

Industrial Hemp as animal feed

What are the restrictions on feeding industrial hemp to animals?

Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) sets the safe allowed level (called a 'maximum residue level') for contaminants in animal products sold for human consumption.

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is considered a contaminant and has a maximum residue level of zero. This means there must be no THC in animal products sold for human consumption.

In Tasmania it is an **offence** to supply (sell) contaminated animal products for human consumption under the [Primary Produce Safety Act 2011](#), the [Food Act 2003](#) and the [Biosecurity Act 2019](#). To comply with food safety laws, livestock producers must ensure there is no THC contamination in animal products sold for human consumption.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Chemicals Authority (APVMA) regulates veterinary chemical products, stockfeed and pet food containing cannabis, including industrial hemp. For more information visit <https://www.apvma.gov.au/resources/chemicals-news/cannabis-veterinary-chemical-products>.

How can there be THC contamination from low-THC industrial hemp?

Despite the very low THC in industrial hemp, when animals graze on industrial hemp plants, THC may build up in their bodies and could then contaminate animal products such as meat, milk and eggs.

Are there withholding periods for hemp-grazed livestock?

Not yet. Current Australian research on withholding periods for hemp-grazed livestock will help inform regulators and livestock producers how to manage the risk of THC contamination in animals in future. For more information visit <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-research-development/opening-gates-hemp-fed-livestock-australia?nopaging=1>.

What about stubble-grazing my pet sheep or breeding stock which will never be sold for meat?

To comply with food safety laws, livestock producers must ensure there is no THC contamination in animal products sold for human consumption. If the livestock is **not intended** to be sold for human consumption, a livestock owner may choose to allow the animal/s to graze hemp stubble or other vegetative parts of the hemp plant.

What about silage or hay made from industrial hemp?

Industrial hemp **must not** be sold as silage or hay. Silage and hay are used as a dietary fodder for livestock intended for human consumption, such as beef and dairy cattle.

Industrial Hemp as animal feed

What about animal bedding from industrial hemp straw?

Processed industrial hemp straw that has been treated so that there are no viable seeds, leaves or flowers attached can be sold to the general public as small animal bedding and stable bedding.

Raw untreated hemp straw bales could contain viable seeds and can only be sold to a person licenced to possess industrial hemp.

What about feeding livestock the by-product or waste from seed cleaning?

Hemp by-product from seed cleaning such as dried seeds or leaf waste may be consumed by grazing livestock if fed as part of their normal diet, for example by spreading the by-product onto pasture.

To comply with food safety laws, livestock producers must ensure there is no THC contamination in animal products sold for human consumption. For more information on animal feed regulation visit <https://www.apvma.gov.au/registrations-and-permits/chemical-product-registration/animal-feed-products>.

What about animal feed additives or pet food made from industrial hemp seed or hemp seed oil?

Animal feed additives, veterinary products and pet food products containing industrial hemp seed or hemp seed oil must be registered with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

For more information visit <https://www.apvma.gov.au/resources/chemicals-news/cannabis-veterinary-chemical-products>.



Regulated Crops

Department of Natural Resources
and Environment Tasmania

GPO Box 44, Hobart TAS 7001

Phone: (03) 6165 4876

Email: industrialhemp@nre.tas.gov.au

Visit: www.nre.tas.gov.au