



# New Mexico State University

## Extension Plant Sciences

### Alfalfa Market News

New Mexico Hay Association, [www.nmhay.com](http://www.nmhay.com)



New Mexico State University   □   Cooperative Extension Service   □   U.S. Department of Agriculture

Hay Prices for New Mexico

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County	Contact	Premium Hay (\$/ton)	Top Quality Hay (\$/ton)	Other Hay (\$/ton)	Cut Complete	Market Activity
Chaves	Sandra Barraza, County Agent	\$200 and up	\$190-200; \$220-240, small bales (\$7.00/bale)	\$190 (\$6.00 per bale), striped	1 <sup>st</sup> 90%	Good; Contracted cuts \$185-200 for the year (all cuts)
Dona Ana	Rafa Realivasquez, County Agent	\$5.75-6.50 per bale	\$5.00-5.50 per bale	\$4.75-5.00 per bale	1 <sup>st</sup> 100%	Good
Eddy	Woods Houghton, County Agent	\$220, last year stored \$240, first cutting	\$185-200, last year store hay	\$225-255, horse hay small bales	1 <sup>st</sup> 100%	Good
Lea	Wayne Cox, County Agent	\$215-225	\$205 and up	\$180 and up	1 <sup>st</sup> 100%	Strong
Roosevelt	Patrick Kircher, County Agent	\$210 and up; 8.00 per bale	\$250; \$200 in the field	\$6.50 per bale	1 <sup>st</sup> 75%	New Crop - Light
SE Colorado	USDA-CO	\$150-160, large bales	\$120-130, large bales	\$100, utility to fair	1 <sup>st</sup> Delayed	Slow
SW Colorado	USDA-CO	\$150-160, large \$255-290, small	\$130-140, large \$215, small	\$120, fair	1 <sup>st</sup> Delayed	Slow

### Certified Weed Free Hay

Tracey Carrillo, Director, New Mexico State University Seed Certification

The Weed Free Forage Program is back on track and moving forward. This program has had a slow transition but is picking up momentum. New Mexico is one of the last states to come aboard with the program. We are starting to see more consumer activity requesting Weed Free Forage. As demand for weed free forage increases, opportunities to fill this niche market will open. Originally this program was designed to facilitate certification of forage, free of noxious weeds listed on the North American Forage Certification standards as well as the New Mexico list of Noxious Weeds. Once a noxious weed infestation occurs the direct and indirect cost associated with control is very expensive. This program can help diminish the spread of noxious weeds while providing an opportunity for producers to take advantage of a niche market that could bring excellent returns. Certification of forage will diminish the spread of noxious weeds throughout the state by inspecting hay fields prior to cutting and identifying that forage with a certifiable label or with special NMSU Seed Certification baling twine, which can be purchased from the program. Forage which has been certified (noxious) weed free is also marketable to other states that participate with the North American Weed Management Association. Some of the past consumers of the Weed Free Forage Program have included; the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Transportation, the horse industry, and out of state users. Currently the New Mexico Hay Association website (<http://nmhay.com>) is being modified to serve as a meeting place where consumers can interact with producers.

## Weed Free Forage Program Fact Sheet

### Why has a Certified Weed Free Forage Program Been Created?

- Regulations requiring certified weed free forage are expected to be implemented on some federal lands. Weed-infested hay is one of the ways noxious and invasive weeds are spread onto public lands.
- Weed infested mulch severely impacts restoration efforts. Certification is a tool to help establish healthy vegetative communities along roadsides, in construction sites, and in restoration projects.
- A certification program provides hay feeders with a source of hay that is unlikely to introduce noxious weeds to their land. Electing to feed certified weed free hay can help prevent costly weed management later on.
- It creates a niche market for hay growers.

### 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.
- Affect interstate movement of hay and mulch. Hay will still move into and out of New Mexico without certification.
- Have anything to do with qualifications for foreign export.

### How Does The Program Work?

- The New Mexico Weed Free Forage 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 date. Crop will be certified using the North American Certified Weed Free regional list and the New Mexico Noxious Weed List.
- The crop and the field perimeter 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, available through NMSUSC.
- After inspection, the producer calls NMSUSC with bale 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 forage that is moved out of state.
- When applicable, the purchaser completes the transit document and returns it to the NMSUSC.

### Inspection

- Perimeter of the field 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 must be harvested within 10 days of inspection.
- Inspector must not own or have financial interest in inspected field.

### What Happens If Weeds Are Found...

- The hay is not certified weed free. OR
- The field 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 - \$0.505/mile
- Acreage - \$2.50/acre
- Administrative fee - \$50/inspection

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

Additional information on how to obtain an inspection, cost associated with inspections, and standards can be obtained at the NMSU Seed Certification website at <http://seedcertification.nmsu.edu> or by calling Tracey Carrillo, Director of Seed Certification and Weed Free Forage Program, at 575-646-4125. A list of noxious weeds can also be obtained at the certification website. Access the weed identification tool at the NMSU weed website <http://weeds.nmsu.edu/> for help with identifying particular weeds or contact Jamshid Ashigh, NMSU Weed Specialist at 575-646-2888 or Jim Wanstall, New Mexico Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Coordinator at 505-565-4224 for more information.

**\*\*\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\*\*\***

- Dairy Producers of New Mexico Convention, Ruidoso, NM, June 20-21, 2008. [www.nmdairy.org](http://www.nmdairy.org)

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