

Rhody Farms Narrative

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What is Rhody Farms?

Rhody Farms will be a state of the art sustainable industrial hemp cultivation facility in Rumford, RI. The hemp plants will be grown under strict, sterile, environmentally controlled conditions. Environmental growth conditions for each hemp genotype will be catalogued in our proprietary database, to ensure future reproducible market valuable products that consumers can trust. In addition, our cultivation methods and extraction techniques will lead the cannabis industry in innovation.

Our goal is to grow organic hemp that can be used for the following industries: medical, smokable biomass, vaping, edible, concentrates, and processed biomass for sustainable businesses. Our hemp will be free of chemicals that are of health concern, i.e. pesticides, fungicides, insects, microbes, and fungus. Our data collection and analysis processes will lead to standardization for specific cultivars, where we can ensure a robust and reproducible product. Our company will employ the best practices of sustainable business and will strive for [Gold LEED](#) certification in our building remodel and operations. Our sustainable goal is to have a small environmental and carbon footprint.

Our facility is 30,000 sq ft of indoor space that will be broken up into 4 floors. There will be three sterile modified aeroponic/ hydroponic- cultivation floors (roughly 22,000 sq ft). Separately, there will be an entire floor that will serve as our laboratory space, which will be used for the following purposes, but not limited to: *bacterial testing, fungal testing, water quality testing, cultivation media preparation, extractions, cannabinoid and terpene qualitative and quantitative testing (internal use), and biomaterial processing lab facility*. The fourth floor, in part, will also serve as the “drying/curing” floor. We intend to be licensed by the State of Rhode Island to grow, produce, distribute and sell industrial hemp and it’s biomass as an agricultural product. Our facility is not open to the public and we will not be selling on a retail basis.

Meet the Rhody Farms team:

Robin Robinson

Michael J. Budziszek II., PhD.

William J. Hurley

Is hemp the same as marijuana?

Hemp is a specific type of cannabis known scientifically as [Cannabis sativa L.](#) The handling and processing of hemp and hemp products was made legal by the [2018 Farm Bill](#). Though they are both part of the same family, hemp, as defined by the 2018 Farm Bill, contains less than

[0.3% THC](#), the psychoactive component of medical grade cannabis (commonly referred to as “medical marijuana”), dry weight. Our company will use certified hemp seeds, seeds of known 0.3% THC phenotype, so as to meet compliance with the [Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation \(RI DBR\), Office of Cannabis Regulation](#) and federal requirements.

Will the hemp be tested?

Upon direction from the Department of Business Regulation, Office of Cannabis Regulation, testing for THC, CBD, and/or other material characteristics such as pesticides, heavy metals, and microbial concentration, on a dry weight or per volume basis, will be performed by an approved testing facility. Any test result greater than 0.3% THC is exceeding the allowable limit and we would not be in compliance with the Act and regulations. This hemp product, plant, material or derivatives are prohibited from entering the hemp stream of commerce and will be destroyed, as prescribed by the regulatory agency.

How will we be growing hemp?

We will be growing our hemp using a proprietary modified aeroponic/ hydroponic- cultivation method developed by our Chief Scientific Officer, Michael Budziszek, II, Ph.D., a.k.a. “*Dr Bud*”. He is a [professor](#) of Plant and Molecular Biology at [Johnson & Wales University, Providence, RI.](#), where he is one of the developers of the [Cannabis Entrepreneurship](#) degree program. Our business will cultivate hemp using hydroponic grow methods supplemented with artificial lighting (LED), and artificial atmospheric control (atmospheric gases like carbon dioxide, oxygen and water vapor). Our approach to growing hemp will conform with all rules and regulations set forth by the USDA as well as the State of Rhode Island. Our facility is set up for perpetual harvesting, where both vegetative and flowering plant life cycle phases will be controlled.

In addition, as part of our sustainable efforts, we plan to reuse and recycle as much of the spent hydroponic water as possible. We plan to do this by incorporating a reverse osmosis and ultraviolet (UV) light processing . We plan to convert our waste water to usable cultivation water, thus decreasing our water footprint.

How will we be extracting/processing hemp?

We will extract market valuable cannabinoid and terpenes using these following extraction techniques: heat & pressure (a.k.a. Rosin press), separation and purification via alcohol (ethanol) rotary evaporation, and dry ice separation of trichomes from plant biomass.

What is our operations plan?

Our four floor facility will be two parts:

Farm- which will be the “grow” portion of the operation, with lighting and hydroponic systems on Floors 1, 2 and 3.

Lab/Processing/Testing/Drying- which will be located on the 4th Floor, and will be used to test for microbial contamination and the extraction, isolation and purification of various cannabinoids and terpenes from hemp biomass.

The Farm will be built out, over time to help create a “6x Annual Harvest”, with two grow phases per floor- allowing our grows to be ready every 8 weeks at a minimum.

