

THE CLARION

"CALLING FOR AN END TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION"

Hempsters Picnic with the Feds

DEA Employees Take Hemp Food Taste Test Americans 'Just Say No' to Attempts to Ban Hemp Food Products

Hemp enthusiasts gave away hemp food products at Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) offices in 65 cities to protest attempts by the federal government to ban the increasingly popular food. VoteHemp organized the "DEA Hemp Food Taste Tests" on the day a new "Final Rule," was supposed to take effect.

On March 21, 2003, the Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA] announced its final rule on hemp food products, which was to prohibit foods that contain traces of a substance called tetrahydrocannabinols, or THC. This rule would have banned the sale of all hemp food products on April 21, 2003.

Under the DEA's new ruling, consumption would have been prohibited and would have banned human consumption of hemp foods sold in thousands of stores. The agency set an April 21 deadline for businesses to comply. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals blocked the rule when they granted a stay of the ban at the request of about 250 U.S and Canadian hemp companies who have filed suit against the DEA. The public needs to contact Congress, Courts and media. They must hear the peoples opinions about these boondoggles by the DEA from outraged citizens themselves.



**Support YOUR global hemp community.
The planet you save just may be your own!**

Please contact Nadine Bloch via email at nbloch@igc.org or via phone at 301-891-3680, if you are interested in organizing or participating in this action in your local area. If you're unable to participate, you can do your part by visiting <http://www.VoteHemp.com> and sending a letter to Congress. Thank you for joining the challenge to the DEA's absurd and destructive policies.

Vote Hemp, Hemp Industries Association (HIA), Organic Consumers Association, Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP), various NORML chapters and other organizations around the country visited their local DEA outposts at noon on that day challenge the DEA's rule. David Bronner, President of Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps, and other industry leaders agreed to make sure that people participating in DEA Hemp Taste Test were well stocked with the hemp products they need for the event.

At lunchtime, concerned citizens set up tables with hemp products and information near "not on" DEA property. The goal of the Taste Test was to solicit participation of the DEA employees <continued next page>

**The CLARION,
your basic Cannabis
Law Reform
Information and
Outreach Newsletter,
is an all-volunteer, not-
for-profit venture
committed to ending
cannabis prohibition. It
is intended to inform
and educate the reader
on the medical truth
about cannabis and the
benefits of hemp.**

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Check it out!

the CLARION would not be possible without the fine people at the



Many thanks for their support.

<Continued from previous page> and pass out educational materials about the benefits of hemp foods. Objectives included attempting to educate the DEA, the public and the media about the issue. Activists wanted to draw national media attention to the nutritional and other positive values of hemp, to provide a forum to highlight the absurdity of the DEA prohibiting hemp foods.

Initial reports from Taste Tests around the country confirm that skeptical DEA employees tried samples of hemp pretzels served with hemp mustard, along with hemp energy bars, hemp butter, toasted hemp seed — to name a few items. One employee at DEA headquarters in Arlington, VA commented, “mmm — that’s good stuff.” As Eric Steenstra, president of VoteHemp reported,

“We gave DEA employees a chance to taste what they would have been missing if their ban succeeded. They need to know there is nothing dangerous or deceptive about hemp food. Trying to ban hemp foods is as ridiculous as a ban on poppy seeds because they contain trace amounts of opiates or banning orange juice because it contains alcohol.”

Some History

This isn't the first time the government has addressed consumption of hemp. DEA originally published a rule regarding industrial hemp products in the Federal Register on October 9, 2001, which was effective immediately. Without any compelling reason or the required public notice and comment period, the DEA issued an Interpretive Rule banning hemp seed and oil food products that contain any amount of trace residual THC.

On October 9, DEA also issued an Interim Rule exempting hemp body care and fiber products from DEA control and a Proposed Rule which would add language to the Controlled Substances Act making hemp food products illegal to sell or poses if they contained "any" THC.

After extensive meetings and discussions with most of the major hemp food companies, it has become clear that according to the official Health Canada testing protocol, these hemp food companies generally do not have any detectable THC in their products, which should remain perfectly legal for resale and consumption.

