

CITIZENS VIEW




Focus-Marijuana



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MARYLAND



Some proposed legislation may impact hemp farmers in Maryland, an industry that's literally growing across the country.

House Bill 510 would put restrictions on where farmers are allowed to grow or cultivate hemp, as part of the Hemp Research Pilot Program. The bill came about after residents in Baltimore County complained about the smell of the plants. If passed, the State's Department of Agriculture wouldn't be able to certify or register a site within two miles of a residential community with ten or more homes.

<https://www.wmdt.com/2020/02/salisbury-hemp-farm-expresses-concern-over-proposed-restrictions/>

OREGON HEMP FARM SUES NO-SHOW HARVESTERS FOR \$11 MIL

MEDFORD, Ore. — A Southern Oregon farm wants millions of dollars from a group of businesses and individuals who allegedly pitched themselves as a “co-op” of hemp harvesters and processors, but left the farm high and dry days after being paid six figures.

Jefferson State Farms of Medford, owned by Ben and Kathleen Yuma, is suing four individuals and three businesses that the Yumas met through social media for more than \$11 million. The Yumas are claiming that the businesses never so much as started harvesting the farm's crop of 112,500 hemp plants last fall — despite making six-figures in deposits, according to a lawsuit filed Wednesday in Jackson County Circuit Court.

The lawsuit makes civil fraud, unlawful trade practices and breach of contract allegations against businesses identified as Palex Enterprises, Hemp Warehouse and Great Horizons LLC and four individuals because the Yumas' farm paid them a \$136,000 down payment for the crop's schedule Oct. 9 harvest start date, yet they never returned \$86,000 of the money the farm paid — despite at least two handwritten promises to do so.

When the Yumas tried to collect the money they paid, one of the attempts turned physical at a warehouse in White City, the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit provides a look at the challenges one Southern Oregon hemp grower faced during the region's difficult first season farming the low-THC, high-CBD crop. According to earlier Mail Tribune reports, numerous hemp growers

struggled with early frosts, bug infestations, mold and a lack of local processing facilities — not to mention a looming threat of national regulation changes.

The Yumas' alleged ordeal started Sept. 30, when Jefferson State Farms inquired about harvesting and drying on Meetup.com's “Southern Oregon Hemp Co-op” group.

Later that day, the Yumas met with the Meetup group's administrator, identified in the suit as Robbie Lesa Horton, at a White City warehouse owned by Hemp Warehouse and Palex Enterprises. Horton introduced the Yumas to her business partner, named in the lawsuit as Hong Morales.

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OREGON HEMP FARMER SUES Cont.

Morales quoted the Yumas a fee of more than half a million dollars to harvest the crop with equipment such as a combine harvester and a mobile industrial hemp dryer. By the end of the week, Jefferson State Farms had signed a letter of intent and paid them the first of two \$68,000 deposits for the work.

The following Monday, defendants in the lawsuit identified as Robert Mansur and Stormy Paul arrived at Jefferson State Farms to inspect the crop and discuss logistics.

“Defendants Mansur and Paul emphasized the mechanical benefits of their harvesting and mobile drying equipment, and promised that their machinery could harvest and dry thousands of pounds of crops per hour,” the lawsuit states. “Defendant Paul came back the following day to collect a second \$68,000 deposit on the harvesting services, which [the Yumas] paid in cash.” Two days later on the agreed-upon start date, no one showed at the farm. When the Yumas called Morales, the lawsuit claims she told the farm’s owners that \$100,000 of the Yumas’ money was paid to Mansur and his company Great Horizons LLC to perform “contracted-for services.” The Yumas claim the payment to Great Horizons was done without Jefferson State Farms’ knowledge or consent.

On Oct. 14, the Yumas got through to Mansur on the phone. “Mansur acknowledged taking receipt of Plaintiff’s funds and promised to refund it via wire the next day,” the lawsuit reads, but Mansur never followed through. The Yumas got \$50,000 of their money back on Oct. 18 following a meeting at the White City warehouse, and provided a handwritten note and acknowledging that the Yumas still were owed \$86,000.

The next day on Oct. 19, Paul and Mansur showed up at the Yumas’ farm and provided a handwritten document “on behalf of Hemp Warehouse LLC and Palex Enterprises LLC promising that the sum of \$86,000 would be paid to the Yumas via cashier’s check” within two days; however, the Yumas claim they “never received any funds and never again heard from defendant Mansur.” On Nov. 6, the Yumas made another attempt to collect their \$86,000 at the Hemp Warehouse and Palex Enterprises facility in White City, which the farm owners claim got physical.

“Defendant Paul was present and physically assaulted Kathleen Yuma, pushing her against the wall and pinning her there by driving his thumbs into her armpits,” the lawsuit claims. “Kathleen Yuma was injured and the Yumas felt intimidated.” The lawsuit seeks to recoup the \$86,000 the Yumas paid, another \$200,000 for replacement harvesting and drying services and \$11.2 million for “consequential damages” surrounding the lost crop. The crop would have been worth about \$11.2 million, the lawsuit claims, based on the farm’s claimed wholesale value for “flower” as \$200 per pound. Instead, the farm had to sell the crop as “combined biomass” for \$10 a pound because the neglected crop molded in the field. As of Friday, none of the three companies or four individuals had yet responded to the civil suit, court records show. Aside from possible states of residence, the court document provides minimal information about the defendants’ whereabouts.



