

History

The North American Weed Free Program (formerly the Regional Forage Certification Program) was initiated in 1991 by some of the Western States.

In the late 1990's the North America Weed Management Association took over the program and created minimum standards.

Many states have accepted these standards. For a list of the states that have the minimum standards in place contact the weed free chairman on the web. The standards, weed list, and committee members can be found on our web-site:

www.nawma.org

NORTH AMERICAN
WEED MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION

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Granby, CO 80446
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**Weed Free
Certification
Standards**



ANSWERS TO YOUR
QUESTIONS ABOUT
THE WEED FREE
CERTIFICATION
PROGRAM

Weed Free Forage Certification

There is a growing demand in North America for the use of certified weed free forage and mulch as a preventative program in integrated Weed Management Systems to limit the spread of noxious weeds.

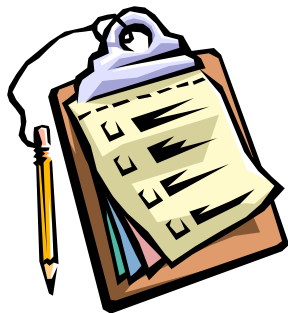
The goal of the weed-free forage standard is to provide a guideline to set minimum requirements for uniform participation of the various provinces and states in the program.

The standards are designed. . .

- to provide some assurance to all participants that forage certified through this program meets a minimum acceptable standard.
- to provide continuity between the various provinces and states in the program.
- to limit the spread of noxious weeds through forage and mulch.

Why is there a demand for certified hay?

- To protect natural resources.
- To protect the natural habitat for wildlife.
- To preserve the aesthetic value of our natural scenery.
- To prevent the introduction and continuing spread of noxious weeds.
- To assure the customer is buying certified forage.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Is certified forage required in certain regions?

Yes. Certain provinces, states, and federal agencies have forage-restricted areas where forage must meet the North American weed free certification (NAWFF) standards. Check with state or provincial authorities.

Can forage be certified in another state or province and allowed to move freely through interstate commerce?

Yes. Forage can be certified in any state or province by the authorized representative if it meets the NAWFF standards. Certified forage may or may not meet the forage quality standards adopted by the Hay Marketing Task Force.



How do I know I'm buying certified forage?

After the field is inspected, the producer will receive a "Certificate of Inspection". When the forage is transported, the transporter will receive a "Transit Certificate" form from the proper authority. Some hay will have a special color coded twine (orange and blue) or a certification tag.

How do I get my forage certified?

Contact your area representative prior to cutting or harvesting. If you don't know your representative call the Department of Ag or Provincial representative.

BENEFITS

How does it benefit you?

- Intra and interstate as well in international commerce.
- Protect natural resources.
- Preserve the value of your land.

What does the certification program provide?

- State/Provincial wide policies and recommendations.
- Certified forage for livestock, wildlife and vegetation projects.
- An opportunity to move forage freely in restricted areas, intrastate, interstate., and international.
- A supply of certified forage.



Remember, it's your land. Let's protect it!!

NAWMA

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