In response, the Hemp Industries Association and several other plaintiffs filed an "Urgent Motion for Stay" of the DEA interpretive rule and on March 7, 2002, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a stay of the interpretive rule. The stay remains in effect today and hemp foods continue to be sold at thousands of locations across the country.

On March 21, 2003, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) published two new Final rules regarding industrial hemp products in the Federal Register, which are scheduled to go into effect on April 21, 2003. Despite overwhelming opposition, the DEA issued a "Final Clarification Rule" banning hemp seed and oil food products that contain any amount of trace residual THC.

DEA also issued a Final Interim Rule exempting hemp body care and fiber products from DEA control; however, this rule does not allow hemp seed and oil to be imported for processing and manufacturing in the U.S. thereby effectively destroying body care manufacturer' s ability to obtain the hemp oil they need to make their products.

The move had a negative effect on companies making hemp food products and retailers selling them, even before taking effect. Since the DEA has not specified a

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On March 28, 2003 the Hemp Industries Association (HIA) and several hemp food and body care companies within the Organic Consumers Association filed an "Urgent Motion for Stay" in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Circuit to once again prevent the DEA from ending the legal sale of hemp seed and oil products in the U.S.

The global hemp market, with retail sales of over \$250 million worldwide, is a thriving commercial success.

Estimated retail sales for the hemp food and body care products line in the U.S. exceeded \$40 million in 2002, up from less than \$1 million in the early 90's. In the last few years, the hemp foods industry alone has grown from less than \$1 million to over \$6 million in annual retail sales, said Bronner, also chairman of the Hemp Industry Association's food and oil committee. It could be much larger, he said, if the government eased restrictions that have made mainstream companies reluctant to sell hemp food products.

The DEA's rules have and will continue to cause substantial harm to hemp businesses and consumers alike and are not based on any real threat or abuse potential. Like poppy seed, hemp seed is clearly exempted from the Controlled Substances Act by Congress. 21 U.S.C. §802(16), (19) and (20). Hemp foods and body care products have penetrated the mainstream marketplace and rapid growth was expected to continue before the DEA's action, and hopefully still will despite the DEA's scare tactics. The rumors alone have been bad for business.

Nature's Path, whose Blaine manufacturing plant produces hemp granola, could lose about 3 percent of its sales, which would amount to millions of dollars, said David Neuman, vice president of sales and marketing. Following the DEA's announcement last month, Nature's Path cut production of its hemp granola by half. The company could have continued to sell the products in Canada, where it is based, after the April 21 deadline. But it would not have been able to ship hemp across the border to Blaine for production, Neuman said.

The DEA's ruling comes as sales of Nature's Path hemp food have increased about 20 percent in the past year, Neuman said. "If the customer didn't want it, we wouldn't make it".

"We feel that this is really the final battle," he said "If we can get through this one, it'll open up in a big way."

Several businesses, including Nature's Path, filed a brief last week asking the court to step in again before the April 21 deadline. The DEA's recent ruling exempts products that may contain hemp but are not intended to enter the human body, such as rope, clothing, soaps and animal feed. Hemp, which can be eaten as a nut or oil,

is high in essential fatty acids and fiber. Those in the industry say that it's virtually impossible to get a high from eating hemp, likening it to eating poppy seeds. Yet, Nature's Path already tested for THC in its hemp granola and waffles.

But, then the government warned the company that its more sophisticated tests might be able to find smaller traces of the substance in the food, Neuman said. That made some retailers more hesitant to carry the products, he said.

Trader Joe's grocery stores, which carry hemp granola made by Nature's Path, planned to try to keep the product on store shelves. The company has asked Nature's Path to continue to verify that its product does not contain traceable levels of THC, said Jon Basalone, vice president of merchandizing.

"You just do what you have to do to meet the guidelines," he said. "But it wouldn't make us shy away from any new products as long as they fit the guidelines."

At Scientific Nature Hemp Emporium in Bellingham, hemp foods make up about 5 percent of the product line. Though her business could survive without them, owner Pattie Nelsonbloch said she would be disappointed if she had to stop selling them.

