

Texas A&M AgriLife Industrial Hemp Resources for Texas

June 18, 2020

AgriLife Extension Public Webpage for Hemp Production

The agency wide website for hemp is <http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/hemp> New resources are posted periodically. In July 2020 we will begin posting updates of our weekly 'How hemp grows' feature from the Texas A&M AgriLife Center at Lubbock. If browsing the internet for other industrial hemp resources, include other states' university hemp agricultural research and extension information, states' department of agriculture hemp guidelines, USDA, and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service ag law specialist Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, J.D., Amarillo, blogs regularly on hemp issues, <https://agrilife.org/texasaglaw/> Use the 'Search' function at the top to find hemp related topics.

Texas A&M AgriLife Crop Testing Program hemp variety trial info., see <http://varietytesting.tamu.edu/hemp/>

USDA & Texas Agriculture & Health Industrial Hemp Rules

Key summaries of the USDA hemp program are found at <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/hemp> (which includes info on insurance, Farm Service Agency programs, etc.).

The main webpage for Texas Department of Agriculture hemp programs includes rules, approved varieties, licensing, sampling, and licensed processors. See <https://www.texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms/Hemp.aspx> Contact TDA about all regulatory topics. TDA provides a video about the licensing process. At the bottom of the page is their expanding Frequently Asked Questions (currently 89; it is good to re-read monthly for updates).

The Texas Department of State Health Services is legislatively mandated to regulate consumable hemp products in Texas. This includes "food, device, drug, or cosmetic" that contains hemp or hemp-derived products. See <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/consumerprotection/hemp-program/default.aspx> Texas DSHS follows U.S. Food & Drug Administrative directives, including potential regulation of CBD/cannabinoids as food additives which FDA has not approved. FDA has not (yet) regulated current practices of CBD as an additive. (FDA has intervened on extreme claims of health benefits made in marketing CBD products.) DSHS completed a public comment period on proposed rules, the draft at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/hemp/docs/DraftHempRuleDecember10.pdf> Though hemp growers may grow smokable hemp, the processing, manufacture, and retail sale of smokable products in Texas is prohibited.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has a thorough website on potential CBD food and additive information, <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-regulation-cannabis-and-cannabis-derived-products-including-cannabidiol-cbd>

Personnel

Overall Industrial Hemp Texas A&M AgriLife Program Leader

- *Dr. Larry Redmon, Associate Dept. Head for Extension, Dept. of Soil & Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, (979) 845-4808, l-redmon@tamu.edu

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service "Industrial Hemp Education Initiative Team"—(Team members are marked with (*) & Other AgriLife Extension specialists working with hemp.

Regional Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Program Directors

- *Brent Batchelor, Regional Program Leader (Vernon, Stephenville districts), Agriculture & Natural Resources, AgriLife Extension, Stephenville, (254) 968-4144, brent.batchelor@ag.tamu.edu
- *Todd Swift, Regional Program Leader (Uvalde, Weslaco districts), Agriculture & Natural Resources, AgriLife Extension, Uvalde, (830) 278-9151, tswift@ag.tamu.edu

Agronomists

- *Dr. Calvin Trostle, Professor & Extension Agronomist/Texas A&M AgriLife State Hemp Specialist, TAMU Dept. of Soil & Crop Sciences, Lubbock, (806) 746-6101, ctrostle@ag.tamu.edu
- *Dr. Reagan Noland, Assistant Professor & Extension Agronomist, TAMU Dept. of Soil & Crop Sciences, San Angelo, (325) 653-4576, reagan.noland@ag.tamu.edu
- Dr. Josh McGinty, Assistant Professor & Extension Agronomist, TAMU Dept. of Soil & Crop Sciences, Corpus Christi, (361) 265-9203, joshua.mcginity@ag.tamu.edu

Weed Control

- Dr. Joshua McGinty (see above)
- Dr. Scott Nolte, Assistant Professor & State Extension Weed Specialist, TAMU Dept. of Soil & Crop Sciences, College Station, (979) 845-4880, scott.nolte@tamu.edu

Plant Diseases

- Dr. Tom Isakeit, Professor & Extension Plant Pathologist, TAMU Dept. of Plant Pathology & Microbiology, (979) 862-1340, t-isakeit@tamu.edu
- Dr. Ken Obasa, Assistant Professor & Extension Plant Pathologist, TAMU Dept. of Plant Pathology & Microbiology, Amarillo, (806) 677-5600, ken.obasa@ag.tamu.edu
- Texas A&M Dept. of Plant Pathology "Plant Clinic" will eventually be licensed to receive hemp samples for diagnosis of potential hemp plant pathogens. (979) 845-8032, plantclinic@tamu.edu (Samples submitted by the public require documentation including a transport permit from TDA.) AgriLife welcomes digital images of plant disease symptoms to the Plant Pathology staff as well as Calvin Trostle.

Insects

- *Dr. Holly Davis, Assistant Professor & Extension Entomologist, TAMU Dept. of Entomology, Weslaco, (956) 969-5604, holly.davis@ag.tamu.edu Hemp growers may send images of damaging hemp insects to Dr. Davis.

Agricultural Economics

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Agricultural Law, Contracts, Leases, & Legal Issues

- Tiffany Dowell-Lashmet, J.D., Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, Texas A&M Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Amarillo, (806) 677-5681, tdowell@tamu.edu

Pesticide Licensing, Use, and Regulation

- Dr. Don Renchie, Extension Program Leader & Coordinator, Agricultural & Environmental Safety, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, College Station, (979) 845-3849, drenchie@ag.tamu.edu

Community Health & Personal Wellness

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Agricultural Communications & Media Relations

- *Kay Ledbetter, Associate Editor & Communications Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Research/Extension, Amarillo, (806) 677-5600, skledbetter@ag.tamu.edu

Hemp Genetic/Breeding Services from Texas A&M AgriLife Research

- Texas A&M AgriLife crop breeder and geneticist Dr. Russell Jessup, College Station, is offering basic services for hemp breeders to hasten development of potential hybrid parent lines. (979) 312-4242, rjessup@tamu.edu

County Agricultural Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent Programs

- *Bryan Davis, Wilson Co., Floresville, (830) 393-7357, bryan.davis@ag.tamu.edu
- *Megan Eikner, Potter Co., Amarillo, (806) 373-0713, megan.eikner@ag.tamu.edu
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