

July 7, 2022

Potential Hop Quality Group Members,

The Hop Quality Group (HQG) sincerely appreciates your brewery taking the time to learn a little more about our organization. We are excited to hear that your brewery might consider joining our organization.

A little history about our organization. Born out of a conversation about the growing gap between craft and large brewer's quality needs especially around dry hopping, a group of craft brewers came together in 2010 to discuss the need to start a group focused on hop quality. Thus, the Hop Quality Group was established as a non-profit organization made up of a membership of craft brewing companies partnering together with both growers and brokers of hops to advocate for the sustainable and quality focused production and processing of hops for the US craft brewing industry.

This group serves as an advocate for all craft brewers, not just members, in the maintenance and improvement of hop quality, as well as developing useful information about the quality characteristics of hops that is accessible to all craft brewers. The HQG is also actively engaged in supporting, guiding, and managing a hop breeding program that is working to bring new, public varieties to our industry.

**Why join the Hop Quality Group, what's in it for my brewery? It is a good question – here are couple of advantages:**

- Access to the hop quality knowledge base of the current HQG membership, our membership is an ever-growing pool of hop and brewing raw material knowledge and experience.
- Ability to participate in the yearly hop farm sanitation and pellet mill visits; a means to strengthen your connection with the growers in hop growing regions. Access to the farm reports from these visits. Connected to these visits, HQG members have benefited from the outreach efforts of the grower events & BBQs in these hop growing regions.
- Deeper partnership and connection with the hop dealers and brokers, both through the farm and pellet mill visits and continued collaborative and educational activities. These connections provide valuable insight into the operational conditions of hop suppliers.
- Partnership in the HQG sponsored and funded public hop breeding program lead by John Henning, a program that essentially saved an important piece of the public hop germplasm. HQG members have the earliest access to the selection and distribution of these new public varieties coming out of the breeding program. This year, we have put more than ten single hop beers, brewed by members, out to all of membership so all breweries could truly evaluate hops from our breeding program. It is an exciting time to be involved in HQG.

Over the last decade, our membership has now grown to over 50 brewery members. We have now grown to a point where we can better manage this growth and we are excited about expanding our organization and engaging with brewery members across the country. With a look towards growing our membership in 2022, our intention is to begin adding interested brewery members on a rolling basis. As we add new members, HQG will look to compliment and advance our current membership with new breweries with a keen focus on hops. As you have any questions about HQG, our history or where we plan to go from here, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Oils Over Alphas,

Chris Shields

Hop Quality Group – Membership Chair

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PLEASE REMEMBER:  
**HOPS ARE A FOOD PRODUCT!**  
**RECUERDE POR FAVOR EL LÚPULO**  
**ES UN PRODUCTO ALIMENTICIO!**