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Noxious Weed Free Forage and Mulch Certification Standards

Ohio Seed Improvement Association
11491 Foundation Road, Box 3
Croton, OH 43013
614-889-1136

OSIA NOXIOUS WEED FREE FORAGE AND MULCH CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

INTRODUCTION

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

These certification standards comply with the Weed Free Forage Certification Standards developed by the Weed Free Forage Committee of the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA). NAISMA has established minimum standards to allow uniform participation by states and provinces in the program. Forage and mulch certified under the OSIA certification program with proper certification markings attached will be eligible to be shipped into restricted areas in the United States and Canada where only forage and mulch certified under the NAISMA Certification Standards can be used.

The various inspections and site visits that are an integral part of this program minimize the opportunity for misleading or fraudulent actions on the part of the applicants participating in the program. However, the production and distribution of certified material depends on the integrity of those participating in the program. The OSIA Board of Directors will act on any case where rules established by OSIA are knowingly or intentionally violated. Action taken by the Board of Directors may result in the suspension of membership in OSIA. Any applicant whose reputation is unsatisfactory will be refused field inspection and the privileges of OSIA.

It is the responsibility of every member of OSIA to abide by the rules, adhere to the standards, and report irregularities or violations.

OSIA Disclaimer: North American Forage Standards may not meet the Forage Quality Standards of the Hay Marketing Task Force.

APPLICATION FOR FIELD AND STORAGE SITE INSPECTION

Members desiring to have their forage and/or mulch certified must apply to the Ohio Seed Improvement Association on the application form supplied by the Association. Forms are available upon request from the OSIA office at 11491 Foundation Road, Box 3, Croton, OH 43013 or by calling (614) 889-1136.

Mulch field inspection applications must be received no later than June 1st. Forage field inspection applications must be received 4 weeks prior to cutting. Late applications may result in the field inspection not being made. If such inspections can be arranged, a late application fee will be assessed of 1% per day up to 10 days.

A **field** is defined as the area occupied by one crop, covered by one inspection report and not divided by streams, public roads, other crops, or other barriers that materially increase the difficulty of inspection. If the certified forage or mulch field is also being inspected for certified seed production, indicate the corresponding seed production field number(s) on the application form.

A **storage site** is defined as **any** location where harvested certified forage or mulch will be stored pending sale.

FIELD AND STORAGE SITE INSPECTIONS

To be eligible for forage or mulch certification, fields must be inspected by a representative of OSIA **10 days** 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 forage or mulch production site to confirm compliance with the certification standards. A visual inspection of the field and entire field border will be made by the inspector. OSIA's inspection procedures will follow regional agency guidelines established by the NAISMA. Field inspectors may not inspect fields that they have an ownership of or financial interest in a particular production site.

FIELD AND STORAGE SITE STANDARDS

Forage, mulch and storage sites shall be free of those noxious weeds and undesirable plant species identified in **Appendix A.**

1. In Ohio, forage, mulch and storage sites shall be inspected by OSIA.

2. Forage and mulch 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. Applications must supply OSIA with both written directions and maps to field and storage sites.

3. The field and storage sites must be inspected by OSIA at least 10 days prior to cutting or harvesting.

4. Fields and storage sites which 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 forage or mulch 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 not later than 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
      - Chemicals
   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. Pellets and pelleted milled feeds must be certified in the field of origin if heat is not used in the process. If heat is used in the processing (at least 140° F), pellets and pelleted milled feeds may be certified based on official testing by the OSIA seed laboratory for weed seed viability.

6. A Field Inspection Report shall be issued by OSIA indicating that the above requirements have been met based upon field inspection.

7. Product passing field inspection shall be eligible to receive a Transit Certificate for a fee.

8. Product that is processed further at a bale conversion site or "cutter" is only eligible to be sold as NWFF&M if the "cutter" is a Limited Member of OSIA, and passes a facility inspection conducted by an OSIA trained inspector.

MAINTAINING IDENTITY OF HARVESTED FORAGE

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

1. The number and average weight of bales harvested.
2. The exact location where bales are stored.
3. Date of harvest.
4. Field number and location of the field where the product was produced.
5. Copies of all certification documents.
6. Current inventory records.
7. **Monthly submission of the NWFF&M shipment report to OSIA**. See page 16.

