



South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner

SC HEMP FARMING PROGRAM TIMELINE

OCTOBER 31, 2019

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released its interim final rule establishing a national regulatory framework for hemp. The interim final rule is effective October 31, 2019, through November 1, 2021.

OCTOBER 31 – DECEMBER 30, 2019

USDA 60-day comment period during which interested persons may submit comments on this interim rule. The comment period will close on December 30, 2019. After reviewing and evaluating the comments, USDA will draft and publish a final rule within two years of the date of publication. USDA will evaluate all information collected during this period to adjust, if necessary, this rule before finalizing.

DECEMBER 16, 2019

Date by which South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) will submit comments on the rule.

ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 16, 2019

Amended Farming Permits will be issued for current 2019 Permitted Farmers extending the term of the 2019 Permits to May 1, 2020, or until the 2019 Permit is surrendered and the 2020 Permit is issued, whichever occurs first.

JANUARY 15, 2020

Date by which SCDA intends to submit State Plan to USDA for approval.

JANUARY 15 – MARCH 15, 2020

Time period for USDA to approve or deny the SC State Plan, if SCDA submits its State Plan to USDA by January 15, 2020, as intended. Once USDA formally receives the plan, USDA will have 60 days to review the submitted plan. USDA may approve plans which comply with the 2018 Farm Bill and with the provisions of this rule. If a plan does not comply, it will be rejected. When plans are rejected, USDA will provide a letter of notification outlining the deficiencies identified. The State may then submit an amended plan for review.

FEBRUARY 1, 2020

Applications to obtain a Hemp Farming Permit for the 2020 growing season will be released on the SCDA website hemp page here: agriculture.sc.gov/hemp