

Hemp Variety Testing Program, Dept. of Soil & Crop Sciences, Texas A&M Univ., College Station, TX 77843-2474

Contact—Dr. Calvin Trostle: Office (806) 723-8432 (Lubbock, TX), E-mail: [ctrostle@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:ctrostle@ag.tamu.edu)

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**2024 Texas A&M AgriLife Hemp Variety Testing—Program Agreement/Seed Protection**

“Hemp Variety Testing Program Agreement”

*This standard document defines and limits the use of genetic resources provided to Texas A&M AgriLife for the purpose of hemp variety testing.*

1. PARTICIPATION and MATERIALS: This Hemp Variety Testing Program agreement (“Performance Agreement”) is entered into by COMPANY for the purpose of testing the performance of its hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L.) line(s) in the areas of Texas indicated herein. COMPANY will supply AGRILIFE seed materials identified in the accompanying entry form (collectively the “Materials”) for use in performance testing during the 2024 planting season (“Testing”). For the avoidance of doubt, references to Materials in this Performance Agreement include any traits incorporated therein. Materials will be used for Testing and for no other research or education purpose. COMPANY understands and agrees all cannabinoids, grain or fiber produced from Materials during Testing (collectively “Derivatives”) may be retained by AgriLife for up to one (1) year solely for the purpose to confirm the data derived and/or published from the original variety trial, if needed. AgriLife may not use Materials or Derivatives for breeding or to perform genetic analysis. In addition, AgriLife agrees not to sell or otherwise distribute Materials or Derivatives to third parties without the written consent of COMPANY.

• Deadline for entries, seed and payment is March 31, 2024.

**Material amounts**: COMPANY shall provide a minimum of the following seeds as follows per testing location:

* Grain variety testing: 1.0 lb. (if germination is low, increase amount)
* Fiber variety testing: 2.0 lb. (if germination is low, increase amount)

(If seed is limiting contact the program coordinator for possible accommodation of lesser amounts of seed.)

**Material treatments & traits**: If sending treated Materials (e.g., with pesticide(s)), COMPANY must note all treatments on the entry form and must include the Safety Data Sheet (“SDS”) in the Materials shipment to AGRILIFE. If Materials contain traits not approved for export, commercial grain channels, etc., COMPANY is required to notify AGRILIFE **before** such Materials are shipped to ensure field destruction can be guaranteed.

COMPANY represents and warrants that all Materials provided for Testing are owned or licensed by COMPANY and/or that COMPANY is authorized to provide the Materials to AGRILIFE for Testing purposes. Additionally, COMPANY represents and warrants the Materials are not regulated and do not require a United States Department of Agriculture permit for regulated materials. COMPANY agrees to indemnify and defend AGRILIFE if any claims are brought against AGRILIFE as a result of the foregoing representations not being accurate. To the extent authorized by law, COMPANY shall indemnify and defend AGRILIFE, SYSTEM, its regents, officers, employees, representatives, agents, and students (each an “Indemnified Party”) from and against all claims, demands, actions, suits, discovery demands, including, without limitation, third party subpoenas, government investigations or enforcement actions brought or threatened by a third party against an Indemnified Party and any damages, liabilities, losses, settlements, judgments, costs and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs) related thereto alleging that AGRILIFE’s use of Materials provided by COMPANY, as permitted under this Performance Agreement, infringes or misappropriates a third party right.

2. CONSIDERATION AND PAYMENT. As consideration for the performance of the Testing, COMPANY shall pay AGRILIFE the fixed-fee total on the accompanying entry form upon receipt of invoice. Payments shall be made to AGRILIFE (payable to “Texas A&M AgriLife Extension”) by submitting payment to the address indicated on the invoice.

3. TRIALS. All entries are randomized and replicated four times at each location using a randomized complete block design. Seeds for each entry are hand-planted, packaged, or planted/drilled to obtain a final plant population appropriate for each hemp type (cannabinoids, fiber, grain), each production region and cropping system at AGRILIFE’s discretion. Depending on the trial objective plots are at least four (4) rows wide with row-crop spacing ranging from thirty (30) to sixty (60) inches (unless drilled) depending on location, and at least twenty (20) feet in length before trimming. Agronomic data such as plant stands, plant height, flowering dates, and lodging are recorded at appropriate times. All locations are harvested by appropriate method including whole-plant hand harvest (cannabinoids), grain (small-plot combine), and fiber (cutting by hand). Field and harvest notes are compiled for each location and results analyzed. All data generated including observational data, information, and results (“Results”) from the Trials are owned by AGRILIFE. Additionally, COMPANY understands and agrees that Results are not confidential. Results will be posted by AGRILIFE as they become available on the AGRILIFE webpage <http://varietytesting.tamu.edu/hemp/> or otherwise published by AGRILIFE for public use.

