



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
22 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL  
COMMISSIONER

August 14, 2020

Under Secretary Greg Ibach  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Marketing and Regulatory Programs  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Room 308-E, Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Under Secretary Ibach:

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (Department) is pleased to submit its State Plan to USDA to administer hemp production in our state. In conformity with the 2018 Farm Bill and the Interim Final Rule (7 CFR 990), I request approval of our State Plan.

Because Maine allows for hemp production under existing state law, the Department must act to reconcile the differences between its existing program and the Interim Final Rule. During the upcoming January 2021 legislative session, the Department will pursue amendments to its enabling authority (7 MRS Chapter 406-A). The statutory changes and subsequent rulemaking will authorize hemp production and provide the Department with the authority needed to regulate hemp production in a manner consistent with the 2018 Farm Bill and the Interim Final Rule.

These changes will include amending the sampling protocols to require THC sampling results within 15 days of harvest, allowance for reporting hemp producer information to USDA-FSA, the authority to conduct background checks and subsequent prohibition of licensing for convicted felons for ten years, the authority to enforce penalties for non-compliant crops, a laboratory approval process, and provisions for proper disposal of non-compliant crops.

The Department will update USDA on the progression of all relevant legislative and rule changes in an annual report. It will resubmit the State Plan for approval when the changes are completed, as required by the Interim Final Rule.

Feel free to contact the Department with any questions about our State Plan or our planned legislative activities.

HARLOW BUILDING  
18 ELKINS LANE  
AUGUSTA, MAINE



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Beal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amanda Beal, Commissioner

cc: Nancy McBrady, Director, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources  
Ann Gibbs, Director, Animal and Plant Health Division  
Gary Fish, State Horticulturist

Encl.