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From the Editor

Jeffrey Young
Murray State University

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From the Editor:

Jeffrey S. Young, *Editor-in-Chief*

“We are drowning in information, but starved for knowledge.”

-John Naisbitt, *Megatrends* (1982)

Far too much of the information about the production, economics, legislation, and capabilities of hemp and hemp products is unfounded and untested. The Naisbitt line (quoted above) could hardly pertain more to the present state of agricultural hemp in the U.S. Those most in need of knowledge about this re-emerging crop—farmers, policy-makers, researchers, and consumers—face a dearth of rigorously-tested, scientifically grounded, and peer-reviewed knowledge. This describes the need that the *Journal of Agricultural Hemp Research (JAHR)* strives to satisfy.

Our journal, we believe, is in a rather unique position to serve as a central knowledge hub for agricultural issues concerning the reborn hemp industry. *JAHR* is an initiative of the Center for Agricultural Hemp at Murray State University. The Center is administered through the Hutson School of Agriculture (responsible for planting the first legal agricultural hemp research plot in the state of Kentucky). The focus of our center is to serve students studying at the forefront of hemp uses, in much of its variety.

ABOUT JAHR

The journal is multi-disciplinary in scope, reflecting hemp-related practice itself. We aim to cover both economic and scientific issues pertaining to hemp, as well as extension education and development. *JAHR* will serve as an outlet for research on this subject, on a projected semiannual release schedule. Our issues are digital and open-access (free to read) which we find to be consistent with our goal to serve as a central source for agricultural hemp research, reaching as broad an audience as possible.

Developing this journal took so much work from many dedicated and hard-working people, and we are proud to see the fruit of our labor come about in the inaugural issue of Fall 2019. The Murray State University Libraries sponsors the Digital Commons publishing system, which is remarkably managed and organized, making it an ideal place for our journal to be housed. While I am honored to serve as the Editor of this journal, seeing this project through would not be possible without the editorial board’s support and assistance. The editorial board has worked devotedly to assist with reviewing articles, enhancing the journal’s structure, and in promoting the journal to people whom the journal benefits.

IN THIS ISSUE

This issue features two original research articles, representing excellent work from different disciplines. The first investigates one of the agronomic unknowns of hemp propagation: productivity effects of root zone heating on vegetative tip cuttings in hemp transplants in a greenhouse setting. The second article establishes a baseline understanding of the regionally-variant risk factors faced by hemp farmers and cannabinoid processors. This, and the likely follow-up studies will be of benefit to crop insurance agents, farmers, processors, and policy writers.

The journal will regularly feature additional materials such as special features, interviews, policy updates, and letters. Among these are a special guest letter from Dr. Ryan Quarles, the recently re-elected Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner, a special historical feature written by Dr. Tony Brannon, Dean of the Murray State University Hutson School of Agriculture, as well as a video interview with Mr. Gilmer Thomas, a Kentucky farmer who grew hemp during the 1940s when the crop was last legal to cultivate in the U.S.

There is much more excellent research being done as you read this letter, and that even with the excellent work being done we are merely scratching the surface at present. We received quite a bit of interest surrounding the journal over the last few months, and eagerly anticipate the submissions of future researchers.

DEDICATION

The inaugural issue of the *Jahr* is dedicated to Ms. Clara Madeline Gilliam. Clara has Aicardi syndrome which causes seizures and hinders her ability to move and communicate. Clara has been under the treatment of CBD for several years and this treatment has given her some relief and improved quality of life. The Clara Madeline Gilliam Act ([SB 124](#)), passed in 2014, is named for Clara. The act exempts cannabidiol (CBD) from Kentucky's legal definition of marijuana, and thereby allowed it to be administered by physicians at state research hospitals, institutions of higher education, or in clinical trials. Clara is the daughter of Murray State University Alumni Jerry and Julie Gilliam.

-Jeffrey Young