

CERTIFIED NOXIOUS WEED SEED FREE HAY AND STRAW PROGRAM STANDARDS

INTRODUCTION

There is a growing demand in North America for the use of certified noxious weed seed free hay and straw as a preventative program to limit the spread of noxious weeds. This voluntary certification program is designed to assure that hay and straw sold with proper certification identification meets minimum standards designed to limit the spread of noxious weeds. Buyers are provided assurance that hay and straw certified through this program meets these minimum standards.

Kentucky Seed Improvement Association (KSIA) has been designated as the official seed certifying agency in Kentucky by the University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture. KSIA has also been designated as the agency to administer a Noxious Weed Seed Free Hay and Straw Program in the state the by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

These certification standards comply with the Weed Free Forage Certification Standards developed by the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA). NAWMA has established minimum standards to allow uniform participation by states and provinces in the program. Hay and straw certified under the KSIA certification with proper certification markings attached will be eligible to be shipped into restricted areas in the United States and Canada where only hay and straw certified under the NAWMA Standards can be used.

The standards are designed:

- to limit the spread of noxious weeds through hay and straw.
- to provide assurance to producers and buyers that hay and straw certified through this program meets specific standards.
- to provide uniformity between different states and provinces involved with this program.

The field and storage site inspections at the core of this program are extremely important, and minimize the opportunity to misrepresent the products offered by the participants. However, the production and distribution of certified products depends on the integrity of those participating in the program. The KSIA Board of Directors will act on any case where rules established by KSIA are knowingly or intentionally violated. KSIA makes no warranty of any kind, express or implied, including the warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

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APPLICATION FOR FIELD AND STORAGE SITE INSPECTION

Producers desiring to have their hay or straw certified must apply to Kentucky Seed Improvement Association on the application supplied by the Association. Forms are available upon request from **Kentucky Seed Improvement Association, 3250 Iron Works Pike, Lexington KY 40511; phone (859) 281-1029; fax (859) 253-3119; email kyseed1@gmail.com or khunter.ksia@gmail.com.**

Straw field inspection applications must be received no later than May 15th, while hay field inspection applications must be received 4 weeks prior to cutting. Late applications may result in missed or delayed field inspections. If such inspections can be arranged, a late fee will be added to the cost of the inspections.

A field is defined as the area occupied by one crop, covered by one inspection report and not divided by creeks, public roads, other crops, fences or other barriers that materially increase the difficulty of inspection. If the certified hay or straw field is also being inspected for certified seed production, please check the appropriate box and indicate the corresponding seed production field I.D. on the application form.

A storage site is defined as any location where harvested certified hay or straw will be stored pending sale.

GENERAL STANDARDS

All hay and/or straw and storage sites shall be free of those noxious weeds and undesirable plant species identified in Appendix A.

1. Hay and straw production fields and storage sites shall be inspected by a representative of Kentucky Seed Improvement Association.
2. Hay and straw shall be inspected in the field of origin. The field shall include the surrounding ditches, fence rows, roads, easements, grass waterways, or a buffer zone surrounding the field.
3. The field and storage sites must be inspected by KSIA prior to cutting or harvesting.
4. Fields or storage sites that contain noxious weeds or undesirable plant species (as identified in Appendix A) may be certified if the following requirements are met:
 - a. The noxious weeds and undesirable plant species in the field in which the hay or straw is being produced were treated to prevent seed formation or seed ripening to the degree that there is no danger of dissemination of the seed or the propagating parts of the plant capable of producing a new plant.
 - b. The noxious weeds and undesirable plant species were treated in the vegetative growth stage prior to the rosette to bud stage (or boot stage for grass species classified as weeds) prior to cutting or harvesting.
 - c. The treatment method can include but is not limited to:

- Burning
 - Mowing or Cutting
 - Roguing
 - Herbicides
- d. If noxious weeds have not been treated and are present in areas adjacent to the field, an isolation/buffer strip must be established between the crop to be harvested and the area infested with noxious weeds. This strip must be no less than 10 feet wide. The strip can be established by mowing or cultivation.
 5. An inspection certificate shall be issued by KSIA indicating that the above requirements have been met based upon field inspection.
 6. Interstate shipment of hay shall be accompanied by an original transit certificate issued by the KSIA office. Shipments into restricted areas not accompanied by the proper transit should be rejected.

