**2024 Latest news in the world of hemp !**

***Seven Key Objectives For 2024 Farm Bill Supported By 33 Non-Profit Organization*s**

WASHINGTON D.C. — As negotiations for the next U.S. Farm Bill commence following the new year, a united hemp industry, comprised of 33 non-profit organizations representing every facet of the supply chain, has come together in a historic effort to advocate for the inclusion of seven critical objectives. Summarized with clear legislative language, these objectives aim to create more jobs while providing much-needed regulatory direction for farmers.

Specifically, the industry urges Congress to:

* Regulate CBD and other ingredients derived from hemp under the existing frameworks for dietary supplement and food additives as outlined in [HR 1629](https://hempsupporter.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b61b28eae54b8d51e883a3f8&id=4111fc9a99&e=6e97b2fc7c) and [S 2451](https://hempsupporter.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b61b28eae54b8d51e883a3f8&id=265bbcd69f&e=6e97b2fc7c).
* Address the shortage of testing laboratories and protect consumers by allowing USDA and ISO 17025 accredited laboratories to test hemp products. [See proposal here](https://hempsupporter.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b61b28eae54b8d51e883a3f8&id=68dd6d8c5b&e=6e97b2fc7c).
* Reduce regulatory requirements for hemp grain and fiber farmers via [HR 3755](https://hempsupporter.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b61b28eae54b8d51e883a3f8&id=a7d0e1d4bd&e=6e97b2fc7c) or S 980, and/or through a fit-for-purpose approach as [outlined here](https://hempsupporter.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b61b28eae54b8d51e883a3f8&id=42867e7f96&e=6e97b2fc7c).
* Permit hemp grain for animal feed. [See proposal here](https://hempsupporter.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b61b28eae54b8d51e883a3f8&id=81b4324e95&e=6e97b2fc7c).
* Maintain the current definition of “hemp” while balancing appropriate consumer protections with continued market access to popular hemp products.
* Promote justice, equity and the planet by repealing the felon ban in [HR 1428](https://hempsupporter.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b61b28eae54b8d51e883a3f8&id=9ea2905cae&e=6e97b2fc7c), supporting hemp research at minority serving institutions, and enhancing climate opportunities through carbon credit programs.
* Mandate that hemp crops should be deemed compliant unless they exceed 1% total THC, as defined by USDA. [See proposal here](https://hempsupporter.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b61b28eae54b8d51e883a3f8&id=a228e80908&e=6e97b2fc7c).

This is the first time hemp industry leaders have joined together in alignment on a strategic legislative agenda.

Guardrails needed. The 2023 Farm Bill, which was expected at the end of last year but is now delayed to next autumn, is an opportunity to address questions surrounding CBD and the intoxicating products that can be made from CBD. The delay means one more year of a muddled regulatory picture that can leave potentially unsafe intoxicating hemp products on the market.

In the best scenario, these products should be allowed but go under rules for marijuana and be strictly limited to licensed marijuana dispensaries, with proper manufacturing practices, labeling rules and warnings in place. To say the least, children should not have access to intoxicating treats at their local gas station or bodega.

**1-8** Until the CBD sector can show it can manage its own behavior, clear rules and closer oversight by federal and state governments are necessary to safeguard consumers and boost the public’s confidence. The critical issue is not regulation as a form of punishment, but instead to define robust, responsible practices and standards. It’s clear the CBD industry is incapable of doing so.

**1-10** Canadian hemp grain producers continued to dominate the U.S. market for hempseed-based products in 2023, shipping material valued at roughly $55 million over the northern border, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

[**Hemp: Nature's guardian against herbivores and sustainable pesticide of the future**](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rElxCPpMviDzaTiCCignfRCicNOrip?format=multipart)

Hemp, the versatile plant that has been a companion to humanity for thousands of years, continues to unveil its hidden powers. Recent scientific studies have shed light on two remarkable aspects of hemp's potential: its role in defending itself against herbivores and its application as a sustainable pesticide. [Learn more.](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rElxCPpMviDzaTiCCignfRCicNOrip)

[**Using hemp seed meal as chicken feed clears a hurdle**](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rFnmCPpMviDzdarhCignfRCicNQvCm?format=multipart)

The Association of American Feed Control Officials has granted tentative approval for hemp seed meal to be used as food for laying hens. The Hemp Feed Coalition says egg quality will be enhanced and that finalizing the move will represent a "historic milestone" for meal, considered a waste byproduct of cold-pressing hemp seed oil for consumption by humans.

