

**June 14, 2017: “The unobserved benefits of hemp”
in the Platte County Record Times**

Wyoming’s Department of Agriculture needs to get into gear.

Wyoming legislators recently approved the growing of hemp in trial plots under the auspices of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. The WDA is charged with issuing licenses to farmers wishing to participate. The agency also must implement regulations in keeping with the new law.

It seems, the WDA urges farmers to raise money so it may retrofit some testing machinery, else it will delay the licensing for another two years or more. However, to implement the law’s testing requirements, it’s not necessary for the agency to spend beaucoup bucks: HS 116 authorizes it to contract the testing to an independent lab. As I pointed out in letter to WDA’s director, Doug Miyamoto, the state of Colorado, whose laws have similar testing requirements, use a lab that charges \$25 per acre to test the hemp’s THC. The cost is borne by the growers. Still, WDA persists in its call for money, implying the threat of delay if \$\$ aren’t forthcoming.

I will be speaking at a hemp festival in Alcova on June 17. The organizers tell me they invited Hank Uhden of the WDA to present the agency’s point of view. In my talk I’ll urge the WDA to enter into conversation with farmers, and to implement licensing with due diligence. Our neighbors Colorado and Utah have been producing hemp for several years while our state has missed out. Now is our chance to move forward.