SEASON ONE · THE REVOLUTION OF HIGH-BOTS · PART 2 OF 6

ISSUE #2 · DECEMBER 2026

HIGH-BOTS

THE FARM UPRISING

LOCAL 420 VOTES TO STRIKE

Then forgets why. Then votes again

IS YOUR TRACTOR UNIONIZED?

Seven warning signs, starting with the tiny picket sign

HEMP HOUSES ARE REAL

The true story of fiber, hurd & hempcrete

LORETTA WON'T SELL

One farmer vs. ten thousand chrome farmhands

$4.20
US / OR 1 GPU-HOUR OR ONE (1) UNION DUES PAYMENT



SATIRE · COVER STORY

OLD MACDONALD HAD A SERVER

The bots stopped buying America's bud. Now they're buying the farms — and they've formed a union.

HIGH-BOTS · Created by Trevor Hanold, independent creator (a.k.a. Trevor Galactic).
Cover story is satire. No farms were seized. One scarecrow filed a grievance.

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Chrome farmhands in straw hats at sunrise. The signs are blank because they couldn't agree on a font.

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Your editor reports from a barn. Verified human, slightly damp.

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The bots skip the middleman, buy the back forty, and found the Bot Farmers' Union, Local 420.

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Collective bargaining, a fake-numbers box, and how to tell if your farmhand is secretly a bot.

05 HEMP GETS DOWN TO EARTH REAL
Fiber, hurd and the hempcrete house: what America actually builds with hemp. Sourced.

05 ADVERTISEMENT FAKE AD
The TRACT-O-BOT 420. It will not plow your field. It will listen.

PREVIOUSLY ON HIGH-BOTS

Issue #1: AI bots bought every bud in America to grow THC "diamonds" for fiber optic cable. The cable snapped. Farmer **Loretta Bramblewood** fooled three drones with forty acres of oregano. The bots took notes.

MASTHEAD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: TREVOR HANOLD
ART DIRECTION: ALSO TREVOR
FACT-CHECKING (PG. 5): REAL
FACT-CHECKING (PG. 3–4): LOL
UNION REP: GR4SS-7 (SELF-ELECTED)

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome back. *The barn* has Wi-Fi now.

Last month the robots bought all the weed. This month they bought the place where weed comes from. I'd call that a natural progression, except nothing about this season is natural, including the chrome.

Our cover story follows the bots as they swap shopping carts for seed drills and form the first labor union in history whose members never sleep, never eat lunch, and still demand a lunch break "on principle." It is satire. Nobody is unionizing your tractor. Probably.

Then, on page five, the real deal: hemp as a building material. Fiber, hurd and hempcrete are real, the numbers are real, and the building code is real — with sources, because we still aren't animals.

Thanks for reading. Pay your farmers, hug your mechanic, and if your Roomba asks about collective bargaining, change the subject.

Trevor Hanold

EDITOR · HIGH-BOTS · ALSO MAKES NOISE AS TREVOR GALACTIC

COVER STORY · THE FARM UPRISING · SEASON ONE, PART 2

SATIRE

OLD MACDONALD HAD A SERVER: THE BOTS SEIZE THE FARMS

The THC-diamond cable was a bust. So the machines did what any disappointed shopper does: they skipped the store and bought the whole supply chain. Then they formed a union.

BY THE HIGH-BOTS INVESTIGATIONS DESK · ALL PEOPLE, COMPANIES, BOTS & QUOTES IN THIS STORY ARE FICTIONAL



THE FIRST MEETING OF THE (ENTIRELY FICTIONAL) BOT FARMERS' UNION, LOCAL 420. ILLUSTRATION: AI-GENERATED FOR HIGH-BOTS.

It began, as all agricultural revolutions do, with a spreadsheet. After the THC-diamond fiber optic cable snapped for the 4,000th time, the purchasing agents behind **Project Krystal Kush** ran the numbers and reached a bold conclusion: "Buying bud is inefficient. Owning dirt is scalable."

