

Certified Noxious Weed Free

Why has a Certified Noxious Weed Free Program Been Created?

- Regulations requiring certified noxious weed free forage, straw, mulches or other products are expected to be implemented on many federal and state lands. Weed-infested hays, straws, mulches or other products are one of the ways noxious weeds are spread onto public lands.
- Weed infested products severely impact ecological systems. Certification is a tool to help prevent the spread noxious weeds which once established cost tax payers significant amounts of money to implement control measures.
- A certification program provides users with a source that is unlikely to introduce noxious weeds to public lands. Uses may include hay, forage, straw, mulches, erosion control materials and others.
- It creates a niche market for producers and promotes good stewardship.

Certification Does Not:

- *Guarantee* the absence of noxious weeds.
- Certify quality, protein content, maturity, or hay safety.
- Address native, possibly poisonous, weeds. It also does not address insects or other pests.
- Uses the North American Weed Management Association noxious weed list as well as the New Mexico noxious weed list.
- Have anything to do with qualifications for foreign export.

How Does the Program Work?

- The New Mexico Noxious Weed Free Certification program is administered by the New Mexico State University Seed Certification (NMSUSC).
- A request for certification is made to the NMSUSC 10 days prior to harvest or use date. This will include a field or site inspection.
- The crop, field perimeter or facility is inspected.
- A certificate of inspection is completed and a copy is sent to the producer.
- All inspected forage is identified by specially colored twine or labels, available through NMSUSC.
- After inspection, the producer calls NMSUSC with unit count.
- NMSUSC sends Statement of Inspection Fee, which must be paid within 10 days.
- Producer records information from each sale on the certificate of inspection. When the certificate is complete, it is sent to the NMSUSC.
- Inventory sheets are completed for each sale.
- A transit certificate shall accompany all inspected products that is moved out of state.
- When applicable, the purchaser completes the transit document and returns it to the NMSUSC.

For Noxious Weed Questions

Contact New Mexico
Department of Agriculture
Jim Wanstall
(505) 565-4224
jwanstall@thuntek.net

To be Certified

Contact New Mexico State
University Seed Certification
Dr. Tracey Carrillo
(575) 646-4125
tcarrill@nmsu.edu

Inspection

- Field interior, perimeter or facility is inspected.
- A minimum of 2 entry points per field is required.
- There is a minimum of 1 entry point for every 10 acres.
- Each entry point is at least 150 feet into field.
- Storage area must also be inspected.
- Field crops must be harvested within 10 days of inspection.
- Inspector must not own or have financial interest in inspected field.

If Weeds Are Found...

- The product is not certified noxious weed free.
OR
- The product may be certified if the weeds present have been treated (burned, mowed, rogued, mechanically or chemically treated) to prevent seed formation and there is no danger of dissemination of seed or other propagative parts.

Cost of Inspections

- Inspection time - \$20/hour
- Driving time - \$20/hour
- Mileage - \$0.55/mile
- Acreage - \$2.50/acre

The fee structure is designed to allow this to be a self-supporting program.