Issues

It is illegal to grow hemp in the United States, but it is legally imported, usually from Canada, and used for a variety of purposes -- rope, clothing, paper, even food. Because trace infinitesimal THC (the psychoactive ingredient in marihuana) in hemp seed is non-psychoactive and insignificant, the U.S. Congress exempted non-viable hemp seed and oil from control under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) (see 21 U.S.C. ?A7802(16)), just as Congress exempted poppy seeds from the CSA, although they contain trace opiates otherwise subject to control.

Poppy seeds contain trace opiates, fruit juice contains trace alcohol, hemp seeds contain trace THC. Trace contaminants exist in nature and in our food supply, and our government regulatory agencies (are supposed to) set limits to protect consumer health (not to serve socio-political agendas).

Hemp seeds and oil have absolutely no psychoactive effect and are about as likely to be abused as poppy seed bagels for their trace opiate content, or fruit juices because of their trace alcohol content (present through natural fermentation).

Even so, North American hemp food companies voluntarily observe reasonable THC limits similar to those adopted by European nations as well as Canada and Australia. These limits protect consumers with a wide margin of safety from any psychoactive effects or workplace drug-testing interference

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<continued from previous page> As a result, the hemp industry has already responsibly addressed all health, safety and drug-testing issues with a wide margin of safety and has established science based standards regarding trace THC. These can be viewed through the TestPledge program website at: <http://www.testpledge.com>. TestPledge companies clean their seed and oil to assure consumers a wide margin of safety from confirming positive in a workplace drug-test even when eating an unrealistic amount of hemp foods daily. They are seeking to formalize TestPledge standards with governmental sanction.

Unfortunately, the DEA has an agenda all it's own and does not want to acknowledge the truth of hemp seed and oil foods: that they are a superior nutritional resource for Americans. Proof of this is the fact the DEA has hypocritically not targeted food manufacturers for using poppy seeds (in bagels and muffins, for example) even though they contain far higher levels of trace opiates. In fact, the U.S. government raised drug-test thresholds for opiates in the 1990's to accommodate the poppy seed industry.

More Background on the DEA Hemp Food Fight

Hemp can contain traces of THC. The psychoactive substance is found in marijuana, and a small amount is found in industrial hemp, though not enough to produce a high. The government classifies THC -- a controlled substance that has not been approved as medicine by the Food and Drug Administration -- in the same category as heroin, LSD and marijuana. Its consumption is then, also, illegal.

But, hemp seed has a well-balanced protein content and the highest amount of essential fatty acids (EFAs) of any oil in nature: EFAs are the "good fats" that, like vitamins, the body does not produce and requires for good health. Dr. Udo Erasmus, an internationally recognized nutritional authority on fats and oils, writes in *Fats that Heal — Fats that Kill*: "Hemp seed oil may be nature's most perfectly balanced oil."

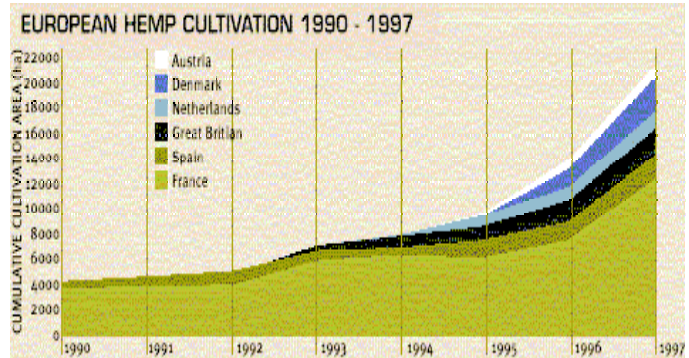
Hemp seed is one of nature's most perfect sources for human nutrition. In addition to its excellent flavor profile, the seeds supply all the essential amino acids in an easily digestible form with a high protein efficiency ratio. Hemp oil offers high concentrations of the two essential fatty acids (EFAs) in a perfect ratio of the omega-3/omega-6 acids. This superior nutritional profile makes shelled hemp seed and oil ideal for a wide range of functional food applications and as an effective fatty acid supplement.

