

# UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Pilot Project Research Plan

(Version 3)



## What is industrial hemp?

1. *Cannabis sativa* with less than 0.3% total THC per dry weight.
2. Industrial hemp is NOT marijuana, as legally distinguished by the THC limit.
3. Hemp has been cultivated for 10,000 years as a fiber and grain crop.
4. Modern hemp can be grown for fiber, grain, and essential oil that can be processed for a diversity of products like biocomposite plastic, hemp seed oil, and cannabinoid extract.

## Hemp in Florida

1. Florida and more than 30 states had approved industrial hemp pilot projects under the 2014 Farm Bill, which authorizes the research at UF/IFAS.

2. The US Senate has further approved commercial hemp production in the 2018 Farm Bill.
3. USDA and FDACS are currently drafting rules to regulate commercial hemp production.

## Hemp at UF/IFAS

1. UF/IFAS supports the sustained viability of industrial hemp production, processing and marketing with work focused on addressing potential agricultural, ecological, and economic challenges.
2. The UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Pilot Project will:
  - Identify hemp varieties suitable for planting in Florida's various environments
  - Develop hemp management practices and cropping systems economically viable for Florida
  - Assess hemp invasion risk in Florida's natural and built environments



## The UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Pilot Project Establishment Process

1. State legislation, FS 1004.4473, approved industrial hemp pilot projects for Florida's land-grant universities.
2. FDACS established Rule 5B-57.013 to describe the university procedure for an industrial hemp planting permit.
3. UF Board of Trustees (BOT) approval and the permitting process required industry sponsorship of the program.
4. Following a meeting of potential industry sponsors, a research proposal (\$1.3 million) was broadly distributed.

5. Our first sponsor, Green Roads, agreed to fund the proposal, leading to BOT, FDACS, and DEA approval.
6. The 2-year pilot project duration began upon receipt of FDACS planting permit April 2019 for the 2019 planting season.

## Next Steps for UF/IFAS

1. The UF Industrial Hemp Pilot Project is committed to developing a research and extension program that is supported by a diverse group of industry groups and stakeholders. Our goal is to facilitate a profitable and sustainable hemp industry in FL that benefits from public access to the best available information. Further participation and support can expand the scope and impact of our program.
2. Grower and industry involvement opportunities have included participation in the Pilot Project Advisory Group, research site volunteers as Qualified Project Personnel, and multiple hemp Extension events and workshops.
3. Our program efforts are further supported by additional Project Sponsors generously provided through the Florida Industrial Hemp Endowment Fund.
4. Research results are compiled and reported through program presentations, Extension events, and research publications as available.

## The UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Research Team

**Jerry Fankhauser**, Lead Oversight Manager, **Florida Agricultural Experiment Station** and more than 20 faculty from multiple units including: **Agronomy**, **Horticultural Sciences**, **Environmental Horticulture**, **Economics**, **Entomology and Nematology**, **Plant Pathology**, **Soil and Water Sciences**, **Animal Sciences**, **Food Science**, **Agricultural and Biological Engineering**, and the **UF College of Pharmacy**.

Research is being conducted at 14 permitted UF locations.

For more information about the UF hemp program visit our website at:

[programs.ifas.ufl.edu/hemp](https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/hemp).

Contact the hemp program at [hemp@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:hemp@ifas.ufl.edu)

Support our research with a generous contribution to the Florida Hemp Endowment Fund:

[www.uff.ufl.edu/give/fih2](http://www.uff.ufl.edu/give/fih2).