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Voice of the global industrial hemp industry

Coordinating research and standards

Supporting sustainability

Advocating for consistent terms of trade

News Release

FIHO Releases Position Paper on Hemp in Livestock Feed

Brussels, Belgium – The Federation of International Hemp Organizations (FIHO) has issued a Position Paper on the use of hempseed and hempseed byproducts intended as livestock ingredients. FIHO presents this meta-analysis to assist international feed experts and regulatory bodies to conduct feed ingredient assessments.

Keanan Stone, Co-chair of FIHO's Research and Standards Committee, confirmed that nearly 200 hempseed livestock feeding trial and nutrition publications were analysed to develop the Position Paper. "This analysis focused on credible publications and laboratory testing that complements the hemp industry's farm to food regulatory framework."

Expert reviews were utilized in this analysis of feed research on hempseed, which contains very low levels of natural constituent phytocannabinoids. "The most important considerations of this analysis were the health of animals fed hempseed feed ingredients and the safety of food derived from livestock that are fed hempseed ingredients."

The Position Paper includes overall nutritional and anti-nutritional analyses, plus a range of other livestock feed ingredient safety and efficacy considerations. The Position Paper anchors FIHO's continued dedication to advance the global hemp industry based on science and credible research.

The Position Paper consists of two documents – a [Summary](#) and a detailed [Global Review](#). Primary findings of the Position Paper include:

- Hempseed has high nutritional value for humans and animals;
- Some proportion of cultivated grains and oilseeds are normally redirected from human food to livestock feed markets;
- Natural constituent cannabinoid levels in the hemp plant do not represent animal health or food safety risks;
- There are no concentrated or isolated natural or synthetic cannabinoids in hempseed or its byproducts;
- Only 9-12% of THC and CBD contained in livestock feed are absorbed by animals consuming that feed;
- At 20-30% feed ration inclusion rates:
 - hempseed and its derivatives are well-tolerated by livestock and do not represent animal health risks; and
 - the potential consumption of THC or CBD by humans in food originating from animals fed hempseed byproducts is remote;
- Maximum natural constituent THC thresholds of:
 - 20 µg/gram for dehulled hempseed; and
 - 30 µg/gram for hempseed meal;
- No maximum natural constituent CBD thresholds; and
- Hempseed byproducts can be safely fed to companion livestock (farmed animals) intended for food production.

For more information please contact:

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About FIHO

The Federation of International Hemp Organizations (FIHO) is dedicated to:

- Bringing together industry leaders, market expertise, and resources;
- Speaking with one voice on hemp issues at the global level;
- Identifying and creating opportunities to scale sustainable hemp production, marketing and trade; and
- Benefitting the global hemp industry, consumers and the environment.