So, not surprisingly, shelled hemp seed and oil are increasingly used in natural food products, such as corn chips, frozen waffles, nutrition bars, hummus, nondairy milks, breads and cereals.

The high and balanced essential fatty acid content of hemp oil also makes it ideal as a topical ingredient in both leave-on and rinse-off body care products. The EFAs help soothe and restore skin in lotions and creams and give excellent emolliency and smooth after feel to lotions, lip balms, conditioners, shampoos, soaps and shaving products.

Hemp offers environmental advantages and has a long history of use for paper, fabrics, cordage and birdseed, as well as being a

nutritional food and superior body care ingredient. Hemp is now being grown in 31 countries including Canada, England, France, Germany and Spain.



Each of these countries has adopted regulatory models that allow for safe human consumption of hemp products. Legislation relating to hemp has been passed in 16 states. This past year, the National Conference of State Legislatures adopted a resolution calling for changes to federal laws to allow for domestic hemp cultivation.

TAKE ACTION NOW

The DEA's previous attempts to ban hemp foods prompted a major public outcry. Over 115,000 public comments were submitted to the DEA against their new rules. On December 4, 2001, Vote Hemp, working with students, nutritionists, and hemp manufacturers, organized the first ever "DEA Taste Tests" at DEA offices and natural food stores in 76 cities around the country in order to educate the public. In 2002, 25 members of Congress wrote the DEA telling the agency that their "Interpretive Rule" that attempts to ban edible hemp seed or oil products containing "any THC" is "overly restrictive."

Because the DEA's Drug War paranoia has confused non-psychoactive industrial hemp varieties of cannabis with psychoactive "marihuana" varieties, the U.S. is the only major industrialized nation to prohibit the growing of industrial hemp. We need to let Congress know that the DEA's actions are wrong and educate them about the benefits of hemp foods. Please take a moment to write Congress today. The Vote Hemp legal committee is working with Plaintiff's attorneys to coordinate a legal strategy for the current offensive and the war on hemp overall. Please make a donation to Vote Hemp to help fund this effort. For more info visit: <http://www.globalhemp.com/>

2003 HIA Convention at Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota; Wed., August 20th — Sat., August 23

Kiza Park is a beautiful space for gathering in the arms of the Lakota Sioux tribal lands. Attendees can enjoy camping in a tipi village, so bring your sleeping bags. There are also hotels in Hot Springs and Chadron available.

Delicious native and hemp food meals in the outdoor kitchen! Dinner will be provided on Wednesday evening. Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner <continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> served on Thursday and Friday. Breakfast will be served on the last day, Saturday. (8 meals total) Transportation: Take a flight to Rapid City. An event bus is available to transport you to/from the airport. (It's an hour-plus road trip south to Pine Ridge Reservation) The bus will take us to other sites like the hemp house, and the wild horse sanctuary.

This is an opportunity for us to share in the Lakota Sioux culture, strengthening the roots of our dedication to the plant and planet. Also featured will be a general meeting for HIA business, a silent auction of hemp products, a hemp seminar open to all to discuss the hemp industry and ask/answer questions, and a benefit concert Saturday night. Proceeds will go to The White Plume Legal Defense Fund. **Please send product donations to the HIA or bring them to the event.**

You can look forward to these Activities: Networking — enjoying each other and the scenery, including the Hemp Plot and local creek. Campfires. Horseback Riding. Hemp House Visit. Wild Horse Sanctuary Visit. This will be a family event, with children welcome.

Registration includes meals, tipi camping at Kiza Park, transportation during the event, activities, and meetings. \$200 per person. \$150 for additional family members.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please contact the HIA Office.

Tel: (707) 874-3648
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E-mail: info@thehia.org

Emmy Awards to offer Hempola — Part of Breast Cancer Awareness

On May 16th at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City, the Emmy Awards for day time television shows will be held. Gift bags will be presented to all the nominees and presenters. This year a special focus on breast cancer awareness is part of this program. Hempola Valley Farms, with its products... Hempola Caesar Salad Dressing and a brand new product, Healthy Happy Brownie Mix, will be included in these gift bags.

