

### Can forage certified in one state be freely moved into other states?

Yes. Because Nevada's program certifies to NAWMA standards, forage to be brought into Nevada can be certified in any state that has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NAWMA. The forage must be inspected by an authorized representative of that state to determine that it meets the NAWMA Minimum Certification Standards.

### Does certified forage cost more than regular forage?

None of the states involved in the Certified Weed-free Program, including Nevada, control the price of forage. Demand for the product determines the price. If supplies are low, the price of certified forage may rise.

### What other products can be certified weed-free?

NAWMA is currently developing a program to certify gravel pits as weed-free. The process will be similar to the forage program's process, but will take into account the noxious weed seeds that may be laying dormant in the gravel. Other programs will be developed as the need arises.

### For more information, contact:

**Nevada Department of Agriculture**  
405 So. 21st Street, Sparks, NV 89431-557  
(775) 353-3601  
[http://agri.state.nv.us/PLANT\\_NoWeeds\\_index.htm](http://agri.state.nv.us/PLANT_NoWeeds_index.htm)

### USDA Forest Service

**Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest**  
1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431  
(775) 991-6444

### Helpful websites:

**Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDOA) Weed free Forage Program**  
[http://agri.nv.gov/nwac/PLANT\\_WeedFreeHay.htm](http://agri.nv.gov/nwac/PLANT_WeedFreeHay.htm)

### NDOA Noxious Weed List

[http://agri.nv.gov/nwac/PLANT\\_NoWeedList.htm](http://agri.nv.gov/nwac/PLANT_NoWeedList.htm)

### A List of Certified Producers in Nevada

[http://agri.nv.gov/nwac/PLANT\\_WFHProducers.htm](http://agri.nv.gov/nwac/PLANT_WFHProducers.htm)

### North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA)

<http://www.nawma.org/>

### NAWMA Noxious Weed List

[http://www.nawma.org/documents/Weed%20Free%20Forage/WFF\\_Standards.html](http://www.nawma.org/documents/Weed%20Free%20Forage/WFF_Standards.html)



USDA Forest Service  
Intermountain Region  
Humboldt-Toiyabe  
National Forest



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension

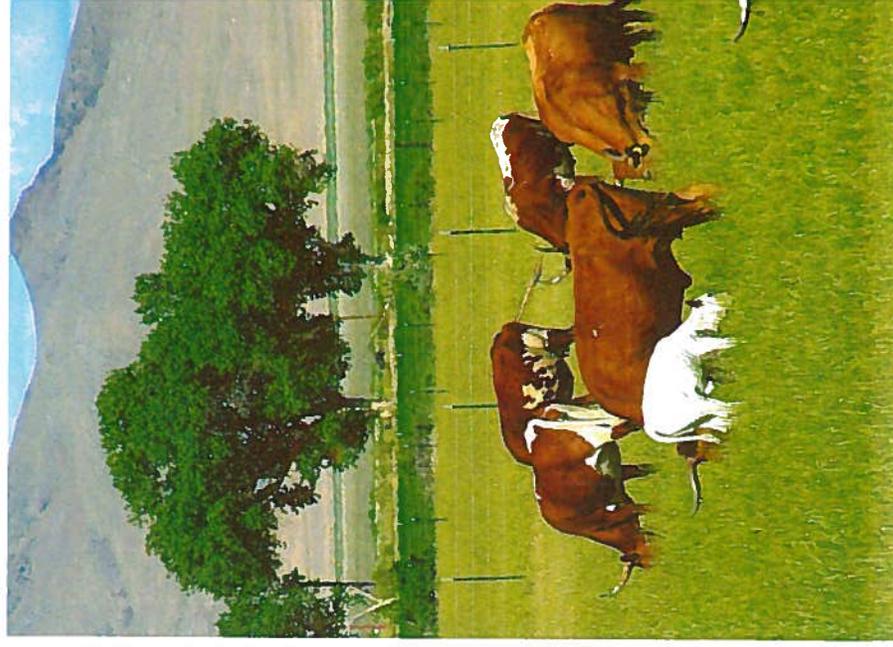


State of Nevada  
Dept of Agriculture  
Plant Industry Division

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# Nevada's Weed-free Forage

## CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



**D**emand is growing for the use of certified weed-free forage and mulch to help limit the spread of noxious weeds in Nevada and throughout the country.

Nevada's Weed-free Forage Certification Program complies with the regional standards set by the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA).

### What products can be certified?

#### Certifiable forage products include:

- ✓ Alfalfa hay
- ✓ Grass hay
- ✓ Alfalfa/grass mixed hay
- ✓ Forage pellets and cubes
- ✓ Straw or grain hay

### What is certified weed-free forage?

It is hay or straw that was grown in fields that are free of any viable plants of any of the weed species listed on either Nevada's or NAWMA's Noxious Weed lists. These fields were visually inspected to ensure compliance with the Nevada Department of Agriculture's (NDOA) and NAWMA's standards.

