

CAYUGA NATION RECEIVES FEDERAL APPROVAL TO GROW AND SELL HEMP

The Cayuga Nation has received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to grow, produce, and market hemp within its 64,000 acre reservation. The approval follows the Nation's submission of a "Nation Plan," directly to the USDA, as permitted by the 2018 Farm Bill.

Under the Farm Bill, hemp is no longer a controlled substance and is now an ordinary agricultural commodity. Federal law defines hemp as cannabis with less than a 0.3% concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC. The Farm Bill also permitted tribal governments to exercise direct control over hemp within their lands, free from State or local oversight.

"The Cayuga Nation is excited about this new opportunity to expand and diversify our commercial activities within our reservation," said Clint Halftown, the Nation's federal representative. "The Farm Bill recognized the right of Indian nations to have authority over hemp production on our lands without interference from any other governments. It is a right that is wholly consistent with our sovereignty," he added.

Halftown said the Nation is considering a number of sites within its reservation to begin the cultivation of hemp. "We are anxious to begin planting and getting to market as soon as the weather permits," he said.