Interestingly, the nutritional nature of Hempola Hempseed Oil has a direct link to benefiting breast cancer. Kelly Smith, co-founder of Hempola has researched and prepared a special report for the event:

Hempola hempseed oil, an excellent source of long chain polyunsaturated fats, contains 80% essential fatty acids. The highest concentration of any all natural vegetable oil. These EFAs cannot be produced by the body and must be ingested in our diet. Specifically these EFAs are omega 3, omega 6 and GLA; and they are perfectly balanced for long term consumption.

Recent studies in both the animal and human model have shown that omega 3 can have a protective effect against breast cancer. On the contrary, diets rich in trans fats and overly processed oils have shown increased levels of breast cancer. Long term studies have even shown that if a fetus is exposed to high levels of bad fats during gestation their risk of developing breast cancer in the future is increased.

GLA (gammalinolenic acid) also found in hempseed oil possesses a number of selective anti tumor properties including modulation of steroid receptor structure and function. Studies have also shown it to significantly facilitate chemotherapy and tamoxifen. What does this mean? Eat your hempseed oil!

One to two tablespoons of Hempola hempseed oil a day, along with eliminating trans fats, hydrogenated fats and “supermarket oils” (corn, sunflower, safflower, etc) may aid in reducing the risk of breast and other cancers.

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Hempola Valley Farms, Canada's first dedicated commercial hemp farm, with its brand name HEMPOLA™; grows, performs research and development, manufactures and markets Canadian grown hemp seed and hemp seed oil products through national distributors throughout Canada and the U.S. Hempola hemp seed derivative products include food, vitamins and supplements, personal care, bulk ingredients and industrial.

For more information, contact: Hempola
Greg Herriott
Tel: (800) 240-9215
URL: www.hempola.com

Sunhemp Benefit Concert Series to rebuild the hemp store that burned down on New Years Day

The Sunhemp Store burned down. Sunhemp has been seen everywhere from Farm Aid, Phish Shows, Bonnaroo, Camp Creek and even the Clearwater. Sunhemp is now throwing a Benefit Concert Series.

On New Years Day, the Sunhemp Store in Manchester, Ct. burned down after being in this location for 3 years. Sunhemp has been selling hemp and natural products for about 10 years at many local, regional and national events.

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<continued from previous page> Sunhemp was asked by Phish to be the only hemp vendor at the 1999 New Years Eve show at Big Cypress after which he opened a store in Manchester, CT. Sunhemp took part in everything from agricultural fairs, as well as FARM AID, and big festivals, from Bonnaroo to Camp Creek with Maxcreek.

Several bands heard about the fire and wanted to get a Benefit Concert Series going to help rebuild Sunhemp. Sunhemp's owner was so happy to hear this, and with the support of Munroe Music, have booked the first in a series of events at the Powder Mill Barn in Enfield, CT. April 26 at 8 PM.

Sunhemp being in the concert world for several years has become known by many bands. This first show is a few great local acts. "The Feed," "The Silent Groove" and "Midnight Jamboree" will be performing at the first show at the Powder Mill Barn.

Sunhemp is looking into larger venues and bands to do a larger benefit in the future.

For more information, contact:
Sunhemp
E-mail: benefit@sunhemp.com
URL: www.sunhemp.com

Hemp: Wonder food or contraband?

So, this "hemp bread" in the bag with the many-stemmed leaf - is it as filling as it looks, or does it give you the munchies? Is it OK to eat as long as you don't inhale?

Lynn Gordon laughs - not fall-down laughing, but something more mellow, resigned as she is by now to questions about stems, dealers and street value.

"We all try not to joke about it, but we can't help it," she said.

Gordon is president of French Meadow Bakery in Minneapolis, which four years ago introduced "Healthy Hemp Sprouted Bread," made with hempseed imported from Germany and Canada - imported because hemp, a member of the cannabis family related to marijuana, is in some forms a controlled substance in the United States.

