



American farmers look across the border in Canada, which export hemp fiber to the U.S. and ask why can't we grow it. Jeffrey W. Gain, Blue Ridge Company, Hardin, Illinois; NAIHC Director and former CEO of both the National Corn Growers and American Soybean Association.



Industrial hemp might also be a profitable alternative crop to tobacco. A University of Kentucky study found that with the exception of tobacco, industrial hemp would be more profitable than any other Kentucky crop. I first became interested in industrial hemp as an alternative to tobacco. United States farmers need a new crop, which would have a consistent industrial market. I've talked to many older Kentucky farmers who remember profitably growing industrial hemp. Gale Glenn, Durham, North Carolina; NAIHC Vice-Chair and former Kentucky tobacco and cattle farmer.

We are growing, processing and supplying hemp fiber on an increasing basis to replace glass fiber for composites in the automotive sector. Geof Kime, Hempline, Delaware, Ontario, NAIHC Director who runs a hemp fiber separation facility that in 1994 brought in the first crop of industrial hemp in North America since the 1950s after being instrumental in persuading the Canadian government to change its policy.

The largest maker of industrial carpet in the world is focused on producing carpet that is biodegradable and result in full-life cycle sustainability: Research proves that carpet made from industrial hemp is both biodegradable and recyclable. Dr. Raymond A. Berard, Senior Vice President of Technology, Interface Research Corporation, Kennesaw, Georgia and NAIHC Director.

Over half the states have enacted or are considering laws to either allow industrial hemp cultivation and/or petitioning the federal government to reclassify industrial hemp as no longer being legally defined as a drug. North Dakota has changed its laws to again allow for the growing of industrial hemp. My friend across the border in Manitoba, Canada, is making money raising industrial hemp. I am losing money by raising wheat. State Representative David Monson, (R- Osabrock), Assistant majority leader, ND House of Representatives, NAIHC Director, farmer, full-time school superintendent, and a part-time insurance agent.

allow farmers to grow industrial hemp

action needed:

Encourage the DEA to remove industrial hemp from its classification as a drug. In meetings with the NAIHC, DEA officials have stated that it does not consider industrial hemp a drug or an enforcement problem. DEA has proposed new regulations that would allow industrial hemp to be grown. The new regulations have gotten sidetracked. These regulations need to be reviewed and an executive order issued to implement changes that will allow farmers to grow industrial hemp.

NAIHC
NORTH AMERICAN
INDUSTRIAL HEMP COUNCIL, INC.



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INDUSTRIAL HEMP

hemp oil could be a very successful replacement for diesel oil

INDUSTRIAL HEMP

George Washington and Thomas Jefferson both grew hemp. Ben Franklin owned a mill that made hemp paper. Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence on hemp paper. Industrial hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) was grown in the United States from the beginning of our nation's history up to the early 1950s. At that point, industrial hemp's legal status was changed when it was classified a dangerous drug. Subsequently, the growing and manufacture of industrial hemp products ended in the United States. Over 30 countries are currently developing a hemp industry to meet international fiber demands. The United States is not one of them.



Why not give back American agriculture an old crop for which new technologies are creating a large market so that our farmers can take a step towards profitability and sustainability? Erwin A. "Bud" Sholts, Chairman, North American Industrial Hemp Council (NAIHC); Principal, CTL Group, retired after 35 years with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Industrial hemp is not a drug crop. The international standard is that hemp of *Cannabis* with less than 1% THC is not marijuana. Strains that would likely be grown in the U.S. would be 0.3%, or less THC as is the case in Canada and the European Union.

Planting marijuana anywhere near industrial hemp would be ill conceived. When hemp pollinates marijuana it transfers the genes for low drug content to developing seeds of the marijuana. The drug potency in the new marijuana plants will be about half that of the original marijuana. When hemp repeatedly crosses with new marijuana plants obtained each year, the drug content is repeatedly reduced in the plants. Thus, the drug content will become so low and uncertain that the derived marijuana will be useless as a drug plant.



Dr. Paul G. Mahlberg, Professor, Department of Biology, Indiana University; NAIHC Director who has held a Drug Enforcement Administration research license for cannabis research for 32 years.

The U.S. needs to become more sustainable in terms of fibers, fuels, and energy. A strong and viable agriculture is important to the national security. Current trade deficits and near depression conditions in agriculture are not a good recipe for long term national economic security.



Industrial hemp is a non-drug, earth-friendly, industrial crop that can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve a greater level of U.S. energy independence. R. James Woolsey, Shea & Gardner, Washington, D.C.; Legal counsel to NAIHC and former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, 1993-1996.

The widespread use of industrial hemp could result in numerous environmental benefits, including but not limited to: (1) Less reliance on fossil fuels, (2) more efficient use of energy, (3) less long-term atmospheric build-up of carbon dioxide, (4) soil redemption, (5) forest conservation, (6) agricultural pesticide use reduction, (7) dioxin and other pollution reduction, and (8) landfill use reduction. Hemp is superior to many other plants for a variety of uses.

Industrial hemp is being grown in Canada, just a few miles from the United States border. Raw hemp is being imported into the United States for manufacture of products. A growing market exists for Omega-3 rich hemp seed and oil products including snack foods, body care and supplements. Several thousand businesses, including Fortune 1000 firms, are participating in this market. With raw materials for these products being imported, U.S. farmers are deprived of the economic benefits stemming from these new markets.

The demand for building material is also growing at a rapid rate. A United Nations Study conducted in the mid-1990s predicts a world fiber shortage by 2006. *Industrial hemp can be a major raw material for construction products and the machinery and technology are already available. Hemp oil could be a major*

player in reducing the fuel crisis. Hemp oil could be a very successful replacement for diesel oil. William C. "Bill" Miller, President, Miller Consulting Group, Jackson, Mississippi; NAIHC Director and retired from Union Camp Corporation.



Industrial hemp can be utilized quite effectively in paper manufacture. Curtis P. Koster, Principal, Technology Evaluation & Economic Analysis, Malcolm Associates Investment Consultants, Mahwah, New Jersey; NAIHC Director and retired from International Paper with his last job as Interdivisional Business Development Manager-Technology, still consults for International Paper.

Industrial hemp, with its long natural fiber length, would be valuable in a composite with other fibers making the end product more flexible facilitating a broader range of uses. Dr. Shelby F. Thames, Distinguished University Research Professor, University of Southern Mississippi and former NAIHC Director.

A limiting factor in sustainable agriculture is the lack of profitable rotation crops. Hemp could be quite profitable as it fits well into the corn-soybean rotation. The University of Minnesota has suggested that the corn-soybean rotation is unsustainable. Farmers are losing money and equity on the corn-soybean rotation. In North Dakota, farmers have been making more by selling wheat straw to particleboard plants than from the wheat itself. Due to the bulkiness of hemp fiber, processing facilities will have to be built near the production areas. This will provide new jobs and investment in rural America.

Major markets have opened up for hemp fiber in the United States. We are importing Canadian and European hemp, since it is illegal to grow hemp here in the United States. Hugh S. McKee, President, Flaxcraft, Inc., Cresskill, New Jersey; NAIHC Director.

