



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Jewel H. Bronaugh, Ph.D.*  
*Commissioner*

## Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

PO Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23218

[www.vdacs.virginia.gov](http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov)

October 20, 2020

### Registered Industrial Hemp Grower:

The federal government recently delayed the repeal of the authority under which the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) is currently administering an agricultural pilot program to study the growth, cultivation, and marketing of industrial hemp. As such, VDACS is able to continue as the primary regulator of hemp production in Virginia until September 30, 2021, and VDACS has advised the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that VDACS will continue to operate a hemp agricultural pilot program that meets the requirements outlined in the 2014 federal Farm Bill through this date.

You will not need a Hemp Producer License from USDA in order to grow hemp after November 1, 2020. If you plan to grow hemp after November 1, 2020, or if you plan to plant hemp in spring 2021, you will only need a VDACS-issued Industrial Hemp Grower Registration.

For the 2021 growing season, I anticipate that VDACS will continue to regulate hemp production as it has in previous growing seasons. VDACS will use a risk and random system to select industrial hemp production fields for sampling and will assess compliance based on an industrial hemp sample's total tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration (i.e., the sample's post-decarboxylation delta-9 THC concentration). VDACS's Industrial Hemp Program will distribute additional information regarding the 2021 growing season in early-spring 2021 and will inform you as to any changes that may occur after September 30, 2021.

Thank you for your patience as VDACS continues to adjust its administration of the Industrial Hemp Program in response to changing federal laws and regulations. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. You can reach me at 804.786.7157 or [Erin.Williams@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:Erin.Williams@vdacs.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin Williams".

Erin Williams  
Industrial Hemp Program Manager