Hempseed and hemp oil, also used in the making of food products, contain trace amounts of THC - the "psychoactive" element that makes cousin marijuana an illegal drug.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has been trying for more than a year to prohibit the use of hempseed and hemp oil in food products, and the agency recently published "final rules" addressing the legal status of products derived from the cannabis plant.

Unless the people of America get involved, Gordon fears she'll have to stop making her popular hemp bread - which accounts for about 20 percent of French Meadow's nationwide sales of frozen and refrigerated natural foods.

It also accounts for most of Gordon's own breakfasts and lunches. "I have it every day with a poached egg, and every day I have a grilled cheese sandwich," she said. "I'd really hate to have to stop. I've become quite addicted to it."

Hahahahahahahahaha. "No, really, hempseed is a wonder food, one of the most nutritious foods on the planet," she said. "This would be a great loss for health-conscious consumers of the United States."

Controlled substances

To register their opposition to the DEA's rules and "give the public a taste of what they'll be missing," hemp advocates will visit about 70 agency offices around the country and pass out samples of foods containing hempseed or hemp oil. At about half of those sites, the samples will be French Meadow's Healthy Hemp Sprouted Bread, fresh from the company's south Minneapolis bakery, Gordon said.

She insists that her bread has nothing to do with any campaign to decriminalize marijuana - any more than poppyseed muffins are meant to lead to use of opium.

"I'm in the food business, not the drug business," she said. "I don't have a personal penchant for marijuana. Those days passed long ago. If marijuana is helpful for people with glaucoma, maybe it should be available to them. But that's not my battle."

A 'rotation crop'

When the DEA first declared war on hempseed in food, "we were told we couldn't make it anymore and had to remove it from our shelves," Gordon said. "All our retailers around the country removed it, but we kept making it and selling it at our cafe" on Lyndale Avenue S. The seeds test virtually THC-free, she said. French Meadow also tests finished loaves, with the same result.

"The bag is a little controversial," Gordon said, though the pictured hemp leaf "is pointier, not as rounded" as a marijuana leaf.

And each plastic bag - not to say baggie - carries an endorsement from George Washington: "Make the most of the hemp seed," he is quoted as saying in 1794. "Sow it everywhere!"

Thomas Jefferson raised hemp, too, Gordon said.

"It's not just a fluffy marketing technique," she said. "Hemp doesn't require herbicides or pesticides, and it's a very good rotation crop for corn and soybeans."

Baked with whole-wheat flour, flaxseed, pumpkin seeds and other organic ingredients, French Meadow's hemp bread is high in protein, fiber and good fatty acids.

"It's absolutely obscene that we're looking to ban it," Gordon said.

For more information, contact: French Meadow Bakery
2610 Lyndale Avenue South / Minneapolis, MN 55408 /
Tel: (612) 870-4740 or 1-877-No Yeast / Fax: (612) 870-0907 /
E-mail: info@frenchmeadow.com / URL: www.organicbread.com



Nepali Hempsters Unite, Call for Legalization and Cultivation of industrial hemp

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Nepali hemp-product entrepreneurs have demanded legal recognition for the cultivation and trade of industrial hemp, urging the government to change negative attitude towards the trade. They have also asked the government to introduce policies that would allow local production of the plant, which would help to plug lot of foreign exchange going out of the country.

Addressing a press meet organised here today, Handicraft Association of Nepal (HAN) President Kalyan Krishna Tamrakar urged to create awareness among the public that industrial hemp or fibre hemp, is totally different from the infamous marijuana, locally known as ganja. The programme was organised by Natural Fibre Sub-committee of HAN's Miscellaneous Goods Development Committee (MGDC).

Currently Nepal is exporting goods made from fibre hemp, though most of the raw material for the purpose is imported. Goods made of fibre hemp or bhango occupy an important share in Nepal's handicraft export.

