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Commissioner Approves Emergency Rule Change for Industrial Hemp

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – The Commissioner of Agriculture, John Salazar, has signed an emergency rule pertaining to Colorado’s industrial hemp industry. The rules were adopted by the Ag Commission and became effective June 11, 2014. Those interested in farming industrial hemp, who have not already registered, can begin the registration process.

The emergency rule changes are the result of amendments to the Colorado Industrial Hemp Program Act (SB14-184) passed during the recent legislative session. The Act eliminates the May 1st registration deadline and implements a new registration deadline of 30 days prior to planting. The rule changes also require registrants to file a report with the Commissioner 30 days prior to harvest rather than the seven days previously specified. A proposed harvest date must also be provided.

“Colorado’s industrial hemp program is in its infancy; this first year will help shape the future of the program,” said Deputy Commissioner Ron Carleton. “The rules must be changed to adapt to an evolving industry.”

To date, approximately 1543 total acres have been approved for planting industrial hemp. Of that, 1309 acres can be grown for commercial purposes and 234 acres for research and development. A letter has been sent to all registrants informing them of the rule changes.

For the most current rule, registration applications, and additional information, visit www.colorado.gov/ag/dpi and click on “industrial hemp.”

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