FIELD INSPECTIONS

To be eligible for certification, fields must be inspected by a representative of KSIA before harvest. A crop that is harvested prior to inspection is not eligible for certification. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the crop has been inspected before harvest.

Field inspection is a thorough examination of the hay or straw production site to confirm compliance with the certification standards. A visual inspection of the field and the entire field border will be made by the inspector. Kentucky Seed Improvement Association's inspection procedure will follow the guidelines established by the NAWMA Weed Free Forage Standards.

Minimum Guidelines for Field Inspection:

1. There shall be a minimum of two entry points per field.
2. There shall be a minimum of one entry point per each 10 acres.
3. Each point of entry shall be at least 150 feet into the field, and each additional 150 feet shall constitute an entry point. Travel shall be uninterrupted, proceeding through the field being inspected.
4. The entire field border shall be walked or driven.
5. The field shall be inspected within 10 days of harvest.
6. An inspector may not inspect fields of which said inspector has ownership or financial interest.

Reinspection Procedures:

The applicant may request a reinspection when a portion of the field does not meet the certification standards, for example, noxious weeds in the field or lack of isolation/buffer strips.

1. The applicant shall make the required correction(s) as indicated on the original inspection report.
2. The applicant shall contact the KSIA office or inspector requesting reinspection to verify the required corrections have been completed. A reinspection fee will be charged.
3. A new inspection certificate shall be issued by KSIA indicating the requirements have been met based upon the reinspection.

STORAGE SITE INSPECTIONS

1. All storage sites shall be inspected within 10 days prior to use.
2. The site must be free from noxious weed seeds and noxious weeds capable of producing seeds during the time the certified product will be stored.
3. Product stored at a site that has not been inspected by KSIA or its designated representative is not eligible for certification.
4. Product stored at an inspected site not meeting the freedom from noxious weeds requirement is not eligible for certification.

CERTIFICATION LABELING

Certification tags for eligible hay or straw will be issued by KSIA upon request by the applicant.

Certification tag minimum requirements:

1. The words **“North American Weed Free Forage Certification Program”**.
2. The statement **“Certified to the North American Standards”**.
3. State of issue – agency name and telephone number.
4. Producer number and lot number.

MAINTAINING IDENTITY OF HARVESTED FORAGE

The applicant must keep accurate records of the amount of hay or straw harvested from each field including where the hay or straw is stored after harvest. The following records must be maintained:

1. The number and average weight of bales harvested.
2. The exact location of the inspected site where bales are stored.
3. Date of harvest.
4. Field number(s) and location(s) of the field(s) where the product was produced.
5. Copies of all certification documents.
6. Current inventory records.

Records must be made available upon request by KSIA.

INTERSTATE SHIPMENT

Interstate shipment of certified product may be accompanied by a transit certificate if required by the receiving party or another entity. Official transit certificates are available from KSIA and contain the information necessary to meet the North American Weed Management Association standards.

APPENDIX A

The following weeds have been designated as noxious or undesirable in the NAWMA Weed Free Forage Certification Standards (Kentucky weeds have been added to the listing):

1. Absinth wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*)
2. Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*)
3. Buffalobur (*Solanum rostratum*)
4. Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
5. Common burdock (*Arctium minus*)

