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Letter to the Editor

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Dear Editor,

As an agricultural banker, I would like to know about some of the more specific needs that farmers should consider before opting to grow this crop. Because I am from Northwest Indiana, I rely on Purdue University's [Ag Econ Report](#) each year to keep up with current production costs for corn, soybeans, and wheat. I like to use it as a guide when I'm evaluating my farmer customers' projections to see if they make sense and what margins and returns for profitability look like for different crops.

With this in mind, would there be anything like this available for Hemp? Perhaps a proposed hemp crop budget for the different uses of hemp production (i.e., cannabinoid, seed, fiber, etc.) Also, I believe that the machinery requirements might look different for each potential use of hemp being produced. Are there any suggested machinery modifications available to guide farmers who have been typical corn/soybean producers?

What I am hoping is available out there is information so that if and when a customer is considering growing hemp on their farm, I can help them think through the different decisions they will need to make regarding hemp production. How much risk is present growing hemp for fiber vs. floral material? Should I require more liquidity for cannabinoid production vs. hemp fiber production? What about machinery and labor requirements (and needs)? How are the different hemp crops harvested and processed, and what are the implications for infrastructure on the farms producing them?

I know it is still early in the process, but with corn and soybean prices where they are today, I feel sure that many of my customers are looking for ways to generate better returns on their farm acres. It would be valuable to know more about what additional risk comes with this emerging crop.

Thank you for your consideration,

D. Grant Whaley,

President and CEO,

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