### How do I get my forage certified?

Contact the Nevada Department of Agriculture at (775) 353-3670. The field of origin will be inspected no more than 10 days before being cut. A new inspection must be conducted for each cutting from each field. Inspectors accredited by the Nevada Department of Agriculture's Plant Industry Division walk through and around each field before it is cut and visually verify that:

- A) There are no noxious weeds from either Nevada's or NAWMA's Noxious Weed lists present in or around the field, **OR**
- B) If there are weeds present, they have been treated to prevent any chance of viable seeds or reproductive plant parts from being

All equipment and storage areas are also inspected to ensure that no weeds or weed seeds will be introduced into the forage during or after cutting.

### As a grower, am I required to have my forage certified?

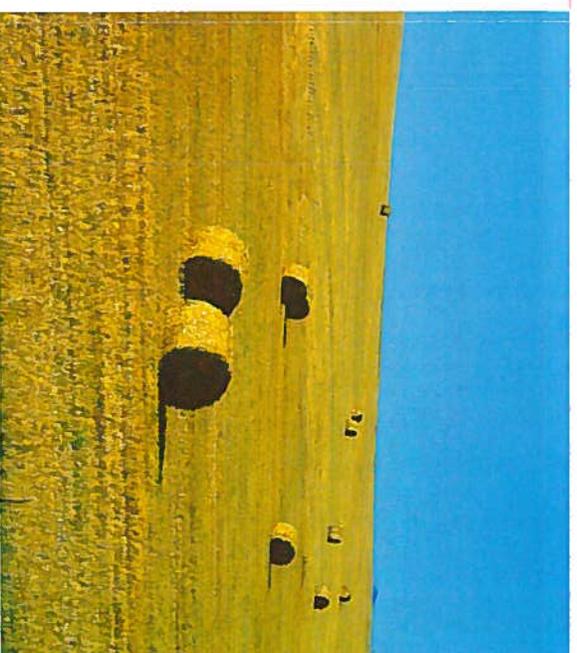
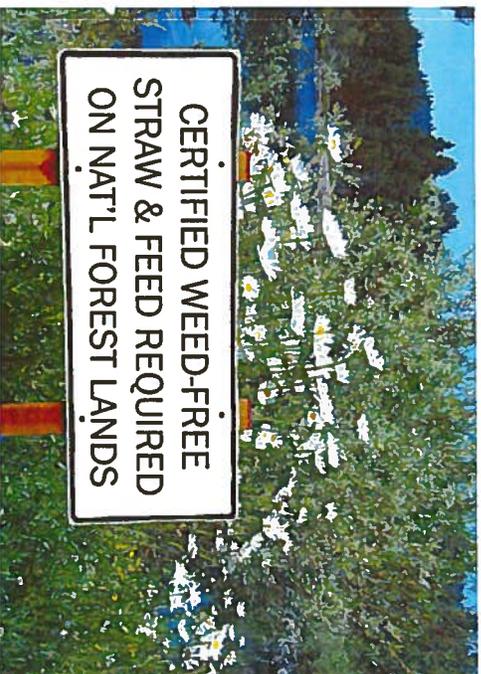
No. This is a voluntary program that the Nevada Department of Agriculture and NAWMA are offering to growers as a chance to join in a growing market for their product.

### As a consumer, am I required to buy and use certified weed-free forage?

In many western states, both the state and federal agencies have forage-restricted areas in which forage must meet Regional Forage Certification Standards. In Nevada, the USDA Forest Service requires that all forage and straw to be transported onto federal lands must meet the certification standards.

### If I plan to stay at home, should I still buy certified forage?

Absolutely. Although it is not required, you can still help yourself and your neighbors by ensuring that you will not be introducing noxious weeds onto your land. Remember, Nevada law states that all landowners are required to remove noxious weeds from their properties at their own expense.



### How do I know I'm buying certified forage?

After the field is inspected, the producer will receive a "Certificate of Inspection" signed by the inspector. Ask to see a copy when making a purchase. When the forage is transported, the producer is required to send an original (not a copy) "Transit Certificate" with the shipment. The forage will also be marked with special baling twine of a program-specific color combination designating the bale as certified.

### What if I buy certified forage and it contains noxious weeds?

If you find designated weeds in forage that is certified, immediately call NDOA at (775) 353-3670, before breaking open any of the bales. Always verify the source of the forage and the certification to avoid fraud. NDOA may impose penalties for fraudulent certification.

### What does it cost to get my forage certified?

NDOA charges fees for time and mileage, as well as a flat fee for the inspection. Per diem fees may also apply, but this is rare. Inspectors are located throughout the state to reduce travel costs. The colored baling twine

costs a little more than standard twine.