6. Common crupina (*Crupina vulgaris*)
7. Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
8. Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*)
9. Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)
10. Dyers woad (*Isatis tinctoria*)
11. Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)
12. Hemp (marijuana) (*Cannabis sativa*)
13. Henbane, Black (*Hyoscyamus niger*)
14. Hoary cress (*Cardaria spp.*)
15. Horsenettle (*Solanum carolinense*)
16. Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)
17. Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)
18. Jointed goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*)
19. Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
20. Matgrass (*Nardus stricta*)
21. Meadow hawkweed complex (*Hieracium caespitosum* [*H. pratense*], *H. floribundum*, *H. piloselloides*)
22. Meadow knapweed (*Centaurea pratensis*)
23. Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*)
24. Milium (*Milium vernale*)
25. Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)
26. Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)
27. Oxeye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)
28. Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*)
29. Perennial sorghum (*Sorghum alnum*)
30. Perennial sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*)
31. Plumeless thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*)
32. Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)
33. Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*)
34. Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
35. Quackgrass (*Agropyron repens*)
36. Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*)
37. Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*)
38. Scentless chamomile (*Matricaria perforata* or *M. milaceum*)
39. Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)
40. Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)
41. Sericea Lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*)
42. Silverleaf nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*)
43. Skeletonleaf bursage (*Ambrosia tomentosa*)
44. Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*)
45. Squarrose knapweed (*Centaurea virgata*)
46. St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
47. Sulfur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*)
48. Syrian beancaper (*Zygophyllum fabago*)
49. Tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)
50. Toothed spurge (*Euphorbia dentata*)

51. Wild oats (*Avena fatua*)
52. Wild proso millet (*Panicum miliaceum*)
53. Yellow hawkweed (*Hieracium pratense*)
54. Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)
55. Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)

Additional weeds designated as Restricted or undesirable in Kentucky:

56. Brome grass (*Bromus spp*) [annual species such as Field Brome, Hairy Chess, Cheat]
57. Eastern Black Nightshade (*Solanum ptycanthum*)
58. Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)
59. Cocklebur & Spiny Cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium* & *Xanthium spinosus*)
60. Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*)
61. Dodder (*Cuscuta spp.*)
62. Giant Foxtail (*Setaria faberi*)
63. Hemp Dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*)
64. Ryegrass, Annual and Perennial (*Lolium multiflorum and perenne*)
65. Spiny Amaranth (*Amaranthus spinosus*)
66. Wild Garlic (*Allium vineale*)

Forage (feed, hay, straw or mulch) will be inspected in the field of origin (field will include ditches, fence rows, roads, easement, right-of-way, or buffer zone, surrounding the field). Field will be inspected for the weed species listed above prior to cutting or harvesting.

[A] Annual [B] Biennial [P] Perennial [N] Native [F] Foreign Origin

APPENDIX B

APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Be a member of the Kentucky Seed Improvement Association.
2. Complete the application for field and storage site inspection by May 1st for straw or 4 weeks prior to cutting for hay. Include the following items:
 - a. A map indicating location of field.
 - b. A map indicating the location of storage area.
 - c. Indication of whether the field is being applied for under the seed certification or Quality Assurance programs.
 - d. The field and storage site inspection fee.
 - e. Approximate cutting date.
3. Prepare the field for inspection. Treat noxious weeds and undesirable plant species (see Appendix A) in and adjacent to the production field as described in the standards. If noxious

weeds in adjacent areas are not treated, a 10 foot wide isolation/buffer strip must be established by mowing or cultivation.

4. All fields must be inspected prior to harvest by KSIA to qualify for certification. Notify KSIA if your fields are within a week of cutting and you do not have an inspection report indicating that the field has been inspected.
5. If the field meets certification standards, proceed to Step 6. If the field does not meet the standards, go to the **“Reinspection Procedures”** in section titled **“Field Inspections”**.
6. Maintain the identity of all hay or straw harvested from fields meeting the certification standards. The hay or straw must be stored in an inspected storage site separate from uncertified hay or straw. A written record of certified material stored at this site shall be maintained.
7. Request certification labels from the KSIA office. Report the number and size of the packages/bales from each eligible field at the time labels are being requested.
8. Attach the certification tags provided by KSIA to eligible forage.

KENTUCKY SEED IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Supply each grower with instructions and materials for making applications for field and storage site inspection.
2. Inspect fields and storage areas in a timely manner upon receiving appropriate applications.
3. Issue labels for product that qualifies under the certification standards.
4. Issue transit certificates for eligible products upon request.
5. Publish a directory of producers of certified noxious weed seed free forage.
6. Maintain records including field applications, inspection reports and serial numbers of tags issued.