Records must be made available upon request by OSIA.

CERTIFICATION MARKINGS AND LABELING

The following are accepted labeling practices:

1. Bale Tags (Example on page 15). Available from OSIA.

2. Transit Certificates (Example on page 14). Available from OSIA**. Transit Certificates are required for out of state shipments.**

3. Special Colored Twine.

    - Effective in 2021, the designated twine color is blue & orange (intertwined).

    - Twine is available through special order only. To order twine, contact OSIA in early November. Twine will be manufactured and shipped in December/January. Cost is around $41/roll (9600/170 polypropylene). OSIA will bill the member for the cost of the twine and for shipping to the member's location.

    - It is a program requirement that OSIA has control over the amount of twine ordered and delivered.

    - At least one strand of blue & orange twine must encircle the bale.

Certification bale tags and transit certificates will be issued for eligible product by OSIA upon request by the applicant. Applicants may request certification bale tags and transit certificates by declaring the amount of product harvested in the **Certification Tag Request** section on the **Field Inspection Report** (See page 12).

Noxious Weed Free Forage and Mulch (NWFF&M) Procedure Flow

1. Producer obtains maps and field information for the fields they intend to enter (April-May)

2. Producer fills out field application spreadsheet and attaches field maps. Send to OSIA by **June 1st due date. Additional fields may be added after the due date**

3. OSIA allocates applications to inspector.

3b. If fields are added late in season, producer must notify OSIA before giving applications to inspectors.

4. Fields are inspected within **10-day window** prior to harvest. **Contract Grower must notify inspector about planned harvest date.**

5. Fields are harvested and baled. Bales may be labeled with at least one strand of specially colored twine.

6. Bales are stored in separate location from non-NWFF&M bales. Monthly shipment report must be submitted to OSIA

7b. A Transit Certificate may be used to label a bulk load of NWFF&M product. Request these from OSIA. **Transit Certificates are required for out of state shipments.**

7a. Bales may be labeled with an adhesive NWFF&M tag, available from OSIA.

8. OSIA sends blank Transit Certificate to producer to fill out. OSIA member returns completed Transit Certificate(s) to OSIA. OSIA signs certificates, keeps 1 copy and return 2 copies to member.

10. A copy of the Transit Certificate must be sent to OSIA no later than 30 days after shipment. Original copy must accompany bales in transit, and is given to purchaser by shipper.

APPENDIX A

Designated Noxious Weed and Undesirable Plant List

The following weeds have been designated as noxious or undesirable by the NAISMA Weed Free Forage Certification Standards:

1. Absinth Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*)
2. Austrian fieldcress (*Rorippa austriaca*)
3. Black henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*)
4. Buffalobur (*Solanum rostratum)*
5. **Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)**[1]
6. **Common burdock (*Arctium minus*)**
7. Common crupina (*Crupina vulgaris*)
8. **Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)**
9. Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
10. **Common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum)***
11. Cutleaf teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus)*
12. **Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis)***
13. Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*)
14. Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)
15. Dyers woad (*Isatis tinctoria)*
16. **Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)**
17. Field scabious *(Knautia arvensis*)
18. Hoary Alyssum (Berteroa incana)
19. **Hoary cress (*Cardaria* spp.)**[1]
20. **Horsenettle *(Solanum carolinense)***[2]
21. Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale L.)*
22. **Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)**[1]
23. Jointed Goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*)
24. **Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)**
25. Meadow knapweed (*Centaurea pratensis)*
26. Medusa head (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae)*
27. **Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)**[1]
28. Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium auranthiacum*)
29. **Oxeye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)**[2]
30. Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium)*
31. **Perennial sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*)**
32. Plumeless thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*)
33. **Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)**[2]
34. Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris)*
35. Purple loosestrife *(Lythrum salicaria)*
36. **Quackgrass (*Agropyron repens*)**
37. Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*)
38. Russian knapweed *(Centaurea repens)*
39. Scentless chamomile (*Matricaria maritima)*
40. Scotch thistle *(Onopordum acanthium)*
41. Sericea Lespedeza *(Lespedeza cuneata)*
42. Spotted knapweed *(Centaurea maculosa)*
43. Squarrose knapweed *(Centaurea virgata)*
44. St. Johnswort *(Hypericum perforatum)*
45. Sulfur cinquefoil *(Potentilla recta)*
46. Tall buttercup (*Ranunculus acris)*
47. Tansy ragwort *(Senecia Jacobaea)*
48. Vipers Bugloss/Blueweed (*Echium vulgare*)
49. **Wild oats *(Avena fatua)***
50. Wild proso millet *(Panicum miliaceum)*
51. Yellow hawkweed *(Hieracium pratense)*
52. Yellow starthistle *(Centaurea solstitialis)*
53. Yellow toadflax *(Linaria vulgaris)*

