



Department: Biology  
Policy Title: Hemp Safety Policy  
Date Issued: 10/09/20  
Date Revised:  
Approved by: Julie Schmidt

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### **Doane University Hemp Safety Policy**

#### **Transportation**

As mandated by state guidelines, hemp plants will be transported by authorized individuals in University vehicles or vehicles rented or provided by the University for the purpose of transport. Copies of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture approval will accompany transport in the event that it is needed by law enforcement. The State Highway Patrol will be notified ahead of time of this transport. Authorized individuals are those that have garnered approval by the state to conduct research in industrial hemp.

#### **Greenhouse security**

The greenhouse will stay locked at all times. Faculty and staff with keys and students who have been granted keys will be able to enter the greenhouse freely. All faculty, staff, and students that are issued a key will receive training on greenhouse security. Other parties (i.e. those not granted key access) must be chaperoned when using greenhouse spaces by a faculty or staff member who owns a key. A log sheet will be maintained outside the greenhouse door as a record of who is utilizing the greenhouse. When chaperoning, authorized individuals will log the event as such and log those being chaperoned. Students may not serve as chaperones.

#### **Greenhouse usage**

At least as frequently as each semester, current and planned greenhouse usage will be assessed by the greenhouse manager (currently Tessa Durham Brooks). The greenhouse manager will allocate space as needed to each group requesting access. It is the expectation that every group utilizing the greenhouse will maintain their area as well as the common areas (e.g. the prep room, soil shelves, drains, hose areas). The greenhouse manager will coordinate training of each group in utilizing and maintaining the greenhouse space. All users are required to report any activity that is suspicious, dangerous, or that violates greenhouse policies to the greenhouse manager.

#### **Hemp monitoring**

Plants will be monitored for their THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) levels. Plants testing at levels above 0.3% will be disposed of as regulated by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (see below). A database of plants going into and out of the greenhouse will be created by each research lab and will be shared with the greenhouse manager. The database should include plant unique ID information, date admitted into the greenhouse, metadata on the plant as appropriate (e.g. cultivar, age, most recent THC level),



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removal date, and removal method. Plants that do not follow these guidelines will be disposed of by the greenhouse manager.

### **Hemp disposal**

Material will be disposed of as regulated by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Common methods include mechanical grinding of plant material, burying plants with dirt, or burning. At Doane, when small amounts of hemp plant material needs to be disposed of, it will generally be autoclaved. Large scale removal (i.e. whole plants) will generally be done by burning with the help of the Facilities department. Plant extracts and materials will be maintained as outlined in our chemical safety policy, as applicable.

### **Disciplinary action**

Any theft or improper use of material may merit disciplinary action. All parties involved will be communicated with to gather information. The greenhouse manager will work with campus leadership to determine if disciplinary action is merited on a case-by-case basis. The Crete Police department will be notified as appropriate and will be communicated with about the status of plants in the University's possession. Theft of any hemp material will result in notification of local authorities, including but not limited to, Crete Police.

### **External and internal communication**

University communications and forums will be utilized to inform and educate the campus community about the research and common misconceptions that people have about industrial hemp. Signage will be used to educate students and staff.