WASHINGTON

College Place says ‘no’ to hemp, for now

COLLEGE PLACE — Due to numerous complaints of hemp odors, city leaders in College Place voted unanimously Tuesday night to put a one-year moratorium on the production of the plant.

A public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 28 to discuss the issue.

Constant complaints about the **odor** of a hemp farm in city limits over the summer drove the city to take action, according to documents.

“The police department responded to a number of calls; there were **thefts** at the site. And so it was quite a burden on the city,” said Jon Rickard, College Place’s community development director.

To see full article hit below link:

https://www.union-bulletin.com/news/local_governments/college_place/college-place-says-no-to-hemp-for-now/article_b0e1afbd-90c0-5182-afc2-265f131f1d99.html



Hemp in California: Counties, cities remain divided on production

California's county-by-county regulatory landscape for hemp production is as varied as its actual scenery.

In some of its counties, California is one of the last strongholds against hemp production, while in others, efforts to grow the crop are underway or ordinances have been passed that will soon allow farmers to move forward.

Anticipated to be a future powerhouse of hemp production because of its rich soils and temperate climate that allows for year-round cultivation, California has lagged behind other hemp states as the only one to make county-level agriculture commissioners responsible for passing hemp production ordinances in each of its 58 counties.

That's despite California's agriculture department giving growers the long-awaited go-ahead in April to get licensed for hemp production.

According to a late August update from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the state currently has 23 counties producing hemp, with 258 growers, 34 seed breeders and 16,899 registered acres.

Hemp Industry Daily examined the status of the rest of the counties and learned through local news reports and county agriculture commissioners that:

Of the 23 counties with licensed hemp acreage, two still have county-wide moratoriums in place until 2020 – Shasta County, in which a municipality legalized hemp production within city limits; and San Luis Obispo (SLO), which licensed 16 hemp farmers and nine farmers producing hemp for research before

enacting an emergency moratorium that was extended to June 2020. Marc Lea, assistant agricultural commissioner for the county, told *Hemp Industry Daily* that SLO county provided direction to develop a permanent ordinance by early 2020 that would

supersede the moratorium and allow for cultivation.

Sixteen counties do not have current bans on hemp production and at least eight of these have passed hemp production ordinances, but production hasn't yet begun. Hemp production in Santa Barbara County is allowed for research only.

Seven counties have at least a temporary moratorium in place, which could be extended for up to 22 months and 15 days if the county board of supervisors so decides.

Seven counties have banned production until 2020. This includes Santa Clara County, which doesn't currently have a moratorium but has banned hemp production until the federal and state regulations are implemented. The rest of the counties voted to extend their respective hemp moratoriums until spring 2020.

Four counties have put hemp production bans in place until 2021.

California law protects hemp ... and local government A measure currently on California Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk to revise California's provisions regulating hemp cultivation and testing includes language that says enacting the legislation would "neither limit nor prevent a city, county or city and county from exercising its police power authority."

To read full article hit below link





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CONNECTIONS

- **Monthly Connections**
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- **Web Trainings**
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We believe we are socially responsible for preserving public safety, quality of life, and protection of property values on behalf of our communities and for the legacy of our children.



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State's first hemp crop in at least a half century is causing a stink in North Kingstown-RHODE ISLAND

The state's first and largest hemp crop in at least a half century is causing a stink in North Kingstown.

Neighbors around Dawson Hodgson's 65 acres of hemp off Exeter Road are expected to appeal to the Town Council Monday night to do something about the pungent skunk-like odor which they say has permeated their houses, cars and clothes since August.

"It smells," says David DellaSelva, who lives in the Slocum Woods neighborhood a quarter-mile south of Hodgson's **70,000 hemp bushes, now being cut and dried for market.** "I'm asthmatic and it's made it worse. My wife says it's all over her body when she goes to work."

DellaSelva says "I have no beef with someone wanting to make a buck, but you really shouldn't be doing anything that affects the neighbors."

Hodgson, president of the 500-acre turf farm, Sodco, became **the state's first large-scale hemp grower** in decades after the federal government last year removed the cannabis plant from a list of controlled substances.

Farmers across the nation are now growing hemp for the burgeoning CBD market, a component in the plant's extracted oil which may have medicinal benefits, though the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has so far only approved CBD use for rare forms of childhood epilepsy.

Unlike its cousin marijuana, hemp has none or virtually little of the mind-altering component THC.

As hemp growing flourishes, so too have complaints that its smell is annoying, **causes headaches,** makes allergies worse and devalues neighboring property.

(The Exeter Town Council has also received complaints about Hodgson's hemp field, according to the council's agenda for its regular meeting Monday evening.)

North Kingstown Town Council President Gregory A. Mancini said Sunday he's heard some of those complaints from his constituents.

"They tell me that the smell is awful and it concerns them and they're not happy about it. I drove by there and it does stink. We are researching what our options might be."

After neighbors raised concerns, Mancini and fellow Town Council member Mary Brimer visited Hodgson's hemp field last month as harvesting and the required drying was underway. In a follow-up letter to them last week, Hodgson wrote "everyone is entitled to their opinion about how hemp smells. To those that don't like it, we're sorry for the impact it has on you."

"Fortunately," Hodgson said, "whatever smell accompanies industrial hemp appears to be temporary — a matter of weeks, rather than the perpetual smells that accompany many other types of agricultural operations."

"We hope that as the public comes to understand they are not smelling marijuana and that the subjects are unrelated, that the offense taken will subside.

<https://www.providencejournal.com/news/20191006/states-first-hemp-crop-in-at-least-half-century-is-causing-stink-in-north-kingstown>