Additional weeds designated as Prohibited[1] noxious under the Ohio Noxious Weed Seed Law:

54. Apple of Peru (*Nicandra physalodes*)
55. Ballcress (*Lepidium appelianum*)
56. **Bindweed, hedge (*Calystegia sepium*)**
57. Columbus grass (*Sorghum x almum*)
58. **Cressleaf Groundsel *(Senecio glabellus)***
59. Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum)*
60. Grape Vine *(Vitis spp.)*- Group 100+ plants, not maintained for 2 years
61. Hairy whitetop/ballcress *(Lepidium appelianum)*
62. Heart-podded hoary cress *(Lepidium draba sub. draba)*
63. Kochia (*Kochia scoparia L.)*
64. Kochia, Forage *(Bassia prostrata)*
65. Knapweed, Russian *(Acroptilon repens)*
66. Knotweed, Japanese (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)
67. Kudzu (*Pueraria montana var. lobata*)
68. Loosestrife, purple (*Lythrum salicaria*)
69. **Marestail (*Conyza canadensis*)**
70. Mile-A-Minute (*Lythrum salicaria*)
71. **Palmer Amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*)**
72. Parsnip, Wild (*Pastinaca sativa*)
73. **Shatter cane *(Sorghum bicolor)***
74. Thistle, Russian (*Salsola Kali var. tenuifolia*)
75. Tussock, serrated (*Nassella trichotoma*)
76. Yellow Groove Bamboo *(Phyllostachys aureasculate)*- plant has spread from original planting site & not being maintained
77. **Water Hemp *(Amaranthus tuberculatus)***

Additional weeds designated as Restricted[2] noxious under the Ohio Noxious Weed Seed Law:

78. Buckhorn plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)
79. Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*)
80. **Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*)**
81. Dodder (*Cuscuta spp*.)
82. **Penneycress, field – French weed (*Thlaspi arvense*)**
83. **Garlic, wild (*Allium vineale*)**
84. **Onion, wild (*Allium canadense*)**
85. **Wild mustard, Brassica arvensis (L.) rabenh**

APPENDIX B

APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Be an Active or Limited member of the Ohio Seed Improvement Association.
2. Complete the application for field and storage site inspection by June 1st for mulch or 4 weeks prior to cutting for forage. With the application include:
   a. A detailed map indicating location of field, adjacent landmarks and written directions.
   b. A detailed map indicating the location of storage area and written directions.
   c. Indication of whether the field is being applied for under the seed certification or Quality Assurance Seed programs.
   d. The field application, field acreage maps, storage site locations, and prepayment of field inspection fees.
   e. Approximate cutting date or harvest dates.
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. It is your responsibility as a producer to contact your inspector **2 WEEKS BEFORE CUTTING** your field to schedule your field inspection. It is up to you to let the inspector know when they can inspect the field. Inspectors are busy so **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DAY OF CUTTING TO CALL** your inspector for field inspection. Call at least 2 weeks before cutting the field to schedule your inspection.
5. All fields must be inspected prior to harvest by OSIA to qualify for certification at least 10 days before harvest of the field. **Notify the OSIA field inspector if your fields are within a week of cutting and you do not have an inspection report indicating that the field has been inspected!**
6. If the field meets certification standards, proceed to Step 7. If the field does not meet the standards, proceed to the **Reinspection Procedures** below.
7. Clean all equipment and storage facilities prior to exposing them to Certified products. This includes all harvesting, hauling, conveying, and conversion equipment, such as: combines, bale wagons, trailers, accumulators, and cutters.
8. Maintain the identity of all forage or mulch harvested from fields meeting the certification standards. The forage or mulch must be stored in an inspected storage site separate from uncertified forage or mulch. A written record of certified material stored at this site must be maintained.
9. Request certification tags or Transit Certificates by submitting the OSIA copy of the **Field Inspection Report** to the OSIA office. Report the number and size of the packages/bales from each eligible field. Remember to sign the **Field Inspection Report**.
10. Attach the certification tags provided by OSIA to eligible product or provide a Transit Certificate with each load shipped.

