

CFAES Policy on Cannabis Research, Teaching and Extension Activities

Although Ohio House Bill 523 legalizes medical marijuana (cannabis) in Ohio, research, teaching, and extension activities in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) at The Ohio State University are still subject to the same federal rules and regulations as before the passage of HB 523. This inconsistency between federal and state agencies regarding the legality associated with cannabis means that CFAES must consider both state and federal law to guide policies regarding research on, use of, and possession of cannabis. A parallel situation exists for industrial hemp (also cannabis) in which the 2014 Farm Bill allow for states to conduct research and extension programs provided that state laws are updated to reflect this change. To date, Ohio laws have not been updated.

We define activities as those that involve the growth, production, laboratory analysis, procurement, administration or use of marijuana. This includes Cannabis spp., tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), and any cannabis derivatives or cannabimimetic agents that have been classified as *Schedule I* controlled substances under the federal Controlled Substances Act. At the current time, federal regulations do not permit the use, production, processing, sale, or growth of marijuana, except for medical or research use conducted under special licensing requirements established by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use with humans and animals. We continue to work with the University Office of Government Affairs, as well as Ohio's Medical Marijuana Advisory Committee, to better understand the state and federal regulatory frameworks associated with medical marijuana and industrial hemp.

CFAES also relies on considerable federal funding for research, education, and outreach activities, both in terms of capacity funds and through sponsored programs. Accepting federal funding obligates CFAES to comply with both the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and the Drug-Free Workplace Act. These federal regulations together prohibit the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of any controlled substance. At this time there has been no suggestion that enforcement of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act or the Drug-Free Workplace Act will be relaxed for those universities participating in cannabis research.

Based upon these facts, and until both federal and state laws concur on the cultivation/use of cannabis within the state of Ohio, or we have different guidance from the University Office of

Research, CFAES faculty and staff should not engage or use University resources in cannabis research, provide diagnostic and laboratory services, recommendations and/or other information regarding the production, management and/or processing of cannabis. CFAES personnel and students should not engage in any outreach activity that supports cannabis cultivation. Furthermore, CFAES faculty, staff, and students should not possess cannabis for diagnostic purposes, and should not visit sites for the purpose of providing any information or assistance regarding the cultivation of cannabis plants.

Should individuals seek to consult in their personal capacity, they are required to follow established university policies, including the Faculty Financial Conflict of Interest and the Conflict of Interest and Work Outside the University policies. These plans must be in place and approved by the CFAES Office of Research and Graduate Education prior to any personal consulting.

If you have questions about this policy, please contact Gary Pierzynski (Pierzynski.3@osu.edu) at the CFAES Office of Research and Graduate Education.