

# 2024 HEMP FACT SHEET

## #ILHEMPCOMMUNITY

## GET TO KNOW THE IHGA

Anyone can be a member of the **Illinois Hemp Growers Association!** We are free to join and we offer support to people who are interested in the hemp industry in Illinois.

IHGA Members are **farmers** who are pioneering hemp as a new crop. The IHGA serves and represents many hemp cultivators in Illinois.

The IHGA connects **processors** and farmers. We promote Illinois hemp processor's products and services to our members to maximize local economic activity.

IHGA members include small to medium size **businesses** who sell hemp products or are interested in exploring hemp products for their business.

IHGA members advocate for the hemp industry's best interest in Illinois and throughout the Midwest. We are **grassroots network** of passionate volunteers and we've been going strong since 2018!



## EXPLORE INDUSTRIAL HEMP

## SUPPORT AG INNOVATION

Hemp can play a pivotal role in the USDA's **Agriculture Innovation Agenda** by offering sustainable, versatile crop options that support environmental stewardship and economic growth.

Hemp has the potential to help feed the growing population with an excellent nutritional profile and ever-increasing yields as crop breeding continues. Hemp seed is a **complete protein**.

Hemp seed meal was approved by the FDA-CVM for safety as an additive up to 20% in **feed for laying hens** in 2024. Research shows improvement in egg quality and no transfer of cannabinoids to human food.

Cannabinoids derived from hemp are gaining recognition for their contributions to overall **health and wellness**.

Hemp can meet the demands of businesses for sustainable sourcing of natural fiber with high yields of biomass per acre and rapid growth cycles. **Hemp-lime construction** was adopted to International Residential Code in 2024.

Hemp can be used as a source of Biodiesel, Ethanol, Methanol, Solid Fuel, and Syngas. Hemp carbon batteries are an alternative to lithium ion. The hemp biorefinery concept holds significant **economic promise**.

## STAND BEHIND HEMP BUSINESSES!

## TABLE ANY BILL THAT:

**Bans naturally occurring cannabinoids in hemp.** This contradicts the 2018 Farm Bill's clear distinction that such substances are not controlled when derived from hemp. The Controlled Substances Act was amended to explicitly exclude all hemp cannabinoids from the definition of marijuana.

**Redefines hemp.** This will only further fragment and confuse markets. Consistent, federal standards are vital to ensuring the industry's development and the trust of consumers and producers alike.

Imposes unreasonable **milligram caps** on hemp cannabinoid products that limit consumer access to the full benefits of hemp and stifle innovation within the industry.

Introduces a multitude of **new licenses** for hemp businesses. This will only complicate the regulatory landscape and hinder the industry's growth. Hyperregulation and punitive taxation create unnecessary barriers to entry and impede the unified, national framework envisioned for hemp's agricultural potential in the farm bill.