 **Full Story:**[Hemp Gazette (Australia)](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rFnmCPpMviDzdarhCignfRCicNQvCm?format=multipart) (1/26)

[**UK supports research on using hemp in circuit boards**](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rFnmCPpMviDzdarnCignfRCicNOFCS?format=multipart)

The United Kingdom is subsidizing research that could advance the use of hemp as a laminate in circuit boards, a concept also under study in Sweden and Germany. Using hemp and other natural fibers could make recovering electronic components easier when the circuit boards are discarded, cutting pollution produced by current glass-fiber and epoxy technologies.  **Full Story:**[HempToday (Poland)](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rFnmCPpMviDzdarnCignfRCicNOFCS?format=multipart" \t "_blank)

[**Hemp's challenges across agencies and the urgency for a comprehensive government approach**](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rFnmCPpMviDzdarqCignfRCicNNGIS?format=multipart)

Industrial hemp presents a unique opportunity for the administration to concurrently address climate and rural development goals. It deserves special attention from the government as it was a major staple of trade and crop of great importance to the founding of this county. Hemp was again called upon in a time of great need during World War II (USDA Hemp for Victory campaign). It is only due to government prohibition that the industry lost almost 90 years of research and growth. [Read more.](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rFnmCPpMviDzdarqCignfRCicNNGIS)

[**Hemp grown in copper-contaminated soil renders usable stalks, boosts CBD production**](https://hemptoday.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b0f3675b9c8da9720b1f8d99a&id=c1dcd45125&e=4192fecae6) Hemp is good for cleaning up soil contaminated with copper – and copper can be good for hemp, according to Greek researchers who have looked at the plant as an option for [phytoremediation](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/phytoremediation). Scientists from the departments of agriculture at the University of Thessaly and Aristotle University not only found that hemp effectively absorbs copper from heavily contaminated soils, but that the process boosts CBD levels in the hemp plant’s flowers.

[New task force established to advance industrial hemp in Australian state](https://hemptoday.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b0f3675b9c8da9720b1f8d99a&id=cdc8162efc&e=4192fecae6) 02-07 A new initiative in New South Wales (NSW) will explore the role of industrial hemp in transitioning to a net-zero circular economy, according to the Australian state’s government.

## [CBD down, fiber up, as early signs show U.S. hemp harvest stabilized in 2023](https://hemptoday.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b0f3675b9c8da9720b1f8d99a&id=87e1df5736&e=4192fecae6) 02-19

## [Struggling Australian hemp companies strike a $1.9 million deal on food maker](https://hemptoday.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b0f3675b9c8da9720b1f8d99a&id=ec6f1cead1&e=4192fecae6)

**2-15** Two struggling Australian hemp companies have struck an AU $3 million (US $1.94 million) deal involving a hemp food company. Elixinol Wellness Limited has agreed to acquire the Ananda Food unit of Ecofibre Limited.Elixinol, primarily a maker of CBD products but also the owner of Hemp Foods Australia, is to pay Ecofibre AU $2.0 million in cash in late March, and the seller can earn an additional AU $1.0 million if sales goals are reached for its cat litter product that is part of the deal. The earnout applies to sales between April 2024 and June 2025.

**2-7** [**Panda Biotech' hemp gin in Texas set to open this year**](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rHreCPpMviDzgFuTCignfRCicNNTFb?format=multipart)

Panda Biotech says its hemp processing facility just six miles from the Oklahoma border in Wichita Falls, Texas, will be ready for action this year, taking its place as the second-largest such facility in the world, behind one in France. High Plains Hemp Gin will be able to handle 10 metric tons per hour working mainly with growers from Texas and Oklahoma, with the potential of branching out to neighboring states.  **Full Story:**[Lancaster Farming](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rHreCPpMviDzgFuTCignfRCicNNTFb?format=multipart)

**2-9** [**Pa. company to teach military about hempcrete benefits**](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rHreCPpMviDzgFvbCignfRCicNGlqI?format=multipart)

