

NET News Reports Marijuana Is Growing Problem in Western Nebraska

Nebraska law enforcement officials tell NET News they are “awash” in marijuana cultivated in Colorado since that state legalized use of medical marijuana. NET News reporter/producer Bill Kelly investigates why in an upcoming “Signature Story,” airing Wednesday, March 6, at 6:30 and 8:30 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. CT on NET Radio.

Marijuana is the most widely available and frequently abused illegal drug in Nebraska, and it’s recently become more of a problem in Western Nebraska. Law enforcement officers in the panhandle are seeing a substantial increase in the amount of marijuana, as well as its quality. They are attributing the growth to the legalization of medical marijuana in Colorado, Washington and California. Most of the marijuana in Western Nebraska is thought to come from the neighboring state of Colorado.

“Marijuana out of Colorado is having a local impact because it is flooding, just flooding the market place. It’s everywhere,” said Dana Korell with the Nebraska State Patrol. A follow-up study by the U.S. Justice Department shows evidence that Colorado’s efforts to regulate marijuana are not working, and that “medical” marijuana is being diverted for recreational purposes.

In this “Signature Story,” Kelly investigates the increased presence of marijuana in Western Nebraska, and talks to state and local law enforcement officers about how to stop this growing problem.

NET Radio is a service of NET. For more information about NET Radio programming, go to netNebraska.org and click on “Radio.” To listen to a live webcast of NET Radio programming visit netNebraska.org/radio. Or, download the free NET Radio Nebraska App in the iTunes and Android markets to access NET Radio’s live streams and archives of NET News stories.

NET News contact: Bill Kelly, 402-472-9333, ext. 484, or e-mail at wkelly@netNebraska.org
Release written by: Kim Rogers, 402-472-9333, ext. 512, or e-mail krogers@netNebraska.org