

Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Certification Program

Changes and clarifications from previous versions:

1. Mulch was removed from the title and throughout these Iowa standards. NAISMA's definition of forage encompasses mulch as it pertains to cutting plant materials to use as a ground cover.
2. Seed harvest is separate from the certified forage produced for this program. The field inspection must occur within a maximum of 10 days prior to cutting the forage.

Introduction

Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) offers certification of forage products in Iowa according to the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) standards. NAISMA's minimum program standards can be found on their website at <https://www.naisma.org/programs/weed-free-standards/>. The standards are designed:

- to provide some assurance to all participants that forage certified through this program meets a minimum acceptable standard.
- to provide continuity between the various states and provinces in this program.
- to limit the spread of noxious weeds.

Certification allows products properly labeled to be shipped into restricted areas in the United States and Canada where only forage certified under the NAISMA standards can be used.

Definitions

Applicant – The producer of the forage. This is the person who applied for the field(s) to be certified and is responsible for meeting the requirements of this program.

Cutting – The act of cutting the field for the forage in preparation of baling. This must be completed within 10 days of field inspection.

Field – is the area occupied by one crop, covered by one inspection and not divided by streams, public roads, other crops, or other barriers that materially increase the difficulty of inspection.

Forage – Any crop, including alfalfa, grass, small grains, straw, and similar crops and commodities, that is grown, harvested, and sold for livestock forage, bedding materials, or mulch or related uses.

Seed harvest – Clipping the seedheads prior to cutting the stubble for the certified forage.

Storage site – the location where harvested certified forage will be stored pending sale.

Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Certification Program

How to Apply for Certification of Products

Submit field inspection application forms to ICIA at least 3 weeks prior to the expected cutting date. Late applications cannot be guaranteed acceptance into the program and will result in late fees being assessed if accepted.

Complete applications include:

1. An Application for Field Inspection (1 per field)
2. Field map
3. Production Agreement (1 per applicant per year)

ICIA will be in contact to determine inspection timing once the application is received.

General Field Standards

1. Fields and storage sites shall be free of the noxious weed species, see Appendix A.
2. The fields and storage sites must be inspected by ICIA within 10 days prior to cutting the forage.
 - 2.1 If cutting does not happen within the 10 day inspection window:
 - 2.1.1 A re-inspection of the field can be requested by the applicant to continue the field's certification; or
 - 2.1.2 The field will be dropped from the program.
3. To request a reinspection, the applicant must contact the ICIA office to schedule the reinspection and must not perform any harvesting or cutting.
4. The field includes the surrounding ditches, fence rows, roads, easements, grass waterways, or a buffer zone surrounding the field.
5. Fields and storage sites which contain noxious weed species (as identified in Appendix A) may be certified if the following requirements are met:
 - 5.1 The noxious weeds in the field were treated to prevent seed formation or seed ripening
 - 5.2 The noxious weeds were treated no later than the rosette to bud stage (or boot stage for grass species classified as weeds) prior to cutting or harvesting.

Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Certification Program

- 5.3 The treatment method may include:
 - 5.3.1 Burning
 - 5.3.2 Mowing or cutting
 - 5.3.3 Physical removal of plants and seed heads
 - 5.3.4 Chemicals
- 5.4 If noxious weeds have not been treated and are present in areas adjacent to the field, an isolation/buffer strip at least 10 feet wide must be established between the field and the area infested with noxious weeds. The strip can be established by mowing.
6. A tag request form will be issued by ICIA after field inspection for fields meeting the requirements. Applicants will be contacted regarding fields that do not meet requirements.
7. ICIA reserves the right to observe the field before, during, and after the cutting of the field and of the storage of the bales.

Field Inspections

It is the **applicant's responsibility** to ensure that the forage is inspected before harvest.

Field inspection is a visual examination of the forage or production site by the inspector to determine if certification standards are met. The inspection follows these guidelines:

1. The field border shall be walked or driven.
2. Field shall be inspected within 10 days of cutting.

If a field does not pass inspection- i.e. noxious weeds in the field or lack of required isolation/buffer strips, the applicant may request a re-inspection once corrections are made. Once corrections are complete, contact ICIA requesting re-inspection to verify the required corrections have been made. A re-inspection fee will be charged. An inspector will verify the corrections are made.

