

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Agriculture

4/14/2021

HEMP COULD BECOME ONE OF UPSTATE NEW YORK'S BIGGEST CROPS. STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATORS ARE FINALLY ALLOWING TEST CULTIVATION OF THE CROP FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES. THE PLANT WAS ONCE A MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT HERE IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY, USED FOR MAKING ROPES, FABRICS, AND ANIMAL FEED. BUT CULTIVATION WAS BANNED WHEN MARIJUANA BECAME A SCHEDULE 1 DRUG. INDUSTRIAL HEMP IS THE SAME PLANT AS CANNABIS, BUT FARMED STRAINS DON'T HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT LEVELS OF THE T-H-C THAT PRODUCES MARIJUANA'S HIGH.

4/22/2021

A CYCLE OF BOOM AND BUST IS DEVASTATING LOCAL DAIRY FARMERS. THE SOARING POPULARITY OF GREEK YOGURT HELPED FUEL AN EXPLOSION IN THE DEMAND FOR MILK, BUT FARMERS WHO EXPANDED THEIR HERDS TO MEET THE DEMAND NOW FIND THEMSELVES FACING PLUMMETING MILK PRICES. NOW MILK CONTRACTS WITH AREA FARMS ARE BEING CANCELLED IN RESPONSE TO THE FREEFALL, LEAVING FARMERS DESPERATE FOR SALES EVEN AS THEY TRY TO PAY OFF THE EXPENSES OF THEIR EARLIER EXPANSIONS.

4/23/2021

AGRICULTURE IS BOOMING ACROSS NEW YORK. NEW FIGURES SHOW SALES OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES HAVE SOARED 35 PERCENT OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS. A MAJOR FORCE FOR THAT GROWTH IS THE LOCAL FOOD MOVEMENT, WHICH HAS TAKEN HOLD HERE IN THE UTICA ROME AREA. SMALL FARMS ARE OFFERING LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE, POULTRY, AND MEAT, MUCH OF IT ORGANICALLY GROWN. THE BIGGEST GROWTH HAS COME IN THE SALE OF LOCALLY PRODUCED CHICKEN AND EGGS, WHICH HAS JUMPED 63 PERCENT.

5/20/2021

UTICA COULD SOON BE HOME TO ONE OF THE LARGEST MARIJUANA FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES. MEDMEN ALREADY RUNS A 41-THOUSAND SQUARE FOOT FACILITY AT THE FORMER BRIGHTWATER FARMS GREENHOUSES IN NORTH UTICA. NOW THEY'RE LOOKING TO EXPAND THE FACILITY BY 30-THOUSAND SQUARE FEET, AND POTENTIALLY DOUBLE THAT DOWN THE ROAD. UTICA'S PLANNING BOARD WILL TAKE UP THE EXPANSION LATER TODAY. MEDMEN OPERATES FOUR DISPENSARIES IN NEW YORK IN ADDITION TO IT'S UTICA GREENHOUSE OPERATION.