



## Hemp Production in Connecticut

### **Enabling Federal Law**

The 2014 Agricultural Act (P.L. 113-79) (i.e., the 2014 farm bill) allows a state agricultural agency or higher education institution to grow or cultivate industrial hemp under a pilot program or research program if allowed by state law (§ 7606). Any site used for growing or cultivating hemp must be certified by, and registered with, the state's agricultural department.

The 2018 Agriculture Improvement Act (P.L. 115-334) (i.e., the 2018 farm bill) allows a state to regulate hemp production, but only under an enforcement plan the state agricultural department submits to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for its approval (§ 10113).



### **What is Hemp?**

Under state and federal law, “hemp” is the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of it, including seeds and derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis. (THC is the chief intoxicant in marijuana.) By law, hemp and certain compounds derived from it (e.g., cannabidiol) are not controlled substances.

“Hemp products” include producer hemp products and manufacturer hemp products. “Producer hemp products” are raw or fiber-based hemp products or animal hemp food products. “Manufacturer hemp products” are commodities made from hemp that are intended for human consumption, including by ingestion, inhalation, or absorption. Hemp products cannot have a THC concentration above 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis or per volume or weight.

## Connecticut's Program

### Hemp Production Pilot Program

[PA 19-3](#) required the state Department of Agriculture (DoAg) commissioner to establish and operate a hemp production pilot program in Connecticut in accordance with federal law.

The act also required the commissioner to prepare a hemp production state plan in accordance with federal law for approval by the USDA. The act established licensing requirements, qualifications, and fees for hemp growers, processors, and manufacturers. DoAg regulates growers and processors (i.e., producers), while the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) regulates manufacturers.

### Revisions to the Hemp Program

[PA 20-2](#), September Special Session, revised the state's hemp program statute to comply with USDA's hemp production regulations that were issued in October 2019. The act also combined the grower and processor licenses into one "producer" license, made clarifying changes to definitions, and extended the licensing period from two to three years, among other revisions.

[PA 21-89](#) further revised the statute to comply with USDA's final hemp production rules, which took effect March 22, 2021. Compliance is necessary for the state to receive federal approval of its hemp production plan.

### Hemp Program Status

According to DoAg, as of September 2021, Connecticut has 100 active licensed hemp producers. These licenses, which generated \$38,733 in FY 21 General Fund revenue, represent 802 lots (i.e., grow sites), including approximately 184 acres and 470,577 square feet of greenhouse space. According to DCP, there are 49 Connecticut-licensed hemp manufacturers, which generated \$31,275 total in FYs 20 & 21 General Fund revenue.

The below table shows active licensed producers and manufacturers by county.

County	Producers	Manufacturers
Fairfield	12	7
Hartford	23	11
Litchfield	12	4
Middlesex	7	2
New Haven	13	12
New London	12	3
Tolland	9	5
Windham	12	4
Out-of-state	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>49</b>

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DoAG Hemp Pilot Program [website](#)

"Hemp Laws in Select States," OLR Report [2019-R-0044](#)

DCP Hemp Pilot Program: Manufacturing [website](#)

