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Department of
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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Alaska to introduce new industrial hemp regs on Facebook Live

(Palmer, AK) – The state Division of Agriculture will lay out the regulations establishing a new, legal industrial hemp program in the state of Alaska in an online social media broadcast on Tuesday, division director David W. Schade said today.

Once the Alaska's Industrial Hemp Pilot Program regulations become effective on April 4, properly registered Alaskans will have the ability to legally produce, process, and/or market products made from or with ingredients derived from a sanctioned industrial hemp program. The Tuesday event is an effort to help the public understand how this new crop will be regulated, and how they can be involved.

Schade and his staff will be holding a Facebook Live event on Tuesday, March 24, starting at 6 p.m. (ADT). The goal of the event is to give an overview of the Alaska's industrial hemp program, explain how to get registered, and let division staff conduct a question-and-answer dialogue with those interested in participating in this new sector of Alaska's agricultural industry.

"I believe our division has adopted a good, clear regulatory process for Alaska's industrial hemp pilot program, but this is only the first step in developing an industrial hemp industry," Schade said. "With the adoption of the 2018 federal Farm Bill, states and tribes will continue developing permanent industrial hemp programs.

Rob Carter, state agronomist and manager of Alaska's Northern Latitude Plant Materials Center, said Alaska's new regulations break the hemp industry into three separate components: growers, manufacturers, and retailers.

"This will allow our industry to vertically integrate for efficiencies," Carter said. "They'll be allowed to work in some or all of the different aspects of growing, manufacturing and even retail sales, based on what best suits their ability, ambition and interest."

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Schade will moderate the “Facebook Live” session on Tuesday, which will be carried on the Division of Agriculture’s Facebook page. Carter and other staff will be explaining the program regulations, how to register and get started in the industrial hemp business. There will also be the opportunity for interested parties to get their questions answered.

The Division is working to make this application process as automated as possible, so that in-person trips to the Division will not be necessary. For more program information; please go to <http://plants.alaska.gov/industrialhemp.htm>.

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