



THE CARBON FARM

HEMP CULTIVATION | SOIL REGENERATION

A Farmers Guide to Working with The Carbon Farm *Regenerate, Profit, Thrive*

A Typical Hemp Season:

This easy to grow annual crop naturally mitigates the need for fungicides, herbicides and pesticides. This makes it a perfect crop for implementing regenerative principles, which saves money by lowering input costs. Our experience shows the following seasons yield can see upwards of a 15% increase; this is supported by research in 'Molecules', a reputable peer reviewed scientific journal.

The Process:

- Land prepared for spring drilling (mid-April).
- Stand back, watch it grow.
- Harvest (mid-August) ~100 days.
- Leave in the field to ret (rot) ~ 2 - 6 weeks.
- Ted, windrow and bale.
- Straw is ready for sale.

Industrial hemp has a long history of cultivation in the UK, dating as far back as the middle ages: it is an incredible break crop.

Why Industrial Hemp?

Industrial hemp is the perfect crop to imitate regenerative practices on a farm because it improves soil structure and creates a nutrient pump due to its deep root network. This pulls both nutrients and water back up the soil profile from much deeper than other cash crops, which improves soil infiltration rates and creates increased drought resilience.

Hemp typically requires no pesticides, herbicides or fungicides due to its fast growth. It creates an umbrella canopy to shade out competitive plants and consumes far less nitrogen than other crops. Its deep root structure also buries soil organic carbon (SOC) deep down away from mechanical or environmental intervention.

Our Purpose:

The Carbon Farm will boost biodiversity by overseeing the cultivation of hemp and the promotion of regenerative agriculture. Through education, collaboration and farm support: the company will showcase sustainable agronomy and maximise hems natural benefits as a raw material, soil revitaliser and carbon consumer.

The current mainstream farming practices are becoming financially unsustainable. The growing level of risk in agriculture is deterring future generations from entering into the industry. We will be a contingency to support farms in times of crisis and provide a farming model that is sustainable and resilient.



The Law of Industrial Hemp In The UK:

Cultivating industrial hemp falls under the Controlled Drugs and Firearms License which ensures separation to the controlled substance. We help in securing and maintaining this license.

Current Government Farming Incentives:

After the 2023 season the BPS (basic payment scheme) ended and was replaced with the ELM (environmental land management) and SFI (sustainable farming incentive) schemes. We help you achieve as many payments as possible by following regenerative practices.

Financial Example

Category	Estimated Cost per Hectare (£)
Seed Costs	360
Harvest Contractor	200
Contractors (other)	40/Hr
Logistics, Fuel & Maintenance	200
Total Projected Expenditure	1150 - 1500
Estimated Revenue	1200 - 2900
Projected Profit/Loss	-300 - +1750

These numbers are before individualised government farming incentives and form solely estimated costs.

Regeneration Plan:

In addition to purchasing hemp straw, we offer an individualised regeneration plan to aid in the transition from mainstream conventional farming, to a regenerative mindset.

Farm analysis and consultation

Understanding each individual farms context in order to create an actionable plan for hemp to be integrated into crop rotation. The cost of the plan will also be designed with the farm in order to be transparent and understand the preferred speed of implementation and budget.

Baseline and control measures

Take baseline measurements, above and below ground, to create a datum: infiltration rates, rhizosheath conditions and VESS soil compaction and aggregation levels, for example. These measurements will be taken on a six year basis whereby soil organic carbon will begin to be see improvements.

The Carbon Farm support hub

We offer on-hand agronomic assistance through the season. For example: SAP analysis, foliar spraying and hemp specific farming advice, etc.

End of season review

We discuss what improvements could be made and begin the journey of seeing land management through a holistic lens: tree planting, water infrastructure, and, rewilding unproductive areas of the farm to name a few.

Alternatively, we will purchase any hemp straw as mentioned and we will have minimal involvement in your agronomic decision making, if preferred.



Frequently Asked Questions:

Does hemp require specialist machinery?

Yes. Specialist hemp cutters are required for harvest; we provide access to this service. All other machinery is standard.

Will hemp create problems for next seasons crop?

No. We harvest before seed maturity; hems extensive root system improves soil structure and aeration as it biodegrades.

Are there any security risks to my farm when growing industrial hemp?

Industrial hemp is a fibre crop that produces straw; we advise notifying the police and the local authorities on the specific acreage. The hemp we cultivate is useless for unlawful purposes and any interference by the public would be a complete waste of effort.

Will you purchase conventionally grown hemp?

Yes. We purchase conventionally grown crop, yet, we pay a premium for following our bespoke regeneration plan for your farm.

Is hemp an annual or perennial crop?

Industrial hemp is one of the fastest growing annual crops in the world.

What are The Carbon Farm's quality parameters for the hemp?

We purchase hemp for straw; we do not buy seed.

The metric we follow for soil health is the Brix score; we understand that each individual farm has its own context and we offer a simple to follow pricing structure.

What is retting?

Leaving the crop to chemically separate before baling.

What happens if I can't bale in time?

Even if baled in spring we can still offer a point of purchase, depending on condition.

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