

This column features questions from landowners submitted via the Web site. To submit a question to Small Acre Sam, visit [BarnyardsandBackyards.com](http://BarnyardsandBackyards.com). If your question is featured, you will receive a free one-year subscription to *Barnyards and Backyards!*



# ask Sam

## question

Sam,

**What is certified hay?** – Julie, Powell

**Dear Julie,**

Certified hay meets the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) forage standard. Forage must be free of seed of 55 NAWMA-designated weed species and of seed of species designated by the home state/county.

In Wyoming, county weed and pest control districts implement the certified hay program. Growers may call a district office before cutting and request a field inspection. Contact information for the offices is at [www.wyoweed.org/wp\\_dist.html](http://www.wyoweed.org/wp_dist.html). The district will fill out an inspection report. There are three possible visible markings for certified hay: blue and orange baling twine, an orange tag on the bales, or a transit certificate. There may be an inspection fee in your county.

Growing certified weed-free hay is a good way to add value to your forage production. Certified hay is always in demand and, during hunting season, sells well. An excellent marketing tool is the free Wyoming Hay List Web site at [www.uwyo.edu/ces/haylist](http://www.uwyo.edu/ces/haylist). Growers can list their hay for sale, and buyers can find sources. Sellers will need the NAFCS (North American Forage Certification Standards) number from the Wyoming Certificate of Inspection form (WDA-69.02) provided by the field inspector. Listings are updated regularly; however, the availability of hay is subject to change. One caution for horse packers: there is no requirement in Wyoming that feed dealers stock certified weed-free hay, so it may take some prior planning to find it.

– Sam



*Blue and orange baling twine is one way that the hay is certified weed free.*

answer