



Industrial Hemp in Commercial Feed Stakeholder Review

Summary:

The introduction of hemp into animal feed is a complex issue which needs to be appropriately addressed as interest in hemp in feed continues to grow nationwide despite legal and safety uncertainties that exist.

This year, the Colorado Legislature unanimously passed a bill that directs the CDA to complete a study on the issues (benefits and concerns) surrounding industrial hemp being included in animal feed. A copy of the bill is attached. The study is not a scientific study, but rather an analysis of legal, practical, and business issues.

More details:

The study will be comprised of stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds who can provide important input on this topic. The stakeholder group will include:

- Professional industrial hemp producers and processors
- National hemp associations
- Food and Drug Administration (Center for Veterinary Medicine)
- United States Department of Agriculture
- Animal nutritionists and veterinarians
- Association of American Feed Control Officials and other animal feed associations
- University faculty members that study industrial hemp
- Agriculture departments from other states
- Attorneys
- Ranchers
- Livestock associations
- Agribusiness leaders and experts in agricultural exportation
- Pet food and livestock feed manufacturers/distributors

The study concludes with a report for the Colorado Legislature that is due at the end of 2017. While the scope of the CDA study is still being formulated, we envision a review that highlights: 1) the requirements for any part of the hemp plant to be considered an approved (legal) ingredient, and 2) the broad concerns and benefits that need to be considered based on stakeholder feedback, such as animal health and safety.

The plan is to formalize the group in late June or early July and begin discussions in mid-August, with a wrap up in late October. This will give the CDA about two months to produce the report.

The group will be broken down into sub-groups based on topics that are to be determined, but possibilities include:

- Regulatory requirements
- Animal nutrition and safety
- Agricultural economics

This page will be updated periodically until the end of the project in December 2017.