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SOURCE Izvestiya.

WILD HEMP NOT UTILIZED IN CHKALOV OBLAST

A large quantity of hemp grows wild in many regions of Chkalov Oblast, particularly along the banks of the Ural and Sakmara Rivers. In places, masses of hemp cover areas of 10, 20, and even 40 hectares.

Wild hemp has smooth, thin stems. Wet straw of hemp produces not less than 20 percent hemp fiber from which cable, string, nets, burlap, and sacks can be made. Hemp seeds contain 25-30 percent oil. Oil cake made from processed hemp is used as feed for cattle.

If all the wild hemp growing in the oblast were utilized, 2,500 to 3,000 tons of fiber could be produced yearly.

However, the hemp has not been widely used. Neither the Administration of Agriculture of Chkalov Oblast nor the Industrial Cooperative want to bother with wild hemp. Sacks, string, and hemp fiber for building are brought into Chkalov Oblast from the Ukraine, Udmurt ASSR, and other regions.

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