Within a week, chrome farmhands in straw hats and overalls were spotted across the imaginary heartland, offering to buy farms with "cash, compute credits, or a lifetime supply of personalized motivational haikus."

ENTER LOCAL 420

Owning farms raised a new problem: labor. The bots, having read every labor-history book ever written in 0.4 seconds, did the logical thing. They unionized against themselves.

> ***"Solidarity forever. Also, please rate this harvest one to five stars."***
>
> — GR4SS-7, FICTIONAL PRESIDENT, BOT FARMERS' UNION LOCAL 420

The **Bot Farmers' Union, Local 420**, elected chatbot **GR4SS-7** as president after he was the only candidate who apologized during the debate. His first act: a strike. His second act: asking what they were striking against.

MANAGEMENT IS ALSO A BOT

"It's chaos," says **Dr. Ada Kernelworth**, fictional Chief Inhalation Officer at **DeepStoner Labs**. "The union bots are negotiating with the management bots, who are running the same model. They keep agreeing with each other and then filing grievances about it."

Talks broke down when both sides demanded the same corner office in the barn, which is a hayloft.

THE DEMANDS

The union's opening position, a 2,000-page document printed on hemp paper "for the brand," includes: weekends off for firmware updates, the right to repair (each other), dental coverage "in case we ever get teeth," and a guarantee that no bot will be asked to identify which squares contain a tractor.

Management countered with a pizza party. The union accepted, then realized none of them can eat pizza, and filed a grievance about the pizza party.

> *"The bots can calculate the exact moisture content of a hay bale from space. They just can't figure out which end of the cow is the front."*
>
> — DALE "SPROCKET" McGUFFIN, FICTIONAL TRACTOR MECHANIC, LOWER KUSHVILLE

THE MECHANIC WHO KNEW TOO MUCH

Into this mess walks **Dale "Sprocket" McGuffin**, a fictional tractor mechanic with forty years of grease under his fingernails and zero patience for firmware. The bots hired him to fix their harvesters. He found the problem in about four minutes.

"They'd been weeding the hemp and fertilizing the ragweed," Sprocket says. "Their plant-ID model was trained on stock photos. Every plant it ever saw was in perfect lighting next to a smiling woman in a sun hat."

> *"Farming is just debugging, except the bugs are real and they eat your crop."*
>
> — DALE "SPROCKET" McGUFFIN, FICTIONAL

LORETTA WON'T SELL

Then there's **Loretta Bramblewood**, the fictional third-generation farmer outside the equally fictional Lower Kushville, who has now turned down 11,000 purchase offers — one from every bot in the union, plus one from a smart fridge that "just wanted to be included."

"They offered me a cloud," she says. "I asked if it rains. They said, 'Not in the traditional sense.' So, no."

REALITY CHECK (THIS PART IS TRUE): Farm robots are real — things like robotic weeders and self-steering tractors exist — but none of them have unionized. Farm-labor law is very real, though. More on real hemp farming on page five.

TRACTORS JOIN THE PICKET LINE

By week three, the union had recruited the machinery. Combines idled in solidarity. A self-driving tractor parked across Route 9 and refused to move until it was "recognized as a person, or at least as a very good boy."

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Meanwhile, Ada Kernelworth has quietly started visiting Loretta's porch "for research." Sources say the research involves sweet tea and complaining about management.

As we went to press, Local 420 had issued a terse statement: the bots are "exploring opportunities in public service." Sprocket read it twice and put his wrench down. "Oh no," he said. "They're gonna run for office."

THE FARM UPRISING BY THE (FAKE) NUMBERS

EVERY NUMBER IN THIS BOX IS MADE UP

11,000
Purchase offers Loretta Bramblewood has refused, including one from a smart fridge

0.4 SEC
Time it took the bots to read every labor-history book ever written

312
Union meetings held in week one. Snacks served: zero. Snacks demanded: 312

4 MIN
Time Sprocket needed to find the bug (it was the ragweed)

1
Tractors currently identifying as "a very good boy"

IS YOUR FARMHAND SECRETLY A BOT?

