

Seamons, Colleen

From: Kenrick Riley [kenrick@jiggi.net]
Sent: Monday, 25 April 2011 6:12 AM
To: submissions
Subject: Submission on hemp food approval
Attachments: FSANZ (Hemp food) 111.doc; ATT00001.htm

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find attached my submission supporting the farming of hemp grain for human consumption.

Yours faithfully

Kenrick Riley
Wiccawood Farm Products
Certified Organic (OGA 229)

(02) 6688 8163

"Wiccawood" Mountain Top Rd GEORGICA NSW 2480

“Wiccardwood”
Mountain Top Road
GEORGICA NSW 2480

24 March 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

I write in support of FSANZ re-regulating hemp seed and hemp oil as an allowable food input for human use.

There is plenty of scientific support for the quality of hemp seed/oil, its beneficial health elements, and its usefulness in food production.

However, I write as a farmer seeking an alternate grain crop that will survive in the sub-tropical Northern Rivers of NSW.

Attempts at growing grains or pulses east of the Richmond Range have generally failed due to the onset of Spring rains when grain crops are ripening. Over the years, some farmers have grown a beautiful crop of winter wheat here – only to lose it all in the head through Spring rain.

I am a licensed hemp farmer. However, my farm is in hilly country so it is not suited to broad-acre hemp cropping for fibre production. Our ideal would be an intensive grain crop grown in rotation with vegetables, planted in contoured rows, and producing a high oil content suitable for crushing and manufacturing.

The wet climate here will limit the irrigation required while the virility of the hemp plant reduces the need for pest and weed control. Our heavy, fertile soils will ensure high protein levels.

At present, I could grow hemp grain for the dog-food trade. But the returns are minimal. In contrast, our heavy, black soils could produce a high-value, human food grain that would attract keen demand from a wide variety of local food processors.

Our farm's Organic Certification would enhance the value of the harvested grain and would allow any local surplus to be exported to Europe, Japan or the US through Australian Certified Organic.

My understanding is that many of our trading nation partners have already re-regulated hemp for human consumption. That means their farm products are being incorporated into foodstuffs – some of which may ultimately end up in Australia.

It is better that we develop our own hemp grain business here now, rather than being swamped by overseas products before we have a chance to invest in a local industry and develop subsequent exports.

I appreciate FSANZ needs to consider the political implications of any hemp re-regulation. However, the fact Australia has already chosen to reintroduce a hemp industry means it is important we farmers can make the most of the crops we grow.

Limiting hemp to fibre production means the crop will be restricted to the dry, cotton-growing regions inland – and require farmers to have huge areas to make a profit.

I would prefer to grow a smaller, high-value grain crop on our wet, coastal soils that will yield well in a late Autumn harvest.

I'm happy to have a chat about this issue if any of you require it.

Kind regards

KENRICK RILEY
Certified Organic OGA 229