

Hemp

Idaho legislators eye cultivation of hemp

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

The Idaho Legislature soon may lift the state’s blanket ban on hemp, one of three in the U.S., in light of the crop’s federal legalization under the December 2018 Farm Bill.

That would please Mike Standlee, who farms 23,000 acres in south central Idaho and owns marketing company Standlee Premium Forage. He told the Idaho House Agriculture Committee Feb. 4 that growing and processing hemp, as he plans once the state allows, would benefit Idaho economically. And hemp’s growth potential could encourage young people to stay in production agriculture, he said.

Bringing in new agricultural industry is important for the sector’s future growth, he said. Starting early is important given that costs and competition will likely increase, and building market share will take time.

“We are quickly falling behind other states if we don’t act now,” Standlee said. “Timing is very important, and Idaho should be taking its opportunity in hemp.”

Hemp is similar to marijuana, but the new Farm Bill defines it as containing less than 0.3 percent of the intoxicant tetrahydrocannabinol, known as THC. Hemp can be used in fiber, plastics and some industrial materials. New health treatments use hemp-derivative cannabinoid (CBD) oils.

The Farm Bill allows cultivation, processing and interstate transport of hemp as well as products made with derivative extracts as long as legal procedures are followed. Regulation is by USDA, with participation from state agriculture and law enforcement agencies.

Idaho House Agricultural Affairs Committee Vice Chair Caroline Nilsson Troy, R-Genesee, said proposed legislation would change state law to enable farmers to grow hemp, and to request that the state Department of Agriculture develop



Courtesy of Jake Bordessa

Idaho legislators are weighing their options after passage of a federal Farm Bill that allows the cultivation of hemp.

a program plan. It would remove hemp from the controlled-substance list contained in the current law, enacted in 1927. The draft legislation would make all hemp production and derivative production, including cannabinoid or cannabidiol (CBD) oil, legal.

CBD oil has been used in some health treatments and products. The Farm Bill allows production of CBD oil only by licensed producers following federal and state regulations, or where a product is already approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The Idaho Legislature in recent years rejected legislation to legalize CBD oil.

The current Idaho hemp legislation was in draft form as of Feb. 4, when work continued on language for its statements of purpose and fiscal impact. The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation supports legalizing industrial hemp production, and authorizing University of Idaho and state Department of Agriculture research into market-suited varieties.

“Some people think that because it’s in the Farm Bill, they can go ahead and sign contracts and start growing,” Troy said in an interview. “Unfortunately it’s still illegal in Idaho, and we’ve got to change that.”

Standlee, who farms in the Hazelton-Eden area, said he would start growing hemp on a small number of acres, and then expand as field results and market conditions dictate. Hemp growers report the crop can be

grown for five or six consecutive years, or — for potentially higher yields and other benefits — in rotation with other crops, he said.

Arizona-based Thom Brodeur-Kazanjian, a longtime food brands executive who has studied hemp over the past several years, said hemp grows in the same conditions as corn but uses less water and nutrients. Hemp also grows well at various elevations, he said.

Idaho farmers could easily lead the U.S. in hemp acres given that the current U.S. total of just below 26,000 includes about 10,000 in Colorado, 3,500 in Oregon, 3,000 in North Dakota and smaller amounts in various states.

Revenue per acre now is high — \$20,000 to \$40,000 — in part because hemp seed, fiber and extracts all contribute to total value, Brodeur-Kazanjian said.

Legislation in states has not kept up with demand, one reason total U.S. acreage is low, he said. Although revenue per acre will drop as production rises, “getting a seat at the table is the really important part.”

Rich Garber, government affairs director for the Idaho Grain Producers Association, said hemp ultimately could compete for acres with other Idaho crops if its economics ultimately play out as advocates predict. But hemp figures to be less of an acreage competitor in the short term as prices drop in step with acreage gains, he said.

Committee member Rep. Jerald Raymond, R-Menan, said he knows a Washington farmer who grew hemp and held it unsold after disappointing results. He asked if there are quality and other standards that make hemp more marketable.

LEGAL

OREGON TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (OTAC)
WHEN: February 14, 2019
12:30 pm – 4:00 pm
WHERE: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife 4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE Salem, OR 97310
For more information, or to arrange special accommodations for meeting attendees, please contact Julie MacSwain at 503-414-3250 or mail to: julie.macswain@or.usda.gov

5-2-3/999

Southern Oregon Hemp Co-op holds first meeting

By GEORGE PLAVEN
Capital Press

MEDFORD, Ore. — A newly established farmers’ cooperative aims to unite Southern Oregon hemp growers and processors as they enter the budding industry.

The Southern Oregon Hemp Co-op held its first meeting Feb. 1 at the Roxy Ann Grange in Medford, Ore. More than 80 people filled the grange hall to hear presentations about growing hemp, and benefits offered by the co-op for selling into markets including pharmaceuticals, beverages and cosmetics.

Mark Taylor, a longtime construction and development contractor in Medford, founded the co-op in December 2018 after trying his hand at growing 2.5 acres of hemp. Getting started proved more difficult than he thought, learning the right techniques and spotting issues in the crop.

The worst thing, Taylor said, was the bottleneck of product when he tried to sell in October after harvest.

“This is real critical,” Taylor said. “We shouldn’t have to go begging for

buyers.”

Instead of small and mid-size farmers trying to go it alone, Taylor said the co-op can pool their resources to fight for fair trade and price. The co-op will also work to line up buyers in advance, so growers don’t panic late in the season and sell to the lowest bidder.