REINSPECTION PROCEDURES (When a portion of field does not meet the certification standards)

1. Make the required correction(s) as indicated on the inspection report by the OSIA inspector.
2. Contact the OSIA inspector for reinspection to verify that the required corrections have been completed. A reinspection fee will be charged.
3. Proceed to Step 6 above.

THE OHIO SEED IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION'S RESPONSIBILITIES

OSIA will:

1. Supply each grower with instructions and materials for making applications for field and storage site inspection.
2. Inspect fields and storage areas.
3. Issue field inspection reports, Transit Certificates and labels for product that qualifies under the certification standards.
4. Maintain a list of producers of certified noxious weed free forage and mulch.

5. Maintain records including field applications, inspection reports, Transit Certificates and serial numbers of tags issued.
6. Not allow inspectors to inspect fields that they have an ownership of or a financial interest in a particular production site.

Field Inspection Procedures

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Noxious Weed Free Forage and Mulch (NWFF&M) certification program is to prevent the spread of noxious weeds through forage and mulch. OSIA's standards are consistent with the standards of the North American Weed Free Forage Program. These standards were established to assure uniformity between states and provinces in the development and implementation of noxious weed free forage and mulch programs. The Regional Weed Free Forage Committee has established a list of noxious weeds (see *Appendix A)* that are not permitted in any certified material.

Field inspectors are required to read and understand the specific standards and inspection procedures for this program. Field inspectors may not inspect fields that they have an ownership of or a financial interest in a particular production site.

I. FIELD AND STORAGE SITE STANDARDS

Forage, mulch and storage sites shall be free of those noxious weeds and undesirable plant species identified in **Appendix A**.

1. In Ohio forage, mulch and storage sites shall be inspected by OSIA.
2. Forage and mulch shall be inspected in the field of origin. The fields shall include the surrounding ditches, fencerows, roads, easements, grass waterways, or a buffer zone surrounding the field.
3. The field and storage sites must be inspected by OSIA at least 10 days prior to cutting or harvesting.
4. Fields and storage sites which 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 forage or mulch 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 not later than 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:
        i. Burning
        ii. Mowing or cutting
        iii. Roguing
        iv. Chemicals
    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.

e. Storage Site – An inspection of the site where harvested Certified forage and mulch will be stored after harvest is required. The required site inspection must be completed before harvest at the same time the field is inspected. Outside storage areas must be free of noxious weeds that are on the weed list. Inside storage areas must be free of noxious weeds and weed seeds that may have been left by previously stored material. If the storage area does not meet the NWFF&M certification standards it must be rejected. The applicant will have the opportunity to make corrections to the area so it can meet the standards.

5. Pellets and pelleted milled feeds must be certified in the field of origin if heat is not used in the process. If heat is used in the processing (at least 140° F), pellets and pelleted milled feeds may be certified based on official testing by the OSIA seed laboratory for weed seed viability.
6. A Field Inspection Report shall be issued by OSIA indicating that the above requirements have been met based upon field inspection.

APPLICATIONS

Field inspection applications for noxious weed free forage and mulch fields will be assigned to the field inspector by the OSIA Chief Inspector at the earliest possible date. It is the responsibility of the field inspector to complete the field and storage site inspection at 10 days before harvest. It is the responsibility of the applicant to notify OSIA if they are ready to harvest and the field has not been inspected. Any field or storage site not inspected before harvest will be ineligible for certification. An application for each cutting is required. The application must be submitted to OSIA 4 weeks prior to harvest.

Fields inspected for the NWFF&M program may also be inspected for the seed certification or Quality Assurance® (QA) seed program. If this is the case, a separate application will be submitted for each program and the field supervisor will assign both applications to the field inspector. Both inspections cannot be completed at the same time since seed inspections occur at green stage and weed free inspection occur at maturity.

