

# **ALBERTA WEED FREE HAY PROGRAM**

## **Brazeau County Agricultural Services**

recognizes the growing demand for hay that has been inspected and certified as weed free. That's why we are excited to introduce our newest program for 2006, which will promote an already valuable product to greater heights!

**1. *What is "Certified Weed Free Hay" under this program?***

Hay must be inspected prior to cutting on a field-by-field basis. Based on a visual inspection by qualified personnel using a standardized inspection procedure, hay that is found to be free of viable seed or propagules of plants identified in the Weed List may be certified.

**2. *Why purchase Certified Weed Free Hay?***

If you have bought hay contaminated with noxious or restricted weeds you can tell those who haven't the cost of weed control on feeding sites and in fields where livestock manure was spread is enormous. It makes sense to purchase a product that isn't going to cost you more later on down the road.

**3. *Why produce Certified Weed Free Hay?***

If you are selling hay that is certified, it may bring a premium or be a preferred choice by buyers. Through this program, you can advertise your product (no charge) on the hay listing service through Alberta Agriculture's website [www.ropingtheweb.ca](http://www.ropingtheweb.ca). If you produce hay for your own use, certified hay will prevent weeds from spreading within the farm.

**4. *How does hay certification work?***

Hay must be inspected a maximum of 10 days prior to cutting. Inspections will be conducted on a field-by-field basis. Certification is based on a reasonable and prudent visual inspection by qualified personnel using a standardized inspection procedure. A "certificate of inspection" is issued to the producer if the field meets the requirements. (A field includes a surrounding buffer zone of at least 12 feet where the hay is excluded from certification and has been cut and harvested separately). Special colored twine is used.

**If you are interested in this program, please call the county office at (780) 542-7777 or check out our website at [www.brazeau.ab.ca](http://www.brazeau.ab.ca)**