Storage Site Inspections

1. Storage site will be inspected during field inspection.
2. Site must be free from noxious weed seeds during the time the certified product will be stored.
3. Product stored at a site not meeting requirements is not eligible for certification.

Certification Labeling

Certification labels will be issued for eligible product by ICIA upon request by the applicant after harvest is complete. Each bale must be individually labeled to finish certification on the product.

To request labels from ICIA, complete the Certification Tag Request Form and submit it to ICIA:

The applicant is required to put labels on the bales before it is sold and transported. Certification is not

Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Certification Program

complete until labels are attached.

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 ICIA upon request.

Applicant's Responsibilities

1. Complete the application for field and storage site inspection at least 3 weeks prior to cutting for forage.
2. **Prepare the field for inspection, ie. cut isolation.** See General Field Standards above.
3. Confirm the field was inspected before harvest. Fields cut or harvested before inspection by ICIA cannot be certified.
4. Cut the field within 10 days of inspection. If the 10-day window is missed, contact ICIA to arrange a reinspection or to drop the field from the program.
5. Maintain the identity of all forage harvested from fields meeting certification standards. The forage must be stored in an inspected storage site separate from uncertified forage. A written record of certified material stored at this site shall be maintained.
6. Request certification labels.
7. Attach the certification labels provided by ICIA to eligible forage.
8. Accurate records must be maintained and made available to ICIA upon request:
 - 8.1 Harvest date.
 - 8.2 Number and average weight of bales harvested.
 - 8.3 Location of the site where bales are stored.
 - 8.4 Field number(s) and location(s) of the field(s) where the product was produced.
 - 8.5 Inventory records.

Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Certification Program

Appendix A : NAISMA Noxious Weed Plant List

Common Name	Latin Name	Common Name	Latin Name
Absinth wormwood	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	Musk thistle *	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
Austrian fieldcress	<i>Rorippa austriaca</i>	Orange hawkweed	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>
Buckthorn *	<i>Rhamnus spp. Excludes Rhamnus frangula</i>	Oxeye daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>
Buffalobur	<i>Solanum rostratum</i>	Palmer amaranth*	<i>Amaranthus palmeri</i>
Bull thistle *	<i>Cirsium vulgare (Savi.) Tenore</i>	Perennial pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>
Canada thistle *	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Perennial sowthistle *	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>
Caucasian bluestem	<i>Bothriochloa blandhii</i>	Plumeless thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>
Common burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Common crupina	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	Puncturevine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>
Common mullein	<i>Verbascum Thapsus</i>	Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Common tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Quackgrass *	<i>Agropyron repens</i>
Common teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Rush skeletonweed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>
Cutleaf teasel	<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>	Russian knapweed *	<i>Centaurea repens</i>
Dame's rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Scentless chamomile	<i>Matricaria perforata or M. milaceum</i>
Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Sericea Lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>
Dyers woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea biebersteinii DC</i>
Field bindweed *	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Squarrose knapweed	<i>Centaurea virgata</i>
Field scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Henbane, Black	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Sulfur cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>
Hoary Alyssum	<i>Berteroa incana</i>	Tall buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Hoary cress *	<i>Cardaria spp.; Lepidium draba</i>	Tall thistle *	<i>Cirsium altissimum</i>
Horsenettle *	<i>Solanum carolinense</i>	Tansy ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Houndstongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Vipers Bugloss/Blueweed	<i>Echium vulgare</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Wild oats	<i>Avena fatua</i>
Jointed Goatgrass	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>	Wild proso millet	<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>
Leafy spurge *	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Yellow bluestem	<i>Bothriochloa ischaemum</i>
Meadow knapweed	<i>Centaurea pratensis</i>	Yellow hawkweed	<i>Hieracium caespitosum (Dumort)</i>
Medusahead	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>	Yellow starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>
* Iowa Primary Noxious Weed		Yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>