WHEN TO INSPECT

For materials to be eligible for the NWFF&M certification program, all field and storage site inspections must take place 10 days prior to harvest. Fields must be inspected within ten days of harvest. Fields from which straw will be harvested for mulch are to be inspected within ten days of harvest. Contact the applicant to arrange the proper time for inspection.

WALKING THE FIELD

The walking patterns used for NWFF&M fields are similar to those used for inspecting certified seed production fields. A minimum of one entry point for each 10 acres inspected is required (an entry point is equivalent to 150 feet of travel). A minimum of two entry points per field are required. It is very important that all parts of the field be observed to assure an accurate assessment of the field. The entire border surrounding the field must be observed (by walking or driving) to assure that the borders meet certification requirements. Counts to determine varietal purity and crop mixtures are not required unless the field is also being inspected as a seed production field. If there is a heavy infestation of weeds other than those listed in *Appendix A*, the inspector should make note of it in the comment section of the Inspection Certificate.

DETERMINING FIELD STATUS

The field must be rejected if any noxious weeds, listed in ***Appendix A,*** which are capable of producing seed before harvest (boot stage or later for grasses and bud stage or later for broadleaves) are found in the field. The field may be re-inspected at a later date at the applicant's request. For the field to pass a second inspection, the applicant must make the necessary corrections prior to the reinspection (see Field Corrections).

NOTE: If fields being inspected for the NWFF&M program are also being inspected for the certified seed or QA seed program, a field inspection report must be completed in addition to the Inspection Certificate and the field status must be determined for each program separately. A field may meet the criteria of one program but not the other.

STORAGE SITE

An inspection of the site where the certified forage and mulch will be stored after harvest is required. The required site inspection must be completed before harvest at the same time the field is inspected. Outside storage areas must be free of noxious weeds. Inside storage areas must be free of noxious weeds and weed seeds that may have been left by previously stored material. If the storage area does not meet the NWFF&M certification standards it must be rejected. The applicant will have the opportunity to make corrections to the area so it can meet the standards. A reinspection will be required to determine that required corrections have been made.

II. WRITING FIELD INSPECTION REPORTS

When the field inspection has been completed, fill out a **Field Inspection Report** for each field. A serial number is assigned by OSIA prior to inspection and must be written on the Inspection Certificate. The OSIA office will issue a serial number for each field to be inspected when the application is submitted to OSIA. If you collect the Application for Field Inspection directly from the applicant, contact your OSIA Chief Inspector to have a serial number issued before giving a copy of the Inspection Certificate to the applicant.

Include the number of entry points indicating the distance traveled in the field. Mark the status as "Passed" or "Failed" and complete the comments section. Indicate the location of the field and the storage site on the Inspection Certificate – use the legal description when possible. Map all problem areas.

Note use of 5-part form. Inspectors are to mail the completed white (first) form back to the OSIA Office. The yellow (second) and blue (fifth) copies are to be dropped off or mailed to the company applicant. The dark yellow (fourth) copy is kept by the applicant for their file record when they initially apply for inspection. The pink copy (third) is kept by OSIA upon receipt of the initial request from the applicant for inspection services.

FIELD CORRECTIONS / REINSPECTIONS

If noxious weeds capable of producing seed by harvest time are found in the field at the time of inspection, the field must be rejected and the weeds must be treated before the forage or mulch can be passed for certification. Discuss the problem with the applicant and discuss options for treating the noxious weeds. At this point it is too late to use chemical control as a means of eliminating the noxious weeds. Options are to cut, mow or avoid the infested areas prior to or at harvest time. Arrange a time for reinspection if requested by the applicant.

If the field is rejected due to noxious weeds in the field borders, the applicant must establish a buffer zone to separate the field to be harvested from the noxious weed infestation. This buffer zone must be a minimum of 10-feet wide and may be established by mowing, cutting or cultivating. The buffer zone must be established in a manner that allows the inspector to check the area at the time of reinspection to verify that no material from the buffer zone was harvested as certified material.

