

Growing Hemp in Maine

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Statement of Need

- 2018 Farm Bill Legalized Hemp
- 100's of farmers looking for information on Hemp from UMaine Extension & Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
- Processing & marketing of Hemp not keeping up with production
- Information on economic feasibility of hemp production needed

Objectives

Conduct a program on production practices, licensing, economics, processing, and marketing information to develop a financially feasible hemp enterprise.



Methods

- Form a committee
- Plan a comprehensive program university staff, MOFGA, & processor
- Promoted program through traditional and social media
- Present program to 67 in farmers, potential farmers, and agriculture service providers



Evaluation Results

Pre-survey:

Emailed to 45 participants - 44% return rate
The greatest concern of the respondents about growing hemp in Maine:

- 67% analyzing the quality of the crop
- 61% meeting the new THC level for testing
- 61% maintaining quality of plants through harvest



Post-survey:

Returned by 40% of the participants

- 70% improved understanding of hemp production based on research results
- 74% improved understanding of what it takes to get a license in Maine
- 91% increased confidence producing and marketing high quality hemp
- 52% will use UMaine Extension to ID pests
- 44% plan to add hemp and/or value-added hemp products to their farm
- 44% plan to adopt techniques to improve their soil quality where they will grow hemp
- 22% plan to start a new farm

Conclusion:

Obstacles for a viable hemp enterprise are

- Low THC/High CBD varieties
- Testing Labs
- Processing infrastructure
- Marketing of value-added products

Agenda

Hemp Production Recommendations Based on University of Vermont Research	Dr. Heather Darby, UVM
History of Hemp Licensing in Maine	Mary Yurlina, Hemp Program Inspector, MDACF
Production Systems in Western U.S - Outdoor Cropping, Weeds, & UMaine Research Goals	Dr. John Jemison, UMaine Extension
MOFGA Certified Cannabis Program	Chris Grigsby, Director, MOFGA Cert. Services, LLC
Indoor Production: Under lights & Greenhouse	Dr. Matt Wallhead, UMaine Extension
How Disease Happens, Diseases of Hemp & Diagnostic Box for Hemp Disease ID	Dr. Alicyn Smart, UMaine Extension
Processing & Value-Added Marketing	Dr. Scot Waring, eLucidationsci.com
Economics of Production and Marketing	Dr. John Malacarne, UMaine Ag Economist
What It Takes to Get a License – Updated Rules	Gary Fish, State Horticulturist, MDACF