

PROCEDURES FOR CERTIFIED WEED FREE FORAGE CROP PRODUCERS

Purpose of Program:

- ◆ The purpose of the certified weed free forage program is to inspect forage or mulch before it is harvested to verify that there are no propagative plant parts of noxious weeds.
- ◆ The use of certified weed free forage and mulch is intended to reduce the spread of noxious weeds in public lands or other areas where forage or mulch is used.
- ◆ Legislation authorizing the Colorado Department of Agriculture to create a weed free forage certification program and perform requested inspections was adopted by the Colorado General Assembly in 1993 (Title 35, Article 27.5 **Colorado Revised Statutes, 1997 Supp.**, Weed Free Forage Crop Certification Act.

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 provinces and states in the program.
- ◆ To limit the spread of noxious weeds through forage and mulch.

Certification Procedures:

- ◆ The producer will schedule all inspections through the Department of Agriculture. Contact the Department at **(303) 239-4149** ten (10) days prior to the date you wish to cut the forage. The Department will make all necessary arrangements to inspect your forage.
- ◆ Give the following information to the Department of Agriculture when you call for an appointment.
Your name, phone number, address, number of acres to be certified, and date you require inspection.

Assign field numbers to fields. The field numbers will be used in the identification number found in the upper right corner of the "Certificate of Inspection" and also used on the "Transit Certificate" to track the forage certified in each field.

Estimate amount of special colored twine or galvanized wire needed to bale the forage allowing one strand of wire or twine around each bale.

Indicate if twine needed is for small bales or large one ton bales.

- ◆ Before the inspector can inspect the field, a "Weed Free Forage Certification Inspection Request Form" must be completed.
- ◆ The forage **must** be cut within **ten (10)** days of the inspection date. If unable to cut within

10 days, contact the Department at (303) 239-4149 to arrange for re-inspection.

- ◆ The producer **must** call the Department with the cutting date and bale count for each field. The forage will be tracked by the identification found in the upper right corner of the "Certificate of Inspection".
- ◆ When we receive the cutting date and bale count from the producer, we will complete and mail the "Certificate of Inspection" to the producer. The producer will also receive a "Statement of Inspection Fee" from the Department. The producer will keep the white copy and return the pink copy to the Department with payment in full within 10 days of the invoice date.
- ◆ The Certified Weed Free Forage Crop Certification program is an industry funded program. The law requires that fees be charged to cover all direct and indirect costs of the program. The producer will be charged the following: Inspection time, driving time, mileage, administrative and an acreage fee in addition to the twine or wire.
- ◆ The producer will be billed directly through the Department of Agriculture. An inspector may not inspect any fields in which he or she has ownership or financial interest.
- ◆ If required by the purchaser, a "Transit Certificate" may accompany all inspected forage sold. The Transit Certificate must contain the inspection certificate identification, the producer's name, and the number of bales purchased. The producer shall complete the Transit Certificate and return a copy to the Department.

Regional List of Noxious Weeds:

Colorado is a part of the Regional Weed Free Forage program. Forage that is regionally certified in Colorado will be accepted in all states participating in the Regional Weed Free Forage program. The regional list of noxious weeds is as follows:

Absinth wormwood	Biennial wormwood
Bermudagrass	Buffalobur
Canada thistle	Common burdock
Common crupina	Common tansy
Dalmatian toadflax	Diffuse knapweed
Dyers woad	Field bindweed
Hemp	Henbane, black
Hoary cress	Horsenettle
Houndstongue	Johnsongrass
Jointed goatgrass	Leaky spurge
Loosestrife	Matgrass
Meadow knapweed	Medusahed
Milium	Musk thistle
Orange hawkweed	Ox-eye daisy
Perennial pepperweed	Perennial sowthistle
Plumeless thistle	Poison hemlock
Puncture vine	Quackgrass
Rush skeletonweed	Russian knapweed
Scentless chamomille	Mayweed/chamomille
Scotch broom	Scotch thistle
Silverleaf nightshade	Skeletonleaf bursage
Sorghum-almum	Spotted knapweed
Squarrose knapweed	St. Johnswort
Sulfur cinquefoil	Syrian bean caper
Tansy ragwort	Toothed spurge
Yellow hawkweed	Yellow starthistle
Yellow toadflax	Wild proso millet
Wild oats	

The Certified Weed Free Forage Program is designed to benefit:

- ◆ Producers of forage
- ◆ Purchasers of forage
- ◆ Outdoor recreationists
- ◆ Sportspersons & hunters
- ◆ Private & public landowners

Frequently asked questions:

Where is certified forage required:

- ◆ Certain public and provincial lands have areas that require regional weed free forage. Weed free forage is required on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands, in National Parks and Monuments, Bureau of Reclamation land, Military Reservations, Tribal Lands, and National Fish & Wildlife Refuges.

- ◆ Restrictions may apply to other lands administered by provincial, county, state or federal agencies. Check with local agencies for the most current information.

What can a producer do to insure his field will pass inspection?

- ◆ A producer may treat his fields by utilizing methods to prevent weed seed formation including, but not limited to, burning, mowing, roguing, mechanical methods, or chemically treating.

What does the Weed Free Forage Program provide?

- ◆ Supports uniform standards and policy.
- ◆ Certified forage for livestock, wildlife and vegetation projects.
- ◆ An opportunity to move forage freely in restricted areas, both intrastate and interstate.
- ◆ A producer list of available certified forage.

CERTIFIED WEED FREE FORAGE

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