Americhanvre Cast Hemp of Washington Township, Pa., has used spray-applied hempcrete in about 30 homes and won a contract of nearly $2 million from the US Army Small Business Investment Research Office, which is interested in downsizing the military's carbon footprint. Americhanvre co-owner Cameron McIntosh says the hempcrete isn't a gimmick and offers "real performance benefits, health benefits."  **Full Story:**[WFMZ-TV (Allentown, Pa.)](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rHreCPpMviDzgFvbCignfRCicNGlqI?format=multipart)

2-15 [**Hemp biomass safe for dairy cows to eat, study says**](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rItZCPpMviDziJyZCigyfTCicNHkmI?format=multipart)

A study published in the Journal of Dairy Science found spent hemp biomass was safe for consumption by lactating dairy cows. The eight-week study looked at the diet of 18 late-lactation Jersey cows and found the hemp biomass did not negatively affect the cows' lactation performance or health. **Full Story:**[Hemp Gazette (Australia)](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rItZCPpMviDziJyZCigyfTCicNHkmI?format=multipart)

## 2-22 [Two new methods can speed up testing of hemp, marijuana for THC content](https://hemptoday.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b0f3675b9c8da9720b1f8d99a&id=dd5c75edb9&e=4192fecae6)

The two techniques allow labs to obtain precise measurements quickly and easily, overcoming a lack of personnel, instrumentation, and protocols in certified testing laboratories, according to the U.S. Justice Department’s National Institute of Justice ([NIJ](https://nij.ojp.gov/)), which provided $400,000 in funding to develop the tests.

[**Potential of industrial hemp for a sustainable future**](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rKqNCPpMviDzlUvhCigyfTCicNDYHE?format=multipart)

Industrial hemp, characterized by its sustainability across various dimensions, has emerged as a transformative force amid the imperative to address climate change. Through its versatile applications in fiber, food and oil, hemp offers compelling economic, environmental and social benefits, as illuminated by a recent literature review by Gurinder Kaur and Ronald Kander. [Read more.](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rKqNCPpMviDzlUvhCigyfTCicNDYHE)

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| (Rodger Bosch/Getty Images) |
|  |
|  |

[**Hempcrete pioneers say product prevents mold**](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rKqNCPpMviDzlUvgCigyfTCicNuVsT?format=multipart)Experts from the Carolinas are teaming up to promote hempcrete as a solution for reducing mold-related problems in structures. "If you use hempcrete on exterior walls, the odds of you having any mold issues, unless you just do something really egregious, are approaching zero," said Tim Callahan, who handled design and construction of 10 hempcrete homes in Asheville, N.C., from 2009 to 2016.  **Full**

The U.S. Hemp Roundtable is thrilled to announce a significant step forward in the recognition of hemp as a **sustainable alternative to plastic**. This year, the [Commerce-Justice-Science funding bill](https://hempsupporter.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b61b28eae54b8d51e883a3f8&id=bec7d596f1&e=6e97b2fc7c) includes groundbreaking provisions urging the National Science Foundation to allocate resources towards researching hemp's potential as a substitute for traditional plastics. Specifically, the focus is on reducing the nation's dependence on Chinese-made plastics, marking another pivotal moment for the hemp industry.

### **Eco-Conscious**

FiberPad is manufactured with US-grown hemp fiber, a natural bast fiber known for its durability and moisture-managing properties. Hemp cultivation requires minimal pesticides or fertilizers, while also rejuvenating soil quality, making it an environmentally responsible choice. During its growth, hemp plants sequester carbon dioxide, resulting in FiberPad having a low to negative carbon footprint.

[**Hemp can add to value chains, boost sustainability**](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rFpWCPpMviDzdgnaCignfRCicNRuls?format=multipart)

Industries around the world are looking for ways to increase sustainability of natural resources, and cultivation of hemp is one way of benefiting the value chain. French cooperative Virgocoop is promoting the use of hemp fiber for clothing as an alternative to cotton to save water, reduce pesticide use and lower transportation pollution with local production.  **Full Story:**[Stanford Social Innovation Review](https://r.smartbrief.com/resp/rFpWCPpMviDzdgnaCignfRCicNRuls?format=multipart) (1/22)