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Domestic Hemp Production Program, Request for Approval of a New Information Collection

Comment On: AMS-SC-20-0071-0001

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Domestic Hemp Production Program

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comment from Bowman, First_name

Submitter Information

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Organization: The Farm Assist

Government Agency Type: Federal

Government Agency: CDFI

General Comment

In 2018 I knew I would take the old non working dairy farm over in a divorce. In 2019 NY DOA suggested that I get involved with the hemp Industry. As requested, I applied for a fiber hemp processor license for \$500, which was never granted nor refunded. I was advised to apply to grow fiber hemp, for another \$500 which I did. The harvesting equipment, a reaper binder machine was trapped in Canada due to COVID and so I did not grow hemp in 2020. About 6 months after getting my growers license I received a notice from DOA that NY is dropping the hemp research partner program. My NY WBA certified farm switched to grow crops for the farmers markets to not lose an entire grow season. During these 2+ years I actively networked to get together a hemp fiber mill, a major player in the mens clothing industry, several farmers interested in growing for fiber, local colleges ready to participate in hempcrete research, an opportunity for the second chance applicants to become involved with hempcrete construction and fiber hemp materials development and manufacturing. An application was submitted to the Grow-NY competition to bring a hemp fiber mill to NY State but didnt win. We requested to take over a defunct prison so that we could at least start up the fiber mill to create a viable opportunity for farmers, increase jobs in the region, and establish an education system for hempcrete, clothing, and other woven or nonwovens products. We have a nonwovens expert on board as well. He has met with me on several occasions and can convert fiber into usable materials. We have a minority certified engineer willing to help train the second chance candidates. We have a STEM educator willing to help establish a virtual platform for education moving forward. NY asked us for help with the hemp industry and we ALL

showed up to help! At this point were all pretty disgusted with the lack of interest in fiber hemp by DOA. Millions of dollars has gone into research of hemp oils, such as Cbd. After all this drain of funds to a few colleges, not one has participated in determination of r value of hempcrete, and theres no support to bring a mill to NY. We would have a viable opportunity for all interested farmers with as little as \$250,000 investment in the fiber hemp industry. At this point Im working with USDA on a poultry and vegetable opportunity at my farm. Im also considering raising additional meat animals. If theres ever an interest in moving forward with the fiber hemp industry with less bullshit please do let us farmers know as were more than happy to grow this terrific quality fiber for materials and green construction. We have the solution for global warming when you folks are ready to work with us.