



# The WSDA Hemp Program

# What is the hemp program?



- 2014 Farm Bill – authorized research, not commerce.
- In 2018, the Farm Bill removed Industrial Hemp from the Controlled Substances Act
- In 2019, the USDA established an “interim final rule,” followed by a “Final Rule,” that was published in 2021, and sets the stage for the commercial hemp program that we have today
- In 2021, we had approximately 115 growers producing hemp for a variety of commercial purposes throughout the state of Washington.



# How is hemp regulated by WSDA?



- All hemp producers must be licensed by the WSDA.
- Any crop that is harvested for commerce must be tested by a WSDA employee within 30 days prior to its harvest.
- Crops must test below 0.3% THC to receive THC Certification, otherwise the crop must be remediated or disposed of using department approved methods.
- Once the hemp is harvested with a THC Certification or disposed, WSDA exits the regulatory process. Currently there is no regulatory framework for hemp products.
- **Note: The inclusion of hemp extracts in food or ingestible products is illegal under Washington State law unless allowable under federal law. Chapter 15.140.040(5) RCW.** CBD, for instance, is currently only allowed as a pharmaceutical and not as a food ingredient in WA. That has not stopped it from begin sold.

# Why are people growing hemp?



- People grow hemp for a variety of reasons, however the hemp market in Washington State is highly “cannabinoid centric.”
- Of about 70 or so growers
  - 45 are producing for CBD or other cannabinoids and cannabinoid oils
  - 33 are producing for smokable hemp
  - 24 are producing for fiber
  - 24 are producing for replication of seeds
  - 18 are producing for transplants and clones
  - 10 are producing for grain
  - 13 are producing for “Other” – this may include microgreen lettuces or other experimental uses.



# 2022 Hemp in Food Task Force



- Proviso from legislative session to create a task force focused on hemp derivatives as ingredients in food (currently illegal under federal law).
- Currently being set up by WSDA with scientists, regulatory agencies, interested producers.
- Deadline of December 1, 2022 for a report to the Legislature from WSDA.
- Ideal goal for stakeholders: an identified pathway to increase market access and legally sell hemp-containing foods and beverages outside the I-502 market space.

# Questions?



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## **Hemp Program**

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