

# HEMP FEED FOR AMERICAN FARMERS

## Legislation to Unleash an Exciting New Growth Opportunity

ENDORSED BY INDUSTRY LEADERS

Hemp seed is a viable and valuable feed alternative that is currently restricted from entering the market. We believe there is a practical solution to addressing FDA's concerns while also supporting American Farmers and Domestic Feed Manufacturers.

The use of hemp as a feed ingredient is a promising opportunity for American farmers, especially when you consider 70% of production acreage in the US today are utilized for animal feed. By enabling farmers to utilize the nutritional byproducts from hemp food processing the crop becomes more economically viable, and the same acres can feed to both humans and animals. This concept of multi-purpose crop utilization is what the US Agricultural Industry has been built on for hundreds of years and has made the US one of the largest exporters of animal feed around the world.

Hemp grain is a highly nutritious ingredient for animal food, containing a variety of essential vitamins, minerals, and other beneficial nutrients. It is a rich source of protein, including all 20 amino acids, with the added benefit of containing the nine essential amino acids that animals require to consume. Hemp grain also has a unique fatty acid composition that research has shown could play a key role in immune support and anti-inflammatory properties. The digestible fiber content shows obvious value in feed rations and delivers beneficial minerals to the diet. These quickly described characteristics are what is driving interest for feed formulators in pet, equine, and livestock applications.

It is important to recognize the significant interest and urgent need throughout the hemp supply chain for quick and easy access to grain ingredients as animal feed. Hemp was once a vital crop in this country and had a long history of being utilized as feed for livestock, including chicken and cattle. However, due to the prohibition of hemp in the 1930s, it was denied the same grandfather clause that existing commodities such as corn, soy, and wheat received with the 1958 Food Additive Petition. By acknowledging and addressing the current barriers to hemp's use as animal feed, we can not only support the hemp industry but also provide a valuable and sustainable source of nutrition for our livestock.

**The legislative opportunity is crystal clear: to permit the sale of Generally Regarded as Safe hemp grain, protein, hulls, and oil for animals not intended for human consumption.** While the industry supports the rigorous process for consumed animals and their byproducts, we believe it is only fair to accommodate the surging demand by consumers and farmers for these products to be available for species such as dogs, cats, horses, and backyard chickens.

We strongly urge you to take into account the following well-defined points as the bedrock upon which to construct the legislative language for the 2023 Farm Bill. This has the potential to be the most transformative hemp initiative yet proposed, and we believe it can have a profound and positive impact on the future of agriculture in this country. By incorporating these points into the bill, we can create a framework that supports and encourages the growth of the hemp industry, promotes sustainable farming practices, and provides economic opportunities for farmers and rural communities across the nation.

### The Ask:

- Just like other commodity crops that serve the protein and oil feed markets, hemp seed-based ingredients should be excluded from the 1958 Food Additive Petition requirements. The exclusion should be limited to ingredients that
  - o Are sourced from the hemp seed only;
  - o Are for non-consumption species; specifically, the following classes of animals: companion, exotic, equine, and any other non-consumption animals;
  - o Possess no added cannabinoids
  - o Are sourced from harvested crops in compliance with the federal definition of hemp; and
  - o Comply with existing feed manufacturing processes, labeling, and product registration.