What is our odor mitigation plan, including our HVAC plan?

Our farm will use a negative air pressure, odor ionization and activated carbon filtering system to mitigate odors. Air leaving our system will be scrubbed, as previously mentioned, of the characteristic odor associated with cultivating and processing cannabis. Filters used in our system will be replaced on a regular basis, and especially if an odorous plant calls for it, on a frequent basis. Our initial “operational build out” of our building incorporates the use of closed cell foam, coated with a vapor barrier paint, on all exterior walls and ceilings. This helps in controlling the internal atmospheric conditions and ensures that no air is freely entering or leaving our facility.

Rhody Farms will be using Air Filtration Systems that provide the following:

“Within The Grow Room”

Hepa Saving Prefilter- to catch “large particles”

Hepa Filter System- to capture mold/mildew/contaminants... filter cartridges changed out every six (6) months.

Carbon Canister- Odor Eliminating 7 lbs (minimum) of Activated Carbon, to capture and absorb odors... changed out every twelve (12) months.

Pleated After Filter- to capture any final airborne contaminants

“Exhaust” to the “Neighborhood”

Air that is exhausted to the outdoors from the grow rooms will have Carbon Canister Filtration Systems installed inline for the circulation for any air leaving (or entering) the building.

Each “Canister” consists of the following:

Carbon Exhaust Filter

Inline Carbon Filter

Replacement Carbon Prefilters... replaced every six (6) months.

What is our general safety plan?

Rhody Farms maintains and updates an “Employee/Business Safety Plan” that contains the following information:

Management Commitment and Involvement
Safety Committee Operation
Provision for Safety and Health Training
Safety Inspections
Preventive Maintenance
First Aid Procedures
Accident Investigations
Recordkeeping of Injuries
Job Specific Safety Rules and Procedures

How will we store equipment, product and materials at Rhody Farms?

All grown “Hemp” will be separated to be stored in as three separate parts:

Stalk
Leaves
Flower

Some of the product may be “air vacuumed” for space (not flower).

All of the above will be stored in opaque containers, air tight, and be moved out of the building to our processing/purchases as soon as possible- to assure freshness and quality.

What is our fire prevention and safety plan?

We are working directly with the East Providence Fire Department to make sure we are up to code with our industrial sprinkler system, our evacuation plan, our egress, emergency access, hydrant locations and extension of fire alarm to Rhody Farms, making sure they’re all acceptable and compliant to the department.

How will you regulate and control your inventory, from seed to sale?

We have retained a monthly software company named *Biotrack*, who is the leading hemp tracking software that tracks and reports “seed to sale”. The system is built for growers in the industry and provides support tracking, barcoding, inventory tracking, labeling, and data collection system using traceability standards.

The process of tracking:

- **CULTIVATION**
Upon propagation from a seed, each plant or clone is assigned a globally unique 16 digit identifier. This identifier records and archives plant phases, additives and employee interactions to ensure accountability and adhere to regulations during the plants’ maturation.

- HARVEST
All plant components are batched by material-type. Batched material receives a new 16 digit identifier that contains plant history since propagation. Batched material includes prepackaged goods or derivatives such as oil concentrate.
- QA TESTING
Hemp and plant derivatives are then tested for chemicals, contaminants and other harmful additives prior to entering the marketplace. Test results, including potency, are automatically assigned and printed on product labels.
- TRANSPORTATION
A detailed manifest must be completed prior to transporting the hemp plant. The manifest displays the shipments' origin, a detailed contents list including quantity, destination and driver credentials, displaying the entire chain of custody. Manifest reports are available for law enforcement in real-time.
- DISPENSARY
In addition to linking products to plant origin, each sale is tracked to the patient or customer. This completes the unbroken chain of custody from seed-to-sale.
- TRACEABILITY PORTAL
The traceability portal is a secure, online, data hub that provides detailed analytics for regulatory agencies and law enforcement. The data allows law enforcement to track cannabis transportation and inventory in real-time. Detailed financial reports are available for the Department of Revenue or other agencies. This ensures compliance and adherence to industry standards and state laws.

How will we be selling our hemp?

Our plan is to manufacture and sell bulk hemp to a processing plant, who will return us the CBD Oils/Extractions as we request, and package for distribution.

How much time do we anticipate having all 4 phases of the building complete?

We will begin our first "grow" on the south side of the second floor, hopefully for Feb 2022. Then add the north side of the second floor almost immediately after.

The Third Floor grow would hopefully start by Fall of 2022.

The Fourth Floor Processing will be the "third project"- which may be done simultaneously with the final grow- added to the first floor.

The Second Floor design will be followed- and hopefully more easily deployed and managed as we add the additional rooms/floors.

What are our construction costs?

Each floor may exceed \$400,000- pending the lighting systems used, as well as the total layout of the room. (detailed construction cost breakdown submitted)