"Both the government authorities and the people treat industrial hemp as if it were ganja. Contrary to this Bhango is not harmful to the society," said Sharada Rizal, Co-ordinator of Natural Fibre Sub-committee. "Rather, it is a very useful commercial plant, of which every part is useful. Apart from the cloth industry, hemp is used in medicine, pesticide, paper, cosmetic and numerous other industries"

Commercial cultivation of Industrial Hemp is legal in advanced countries like the United Kingdom (UK), Germany, France, China, Australia, Switzerland, Russia and others, reported KP Shrestha, Socio-economist-cum-Training Officer at Nepal Agricultural Research Council's Agricultural Research Station, Pakhribas presenting a paper on characteristics and differences of industrial hemp and marijuana.

However, most of the raw fibres for Nepali hemp-goods traders come from China, said Shrestha. Nepal exports hemp-made products to 40 countries including America, India, UK, Germany, Japan and France. Official HAN figures show that in the fiscal year 2001/2002 Nepal exported such goods worth about Rs 27 million. The figure was Rs 31 million in 98/99 and Rs 20 million in 2000/2001.

"These are only the figures of export by small producers. There are numerous other industry and individuals who make higher sales," says Basu KC, a hemp-product exporter. KC claims that in the year 2002, he alone exported hemp-products worth more than Rs 1.5 million. Hemp is woven traditionally in the north-western parts of Nepal.

"But my prime supply of raw fibre is from China. Each ton costs US\$ 3,600. That is a lot of money that is going away from Nepal and the value addition is even more," KC added. "So the end price of Nepali hemp products is high. Now if hemp is cultivated domestically then not only will the price come down drastically but a lot of poor Nepali farmers will also have a better source of income."

Legislature clears way for U of Maine Hemp Study

AUGUSTA, Maine - A bill to allow the Maine Agriculture Center at the University of Maine to study the feasibility of growing industrial hemp as a commercial product was enacted by the Legislature this week (4/25/03). The bill authorizes but does not require the center to obtain the necessary permits to study industrial hemp, touted by proponents as a lucrative cash crop.

Eric Pollitt of the North American Hemp Council Inc. said the federal government has issued four permits to grow hemp. They are to state universities at Mississippi, Hawaii, North Dakota [pending] and Indiana.

Pollitt said the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency classifies all Cannabis sativa L. varieties as marijuana, and while it is theoretically possible to get permission from the government to grow hemp, the DEA then adds requirements that make it cost-prohibitive.

Pollitt said he believes that Maine will not be able to obtain a permit, however, unless the state passes a companion law that legalizes the cultivation of hemp.

In presenting the bill to the Legislature's Agriculture Committee, sponsor Rep. Thomas D. Bull, D-Freeport, said that even though hemp cultivation remains illegal on the federal level, his bill would allow experimentation of a crop that many supporters believe could be very lucrative for Maine farmers.

The bill was passed unanimously by the Agriculture Committee, and co-chairman Rep. Linda Rogers McKee, D-Wayne, said Tuesday, "It is time for the U.S. to rethink this entire issue." Committee members gave weight to a letter from the Maine Department of Public Safety saying it had no enforcement or identification concerns.

Proponents say the potential for the crop is nearly unlimited and a wide range of hemp products already are being produced in Maine, including soap made in Kingfield and lip balm manufactured in Waterville.

Rope, clothing and cosmetic companies around the world use hemp for fiber and oil. Although industrial hemp and marijuana belong to the same family of plants, they have different characteristics, and industrial hemp is not a drug.

McKee said that growing hemp could be interpreted as part of the war on drugs since the THC component - delta 9 tetrahydrocannabinol, the primary psychoactive ingredient in marijuana - actually is lowered if marijuana is planted near hemp. Farmers in Canada are realizing \$400 profit per acre on industrial hemp, 80 percent of which is imported by the United States.

One industry study estimates that the North American market for natural fiber biocomposites, for uses such as automotive and building products, will grow from \$150 million in 2001 to \$1.4 billion in 2005, but another study conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture two years ago concluded the U.S. hemp market has a limited future.

