**Newsletter Copy: 500 words**

June 3-9, 2019 is Hemp History Week. Now in its tenth year, Hemp History Week is the largest national grassroots marketing and public education effort supporting hemp’s benefits for farmers. our health, economy, and the environment. Hemp is a virtually untapped opportunity for American farmers.

Hemp is a traditional American crop, grown by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. But in the 1930’s, misguided federal policy criminalized the cultivation of industrial hemp in the U.S., despite the fact that industrial hemp has no drug value. This outdated policy has led to a missed opportunity for American farmers and consumers alike.

The recent passage of the Farm Bill with the Hemp Farming Amendment has removed hemp from the Controlled Substances Act, and legalizes hemp farming in the U.S. This June, we will join together in victory across the country as we celebrate the *Return of the Plant!* and embark on a new era of hemp cultivation in American soil.

Let’s reclaim the virtues of hemp after more than 80 years of prohibition and write a new history of hemp for future generations of farmers, consumers and manufacturers—a righteous, modern narrative of regenerative agriculture, renewable resources, plant-based nutrition and healthy lifestyles. With the return of the plant, we rebuild our rural economies with lucrative hemp crops. The return of the plant brings with it a revitalization of agricultural knowledge, as farmers rediscover the benefits to soil, crop cycles, and pollinators that hemp imparts to a regenerative farming model.

Hemp is a crop that pays. Industrial hemp has been grown in Canada since 1999. Today, Canadian hemp farmers net an average $200- $400 per acre for hemp grown just north of the U.S. border, often even more for crops grown for CBD. U.S. consumers are demanding U.S. grown hemp, and ideally, hemp is processed within 100 miles of where it is harvested supporting rural economic development. Hemp farming supports not just farms, but secondary businesses such as processing and manufacturing, creating jobs and building the health of local economies.

We stand at the threshold of a new beginning for hemp farming, as we praise each other’s efforts in this long movement to lift prohibition of the crop and commit to further solidarity as we work to ensure the successful emergence of a vibrant, deeply rooted, ecologically-conscious hemp industry in the United States.

Join Hemp History Week in celebration of the *Return of the Plant! Hemp History Week 2019,* as we mobilize farmers, advocates, consumers, business owners, and environmentalists across the country to nurture the growth of a robust hemp economy and fertilize the next hundred years of hemp farming in the United States.

There are many ways that you can support this campaign. To learn more and find out how you can get involved visit the [campaign website](http://www.hemphistoryweek.com/).

For more information and hemp farming resources, contact [events@hemphistoryweek.com](mailto:events@hemphistoryweek.com).