

Vermont's Hemp Program

The Public Health and Agricultural Resource Management Division within the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) is responsible for administering Vermont's Hemp Program. In 2018 significant changes occurred nationally and in the state that influenced the cultivation and processing of hemp in Vermont and the VAAFAM's administration of its program. These changes provide an opportunity for Vermont to lead the industry and influence national policy.

The 2018 Farm Bill, signed in late December, removed "hemp" from the definition of marijuana, clarified that THC in hemp is not a Schedule I drug and enabled producers to ship hemp and hemp products in interstate commerce.

Act 143 altered Vermont's Hemp Program, adding certification of hemp cultivation sites, and requiring the VAAFAM to adopt rules on how it will conduct research within its program and for the registration of hemp processors. The VAAFAM is also responsible for establishing a cannabis quality control program that includes development of potency and contaminant testing protocols and to certify laboratories that could offer services to growers and processors. VAAFAM is drafting this rule, which should be in place before the field growing season in 2019.

PROGRAM by the NUMBERS

461

2018 Hemp Grower Registrations

3,290 ACRES

Registered in 2018 to produce hemp

5.5 ACRES

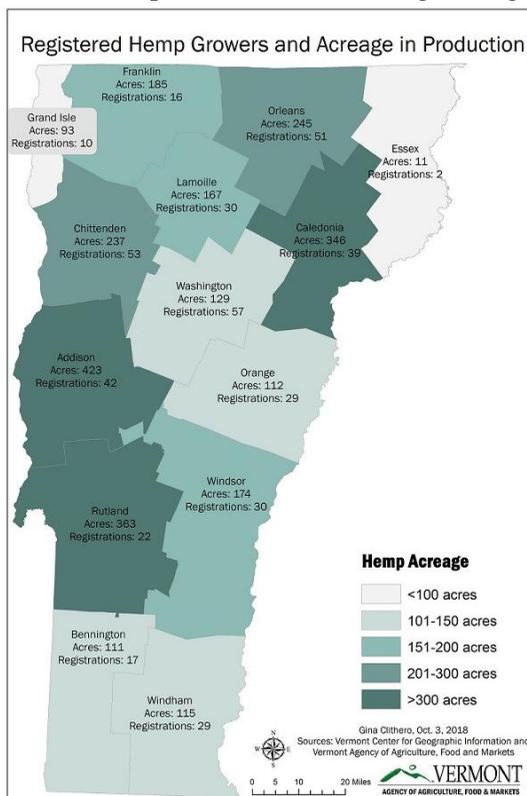
Average field size

\$11,525

Collected in registration fees

15 OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Since September 2018, including conversations with state leaders, interested growers and processors, technical service providers, and general public



Historical photo from 1949



Field of hemp