For more info on these stories visit:
<http://www.globalhemp.com/>

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"CALLING FOR AN END TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION"

LAWMAKERS CONSIDER FUTURE OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP IN OREGON

Industrial hemp could be Oregon's next cash crop if lawmakers sign off on a bill that got a hearing before the Senate Agricultural Committee.

Two hemp bills, HB 2769 and SB 672 are assigned to their respective Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees. SB 672 has a subsequent referral to Ways and Means, a joint committee.

So those who want hemp to move should study the Ag committees and start pestering the members. I do not think an R. dominated House will do it without a lot of push. With twin bills like this three things can happen (if they move anywhere) If one bill passes one house and is sent to the other the other house MAY hear it or MAY hear it's own bill. If two bills get passed, they go to a conference committee to iron out differences. Since there are none here just one bill would likely be acted upon-but you need to get a hearing to make it move.

On Friday (4/25/03), the Senate Agricultural Committee heard from businesses marketing hemp-based products such as clothing and lip balm. Supporters of the bill say they aren't sure yet whether they have the votes to pass the bill out of committee.

"My vision for Oregon regarding industrial hemp is to basically establish Oregon as a leader in the seed bank for the United States as well as the production of industrial hemp," said Eugene Democrat Floyd Prozanski. "We've found a need and a desire by many farmers in this state to be able to grow industrial hemp in the east side of the Cascades, as well as the west."

Opponents say hemp plants are difficult to distinguish from illegal marijuana plants, and that cultivating hemp could inhibit police investigations of pot growers. Sergeant Craig Durbin, of the Oregon State Police Drug Enforcement Division, testified that the legislative bill could violate state and federal drug laws.

Here is how you figure out who is on which committee. Go to <http://www.leg.state.or.us/index.html>, click on Committees at the top, click on House -or- Senate Committee Assignments by Committee.

To find out who your representative / senator is go to: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/findset.htm>

What can you do right now to support hemp?

Learn about the benefits of hemp and educate those around you, including your community and political leaders. Purchase and read such informative guides as Chris Conrad book *Hemp: Lifeline To The Future*, HempTechs *Industrial Hemp*, *The Emperor Wears No Clothes* by Jack Herer and *The Great Book Of Hemp* by Rowan Robinson. Donate copies to your local library and/or send copies to your elected officials along with a letter informing them of the many practical uses of hemp.

Teach farmers about the value of hemp: even though the sale of American hemp products are on the rise, federal prohibition of industrial hemp cultivation continues to effectively shut out the Americana farmer from this booming market. Educate the farmer in your area of the value of hemp as a vital agricultural resource and make them aware of the need to end hemp prohibition.

Encourage farm organizations to endorse hemp cultivation: the American farm industry is one of Americas most influential lobbies on both the national and state level. In addition, contact the American Farm Bureau (call 202-457-3600 or write to: 600 Maryland Ave. SW, #800, Washington, DC 20024) and tell them that you support endorsing domestic hemp production. Request that they become more active and vocal in their support for industrial hemp on the federal level.

Target the media: people in general and the media specifically are receptive to hearing about new job and business opportunities that will also benefit the environment. Encourage your local media to feature articles on industrial hemp by writing letters to the editor, op-eds, and/or sending correspondents weekly press releases.

Write your representatives: write a letter to your local representatives and members of congress informing them that, as a voter, the issue of industrial hemp is important to you. Elaborate on the many uses of industrial hemp and explain why you support repealing its prohibition. Be sure to stress hemp's ecological and economic benefits, including the creation of jobs. Request that they introduce legislation that would amend the federal and/or state law to allow research to take place on the viability of domestic hemp cultivation.

Buy hemp products: support the growing hemp market by purchasing hemp goods and frequenting retail outlets that distribute hemp products. As hemp becomes more common in the marketplace, it will become harder to stigmatize. Let your political leaders and manufactures know that the hemp market is a legitimate and growing industry and not just a passing fad. Encourage local retail outlets to carry hemp-based products. The most effective way for a community to learn and appreciate the value of hemp is to become familiarized with its various products and practical uses in daily life. The retail community and the consumer can make this a reality.