Unit 6: Fiber

Lesson 3: Exploring Industrial Hemp-Teacher’s Guide
Estimated Time for Completion – approximately 45 minutes

Student Learning Objectives:
- As a result of this lesson the student will…
  - Differentiate between hemp as a drug and hemp as a viable agricultural product.
  - Provide examples of food products utilizing hemp seed and oil and their associated retail sales values.
  - Detail recent issues regarding hemp production.
  - Describe potential health benefits associated with hemp seed oil.

Purpose: Hemp, a plant often viewed as taboo is an extremely versatile plant grown for many uses. As a source of fiber and oilseed, it is grown all around the world. However, in the United States its growth is regulated by drug enforcement laws. How is it that a plant with such restrictions can be used for so many purposes?

Directions: Access the commodities and products tab on the AgMRC website (http://www.agmrc.org) and find the link to the fiber profile page. Utilize information located here to answer the questions below:

1. How is hemp different from marijuana?
   - First, select the commodities and products link, then select the fiber link.
   - Click the industrial hemp link within the fiber group.

2. Find at least 5 common uses for hemp.
   - Utilize the links at the bottom of the “hemp” profile to find your answers.

3. What are some examples of food products containing “hemp seed and oil”? What, according to the Hemp Industries Association (HIA), is the estimated retail value of U.S. hemp products?
   - First, select the commodities and products link, then select the fiber link.
   - Click the industrial hemp link within the fiber group.
   - Follow the hyperlinked “Industrial Hemp” link and look in the “Value-added Uses” section to find the desired information.

4. During the 1990s, Canada allowed the legal re-introduction of hemp into the marketplace. What were some steps taken by the Canadian government in order to help reestablish the industry?
   - First, select the commodities and products link, then select the fiber link.
   - Click the industrial hemp link within the fiber group.
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• Follow the hyperlinked “Industrial Hemp” link and look in the “Canadian Status of Hemp Production” section to find the desired information.

5. For what conditions and/or diseases may hemp seed oil have potentially helpful health benefits?
   • First, select the commodities and products link, then select the fiber link.
   • Click the industrial hemp link within the fiber group.
   • Follow the hyperlinked “Industrial Hemp” link and look in the “Value-added Uses” section to find the desired information.

Reinforcement activity: Investigator

Hemp and especially cannabis oil have been in the news quite a lot recently. Your task is to find an article from a newspaper, magazine, journal etc. that discusses the use of hemp of cannabis oil. Be prepared to give a brief summary of your findings to the class.