“We are going to be large enough to offer millions of pounds of hemp,” Taylor said. “We’re going to move product, and we’re going to make it easier for you to move product.”

So far, the co-op has 23 members signed up, representing about 400 acres. According to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, there are 75 registered hemp growers and 22 registered handlers in Jackson County, and 45 registered growers and 14 registered handlers in neighboring Josephine County in southwest Oregon.

The 2018 Farm Bill opened new opportunities for U.S. hemp farmers by defining the crop as an agricultural commodity, and removing it from the list of federally controlled substances. That means farmers can sell hemp products

across state lines, while gaining access to crop insurance and banking.

While the crowd at Roxy Ann Grange speculated about hemp markets, Taylor said the vast majority of processors are still interested in extracting cannabidiol, or CBD, isolate to make products such as lotions, mints, drinks and oils. Taylor said the co-op is already identifying prominent potential buyers.

“We’ve got to get out in the forefront right now,” he said.

A self-styled marketer, Taylor is promoting hemp from Southern Oregon as coming from the finest farmland in the country, grown by farmers in predominantly pesticide-free soils — what he calls the “Golden Triangle.”

“I’ve taken that term, and yes, I’m proud of myself,” Taylor said. “We’re already nationally known.”

The co-op, Taylor said, can streamline the business aspect of locally grown hemp and give local growers a leg up in the marketplace.

Matt Cyrus, a sixth-generation farmer growing hemp near Bend, Ore., also spoke at the co-op meeting.

Washington hemp bills line up on allowing CBD

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

OLYMPIA — House and Senate bills now agree on removing two major barriers to the cultivation of hemp in Washington.

The bills would legalize processing hemp into cannabidiol, or CBD, for human consumption, an attractive market now closed to Washington farmers and processors.

The bills also would strike down a state Department of Agriculture rule that forces hemp farmers to shut down if a marijuana grower decides to plant within 4 miles. Meant to prevent hemp from cross-pollinating with marijuana, the rule subordinates hemp to recreational marijuana.

Hemp lobbyist Bonny Jo Peterson of the Industrial Hemp Association of Washington said she was becoming more confident



George Plaven/Capital Press File
Cannabidiol, or CBD, oil is one of the main products driving interest in growing hemp in Washington. Bills in the state Legislature would allow the production of CBD.

that lawmakers will pass a bill that allows hemp farming and processing to grow.

“We are expecting this year to boom if everything is in place and next year to blow up, especially on the CBD aspect,” she said.

Only 141 acres of hemp were grown in Washington last year, all by the Colville Tribe in northeast Washington. Although the 2018 Farm Bill legalized hemp

plants and viable hemp seeds, state lawmakers must still loosen Washington regulations discouraging hemp production.

House Bill 1401 and Senate Bill 5719, introduced by a mix of liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans, are identical. Another Senate proposal that would have continued to prohibit CBD has fallen by the wayside. The state agriculture department predicted that if CBD remains illegal to make in Washington, the state’s tiny hemp industry will not grow at all, according to a fiscal report.

Marketed as a nutritional and disease-fighting supplement, CBD is hemp’s most valuable product, according to the plant’s advocates.

Although widely available, CBD remains a potential point of conflict between the hemp industry and federal authorities.

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Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/18/2019. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
B.C TOWING INC
2140 TURNER RD SE SALEM, OR
2009 WABASH 53FT TRLR
VIN= 1JJV532W39L276959
Amount due on lien \$8,820.00
Reputed owner(s):
GT TRANS INC SIGNATURE
FINANCIAL LLC 6-2-3/999

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Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/18/19. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY, WOODBURN, OR
2011 CADILAC CTS 4DR
VIN = 1G6DE5EY4B0147779
Amount due on lien \$1,815.00
Reputed owner(s):
RAYMOND MONROE ROCHE
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA 6-3/999

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Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/18/19. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY, WOODBURN, OR
2000 DODGE 3500 PU
VIN = 3B6MC3667YM217483
Amount due on lien \$1,815.00
Reputed owner(s):
MIGUEL A. MARTINEZ CORTES 6-3/999

United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Local Work Group Meeting for Marion County

February 22nd, 2019

9:00am - 12:00pm

650 Hawthorne Ave SE, Suite 130, Salem, OR

For more information call:

Les Bachelor 971-273-4816

NRCS will hold their annual Local Work Group Meeting to gather input from farmers, ranchers, state and federal agencies, agriculture, energy, and conservation organizations regarding Farm Bill conservation priorities in Marion County.

Request accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Les Bachelor at 971-273-4816

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6-3/106

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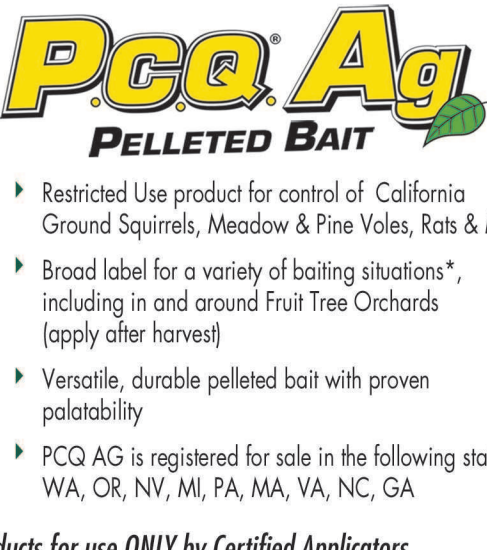
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6-3/103