



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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California State Grange to Host Hemp Festival on May 22

Sacramento Event will Celebrate Nationwide 'Hemp History Week'

Sacramento, CA– On Saturday, May 22, 2010, The California State Grange will host a Hemp Festival from 10am to 4pm at their headquarters at 3830 U Street, Sacramento, CA. The festival is being held in celebration of **Hemp History Week**, a national grassroots education campaign designed to renew strong support for hemp farming in the U.S. There will be four speeches throughout the day on topics related to the past, present, and future of industrial hemp in California. In addition to the symposia, there will be a day-long farmers market outside with booths selling hemp products and displaying informational material, healthy local food, along with live music providing festive entertainment.

Symposia speakers will include:

Melissa Collins, a partner in Santa Monica's Livity Outernational and hemp activist, will discuss the benefits of growing hemp for textile use in the U.S and demonstrate how being an activist is not only important but fun and fashionable.

Lawrence Serbin of Los Angeles, Owner of Hemp Traders to talk on the many uses of hemp fiber.

Chris Boucher of Laguna Beach 's Hempstead will recount some of his hemp experiences over the last 20 years including raising hemp in Imperial County, California in the mid-90s.

Patrick Goggin of San Francisco, member of the Hemp Industries Association to talk on California legislation to permit hemp farming.

In addition to 185 events in 32 states, national organizers of **Hemp History Week** aim to collect at least 50,000 hand-signed postcards addressed to President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder asking them to end the ban on hemp farming and let farmers grow the versatile and profitable crop.

"Hemp was once an important crop for George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and thousands of American farmers across the country, including farmers here in California until it was outlawed completely in 1970 by the Controlled Substances Act. **Hemp History Week** will help residents of Sacramento learn about our rich hemp heritage as well as the tremendous environmental and economic benefits that would come with growing hemp in America once again," explains local event organizer Buzz Chernoff of the California State Grange.

In addition to volunteer-run events nationwide, natural product retail outlets are participating in **Hemp History Week** by sampling best-selling hemp products in their stores including: Nature's Path's **Hemp Plus™** Granola Cereal, Sunny Hemp™ Granola Bars and **Hemp Plus™** Waffles; Living Harvest Foods **Tempt™** hemp milk and frozen desserts; Nutiva's organic shelled hemp seed and Dr. Bronner's Magic Soap. A complete list of events can be found at <http://www.hemphistoryweek.org>.





HEMP IS OUR HISTORY

www.VoteHemp.com/HempHistoryWeek

Sustainable hemp seed, fiber and oil are already used in nutritious food, textiles, body care and even auto-parts. Companies like Ford Motors, Patagonia, and The Body Shop, in addition to Hemp Industries Association members such as the companies listed above use imported hemp in their products with broad acclaim.

Hemp History Week – May 17-23, 2010 is an unprecedented industry-wide project initiated by The Hemp Industries Association and Vote Hemp, involving hundreds of hemp manufacturers and retailers. The **Hemp Industries Association (HIA)** is a non-profit trade group representing hemp companies, researchers, farmers and supporters. **Vote Hemp** is a national, single-issue, non-profit advocacy group founded in 2000 by members of the hemp industry to remove barriers to industrial hemp farming in the U.S. through education, legislation and advocacy. While 16 states have passed pro-hemp farming legislation to date, Hemp History Week organizers want to influence significant policy changes on the federal level as well.

Further information, along with a full list of sponsors can be found at: <http://www.hemphistoryweek.com>

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