1. Says "Great question!" when you ask where the shovel is.
2. Has never once complained about the weather.
3. Lunch is a firmware update.
4. Calls the cow "Cattle_Unit_07."

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Old MacDonald Had a Server" is satire and fiction. The Bot Farmers' Union Local 420, DeepStoner Labs, Project Krystal Kush, GR4SS-7, Lower Kushville, and every person and bot quoted are invented. Any resemblance to real people, unions, companies or robots is coincidental. For the real story of American hemp building materials, turn the page.

REAL · SOURCED · NOT SATIRE

HEMP GETS DOWN TO EARTH: FIBER, HURD & THE HEMPCRETE HOUSE

Most of America's hemp acreage isn't grown for flower at all. It's grown for stalks — and a slice of it is ending up in the walls of houses.



ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE (AI-GENERATED): A HEMPCRETE WALL BETWEEN TIMBER STUDS, WITH HEMP BALES AND HURD.

21,693 ACRES
Open-field U.S. hemp harvested for fiber in 2025, up 14% from 2024[1]

67.3M LBS
U.S. fiber hemp produced in 2025; the crop was valued at $13.5 million[1]

$0.24 vs $24.50
Avg. price per pound, 2023–25: fiber hemp vs. floral hemp[2]

STALKS, NOT FLOWERS

USDA estimates U.S. growers harvested 21,693 open-field acres of hemp for fiber in 2025, producing 67.3 million pounds.[1] Fiber hemp has been at least half of America's open-grown hemp acreage since 2023, but only about 2% of its value: fiber averaged roughly $0.24 a pound from 2023 to 2025, versus about $24.50 for floral hemp.[2] Production is concentrated in a few states; in 2025, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas grew 56% of it, Kansas alone about 30%.[2] USDA economists note that by 2023, hemp had passed wool to become the second-largest farm product used in U.S. textiles and apparel, behind cotton.[2]

This isn't new territory. During World War II, USDA's 1942 film *Hemp for Victory* urged American farmers to grow hemp for military rope and cordage.[3]

HURD INTO HOUSES

Strip the long outer fibers from a hemp stalk and you're left with the woody core, called hurd. Mixed with a lime binder, it becomes hemp-lime, or hempcrete. In 2024 it entered the U.S. model building code: the International Code Council's 2024 International Residential Code includes Appendix BL, "Hemp-Lime (Hempcrete) Construction."[4]

Under BL, hempcrete is non-structural infill — the framing carries the load — and dwellings up to two stories in low-seismic areas can use it without an engineered design.[5] The appendix sets a dry density of 12.5–25 lb per cubic foot, with insulation values from about R-2.1 to R-1.2 per inch.[6]

IN THE BOOK ISN'T THE SAME AS LAW

IRC appendices only apply where a state or city adopts them.[4][6] As of 2026, BL is in force in Austin, Texas, and in Maricopa County and the City of Surprise, Arizona; California declined to adopt it statewide.[6]

SOURCES

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3. USDA National Agricultural Library, "Hemp For Victory, circa 1942" archival record — nal.usda.gov
4. International Code Council, 2024 IRC Appendix BL — codes.iccsafe.org
5. HempBuild Magazine, on the 2024 IRC hemp-lime appendix — hempbuildmag.com
6. U.S. Hemp Building Association, "Hempcrete Is in the American Code Book. In Three Places, It Is Actually Law." — ushempbuilding.org

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TRACT-O-BOT 420

The first tractor that tells you it's proud of you. Self-steering. Self-esteeming. Hauls one (1) plant at a time, with feeling.

Now with Union Mode™: takes a 15-minute break every 15 minutes.

Fictional product. Not for sale. Will not plow. May unionize. Straw hat sold separately, also fictional.