

Feb. 15, 2017

PUBLIC STATEMENT ON KANSAS HB 2182 INDUSTRIAL HEMP FARMING ACT

My name is Kent Rowe and I reside at 3353 N 159th E Wichita KS in the county of Sedgwick. Ty Masterton is my state senator and Chuck Weber is my state representative. I am a former mayor of Longton, KS (USD 283) and own a small agribusiness. I have been a member of Farm Bureau for over 20 years.

I appear before this committee to SUPPORT HB 2182. To date, 31 states have enacted laws allow production, refining, and marketing Hemp biomass commodity. Local & regional users of Hemp range from cattle feeders to clothing manufacturers to auto parts. Additionally, construction materials include non-toxic Hempcrete, medium density fiberboard, and engineered plywood.

As the U.S. market demand expands dramatically (as demonstrated in other states), locally-sourced raw materials will become a significant revenue stream for large and small producers, added-value on farm, coupled with community based local cottage industries and growth of rural employment.

The 2015 US Hemp market was estimated at \$573 million. The 2016 Hemp market is on track to be approaching one billion US dollars. Kentucky alone TRIPLED its acreage & revenue in 2016.

In the US Congress, HR 525---entitled the Industrial Hemp Farming Act seeks to bring in business and banking rules & guidelines. This initiative has gained 38 new cosponsors, and 74 bipartisan cosponsors with a total of 238 house members supporting hemp research. Concurrently, Senate bill 134 has 16 bipartisan cosponsors.

Planting:

Seed sowing occurs in the springtime and has an anticipated maturity of 90 days. Suggested seed varieties include FEDORA 19, FIN 314 and Fasamo. These seed types produce shorter stalks so as to minimize combine reel cutter heights. Planting can be accomplished with either common row planters or grain drills utilizing low-density planter plates. Soil preparation requirements are minimal and Hemp is generally regarded as an excellent cover crop and soil aerator.

Water requirements:

Necessary demand for germination, sprouting and initial growth occur at the onset of planting in the cooler, rainy months of springtime. Little or no irrigation is needed. Long, deep taproots afford resilience to harsh conditions such as drought, and wind loads. Conversely, maize requires most of its moisture during tasseling in typically hot, dry conditions of late June or early July.

Harvesting:

I personally have harvested Hemp using the most rudimentary equipment consisting of a 8N Ford tractor with a side-mount sickle bar. More sophisticated harvesters have adopted add-on modifications to afford single, double, and triple cut combine attachments. This affords a crop stream of oil seeds high up, and fiber stalks lower down. The newer John Deere 9680 double cut harvesters are now in use along with the Claas Xerion 4000---offering a Hemp seed cattle feed side dump hopper.

Small-scale walk-behind Hemp harvesters are marketed through Kubota. However, agricultural machinery such as field choppers, swathers, side-mount sickle mowers are being integrated with minimal labor and startup investment. Larger square balers are the utilized for transport to processing & refining.

Seed Dehulling:

Added value on farm can proceed with small low cost dehulling, kernel peeling, and shell & kernel separation such as the model Amisy TFMA 1200 ranging from \$3000-\$5000.

Oil Seed Expeller:

Numerous oil seed expeller machinery is also available on the market priced at \$400-\$3600.

Decorticators:

Fiber extraction from stalk material can be accomplished with PTO-driven machines in the field at harvest time (CannaSystems D-8+ Decorticator). This includes a CORE HURD conveyor and FIBER output feed.

In summary, let us pay tribute to a National Patriot of Hemp. Betsy Ross made the first American flag made from Hemp. From Nutrition to National defense, Hemp has seen us through countless needs. Providing raw material and commodities throughout US history, we have now begun a journey forward into entrepreneurship and sustainability in the long term future for Kansas heretofore afforded only to those nations whom never ceased Hemp production.

References:

Hemp Industry Association
John Deere Co.
Claas International
Vote Hemp
Farm Bureau
Hemp Today
Global Hemp Industries
CannaSystems, Inc.
Kubota