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ATALO Begins 2018 Hemp Planting in Kentucky

Winchester, KY

Atalo Holdings, Inc. has begun planting their 2018 hemp crop in Kentucky. With 60 experienced hemp farmers across the state and 2,700 permitted acres, Atalo will continue to develop their agricultural model, based on proprietary, certified and internationally pedigreed seed and innovative procedures for planting, harvesting, drying and processing.

“Our Growers’ Group consists of experienced and motivated farmers, familiar with row crops and grain production, who have taken a risk over the past four years to make us the leader in number of acres of hemp grown for CBD production in the United States.” said Atalo chairman Andrew Graves. “Our agronomic system, which includes 17 varieties of seed applicable for CBD, grain and fiber, is designed to scale up from fence row to fence row to meet the demand that is bound to come with the legalization of hemp as an agricultural commodity with a projected market of over \$2 Billion by 2022.”

In 2014, after the creation of the Hemp Pilot Program by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Atalo planted the first commercial hemp in the United States since prohibition, on land that had been farmed for hemp for the previous 175 years. Eric Steenstra interviewed Jake Graves. “Over 70 years ago, dad had about 400 acres of fiber hemp here,” said Graves. “Before that, he and his father grew hemp for the First World War, and before that it had been grown here for the War of 1812 and the Civil War. We have a long tradition with hemp in Kentucky,” he said.

Recent announcements by U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell, U.S. Representative James Comer, and Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles point to the return of hemp to the field.

“I believe the legislation will pass with the leadership we have,” said Atalo CEO William Hilliard at the recent Spring Seminar of the Kentucky Hemp Industries Association. “This is a rocket ship getting ready to launch. We’ve been promoting the rebirth of this industry since 1992 and we’re very excited to see it grow from a dream to reality.”

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Photo by Eric Steenstra

“Jacob Hughes Graves with first hemp crop in 70 years - July 2014”

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