *Industrial Hemp Program*, Kyagr.com, <http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/hemp-pilot.html> (<http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/hemp-pilot.html>) (last visited Oct. 11, 2014).

[v] *Id.* (<http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/hemp-pilot.html>)

[vi] Agricultural Act of 2014, 113 PL. 79, § 7606, 128 Stat. 649 (2014).

[vii] Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 260.850-69 (LexisNexis 2013).

[viii] *Industrial Hemp Program*, *supra* note 4.

[ix] *Id.*

[x] *Id.*

[xi] *Id.*

[xii] *Id.*

[xiii] *Id.*

[xiv] *Industrial Hemp Program*, *supra* note 4.

[xv] 21 U.S.C. § 812 (2014).

[xvi] *Industrial Hemp Program*, *supra* note 4.

[xvii] *Id.*

[xviii] *Id.*

[xix] *Industrial Hemp Facts*, Kyagr.com, <http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/industrial-hemp.html> (<http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/industrial-hemp.html>) (last visited Oct. 11, 2014).

Tagged: [Agriculture \(/full-blog?tag=Agriculture\)](#)

♥ 0 Likes < Share

COMMENTS (0)

Newest First [Subscribe via e-mail](#)

[Preview](#) [POST COMMENT...](#)

[Newer Post](#)

[A Different Kind of Green: Economics in the Environmental Debate Over Oregon's Coal Export Terminal \(/full-blog/2014/10/29/beer\)](#)

[Older Post](#)

[No Horsing Around: Brits Announce Zero-Tolerance Steroid Policy \(/full-blog/2014/10/22/balaklaw\)](#)

[SEARCHABLE ARCHIVE \(/PUBLICATION-ARCHIVE-1\)](#)

631 SOUTH LIMESTONE, LEXINGTON, KY

40508 (859) 257-4747 [BLOG.KJEANRL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:blog.kjeanrl@gmail.com) ([MAILTO:BLOG.KJEANRL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:blog.kjeanrl@gmail.com))