Charleston W.Va. -- West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture issued the following statement after the release of the USDA’s proposed hemp production rule:

“We are ecstatic the USDA has finally issued its proposed rules and regulations for industrial hemp production. At first glance, it looks like West Virginia’s current rules are close to what will be required of states to be approved for their own plans. As we continue to gather information from the USDA, we will work with the Legislature to fine tune what we already have in place.”

The interim-final rule goes into effect immediately. USDA has 60 days to approve state plans after their submission.

“We plan to host meetings with producers and stakeholders, as well as our elected officials to discuss the next steps forward for our state’s industry. The goal is to conduct a comprehensive analysis to fully understand what will be required of West Virginia. The good news is, West Virginia industrial hemp farmers can continue to grow with certainty moving forward.”

The proposed rule can be found: https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/AMS_SC_19_0042_IR.pdf

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