When reinspections are made, check the areas of concern identified at the time of the first inspection to make sure that problem areas have been properly treated. If the reinspection occurs after harvest, it is the responsibility of the inspector to determine that weed infested areas were not harvested with the eligible portions of the field. The weedy material in treated areas of fields should not be removed until the inspector has verified, during the reinspection, that the infested areas were not harvested with the eligible portions of the field. Complete a new Inspection Certificate and fill in the Reinspection Section. The inspector should determine and indicate the number of eligible bales on the Inspection Certificate.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Each NWFF&M program inspector will be assigned two books: *Weed identification information and reference material.*

DEFINITION OF TERMS

a) "Certification markings" means tags, purple and yellow colored twine, and original Transit Certificates signed by OSIA.

b) "Cubes" means Certified weed free forage that has been processed into cube form. Cubes, as that term is used herein, are derived solely from hay and not from other feed crops.

c) "Field" is defined as the area occupied by one crop, covered by one inspection report and not divided by streams, public roads, other crops, or other barriers that materially increase the difficulty of inspection. A field or portion of a field may be certified.

d) "Forage" includes hay, straw, mulch, cubes, feed grain, and pellets.

e) "Noxious weeds" are weeds, including weed seed and propagative plant parts, designated as noxious by the North American Invasive Species Management Association and the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

f) "Pellets" means certified wee free forage that has been processed into pellet form. Pellets, as the term is used herein, are derived solely from hay and not from other crops. (Pellets produced by heat treatment of at least 140° F are considered weed free).

g) "Producer" is the grower and/or seller of the weed free product.

h) "Propagative plant parts" are any part of the plant capable of reproducing itself, including, live roots, rhizomes, and/or stolons present in the crop to be harvested.

i) "Treated" means utilizing treatment methods to prevent weed seed formation, including but not limited to, burning, mowing, roguing, mechanical methods, or herbicide treatments.

j) "Weeds" are those weeds set forth in the Ohio and North American lists.

k) "Weed free" means to be free from propagative plant parts and free from weed seed from plants set forth on the Ohio and North American designated noxious weed lists. See Appendix A.

l) "Weed seed" includes the bud stage of broadleaf plants and the boot stage of grasses.

m) "Bale Conversion" or "Cutters" are OSIA Limited Members who reprocess or convert large bales into smaller compressed bales or product.

Reduce the Spread of Noxious Weeds

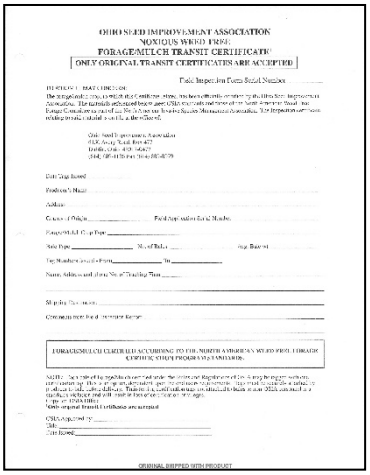
Require Certified Noxious Weed Free Straw for
Road, Oil Drilling, Pipeline & Construction Project

Ohio Seed Improvement Association (OSIA) is the only designated certification agency for Noxious Weed Free Forage and Mulch in Ohio by the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA)

Certification Requirements:

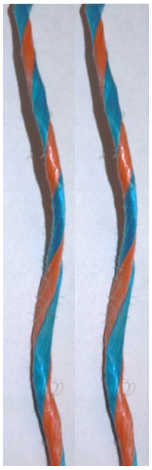
- OSIA inspects production fields & storage locations prior to harvest to verify they are free of listed noxious and other problem weeds
- OSIA issues certification labels or transit certificates to producers for bales harvested from qualifying fields
- Product traceability: tags & certificates are marked with unique serial numbers and identify the producer, crop type and field of production

LOOK FOR ONE OF THESE LABELS TO ENSURE YOU HAVE GENUINE CERTIFIED PRODUCT


OHIO SEED IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
NOXIOUS WEED FREE
FORAGE/MULCH TRANSIT CERTIFICATE
ONLY ORIGINAL TRANSIT CERTIFICATES ARE ACCEPTED

Transit Certificate

Forage Bale Tag



Blue/Orange Twine

Interstate shipment of NAISMA Certified Weed Free Forage recommended to be accompanied by NAISMA Certified marking options such as one strand of special blue and orange colored twine or forage bale tag on each bale

Directory of producers with product available at: ohioseed.org

Ohio Seed Improvement Association
11491 Foundation Road, Box 3
Croton, OH 43013
614-889-1136
ohioseed.org

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