4. LAND USE. COMPANY authorizes AGRILIFE to use all Materials provided for the purposes of Testing and COMPANY understands and agrees that Testing will occur on AGRILIFE property or property controlled by AGRILIFE in accordance and in compliance with all applicable laws.

5. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. COMPANY shall not provide confidential information to AGRILIFE.

6. PUBLICITY. COMPANY may not use the name of AGRILIFE, nor of any of its employees or members, nor any adaptation thereof, in any advertising, promotional or sales literature or news release without the prior written consent of AGRLIFE in each instance. Any COMPANY publication referring to the results of the Testing shall be worded as not to imply endorsement by AGRILIFE or any other member of The Texas A&M University System of COMPANY or a specific product or producer and shall reflect credit on AGRILIFE, its personnel and activities.

7. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT. COMPANY acknowledges that AGRILIFE is obligated to strictly comply with the Public Information Act, Chapter 552, *Texas Government Code*.

8. EXPORT ADMINISTRATION. COMPANY understands that AGRILIFE is subject to United States laws and regulations controlling the export of technical data, computer software, laboratory prototypes and other commodities, and that it must comply with applicable United States (U.S.) export laws and regulations. Furthermore, the transfer of certain technical data and commodities may require a license from one or more agencies of the United States Government. COMPANY will comply with applicable U.S. export control laws including without limitation the Export Administration Regulations and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations as currently codified or later amended. This section survives completion of the Testing.

9. FORCE MAJEURE. If AGRILIFE fails to fulfill its obligations hereunder, and such failure is due to an act of nature, or other circumstance beyond its reasonable control, including but not limited to fire, flood, hail, hurricane, civil commotion, riot, war (declared and undeclared), revolution, acts of foreign or domestic terrorism, or embargos, then said failure shall be excused for the duration of such event and for such a time thereafter as is reasonable to enable AGRILIFE to resume performance under this Performance Agreement. COMPANY acknowledges and agrees that in the event AGRILIFE is unable to obtain Results from Testing, no refund will be issued, but a partial credit may be offered toward future testing.

10. **COMPANY understands and agrees that AGRILIFE makes no warranties, express or implied, as to any matter, including, without limitation, warranties as to the conduct, completion, success or particular results of the Testing, or the condition, ownership, merchantability, or fitness for a particular purpose of the Testing, Results or any intellectual property or that the use of any intellectual property or Results will not infringe any intellectual property right of a third party. AGRILIFE shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, punitive, or other damages suffered by COMPANY or any other person resulting from the Testing or the use of any intellectual property or Results.**

11. COMPANY acknowledges AGRILIFE is an agency of the State of Texas and nothing in this Performance Agreement waives or relinquishes the right of AGRILIFE to claim any exemptions, privileges and immunities as may be provided by law.

12. To the extent that Chapter 2260, *Texas Government Code*, is applicable to the Performance Agreement and is not preempted by other applicable law, the dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 and the related rules adopted by the Texas Attorney General pursuant to Chapter 2260, will be used by the parties to attempt to resolve any claim for breach of contract made by COMPANY against AGRILIFE that cannot be resolved in the ordinary course of business.

COMPANY acknowledges this Performance Agreement, which includes the entry form, constitutes the entire agreement regarding the Testing and supersedes any prior oral or written agreements, commitments, understandings, or communications with respect to the subject matter of this Performance Agreement. The person, by signing below, represents and warrants they are an authorized representative of COMPANY with the authority to enter into this Performance Agreement and to agree to the above terms on behalf of COMPANY.

COMPANY:

Authorized Signatory Name—Title:

Signature:

Date:

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension / Texas A&M AgriLife Research:**

**Authorized Institutional Representative**:

Name—Title:

Signature:

Date: