



May 1, 2014

Dear Weed Free Forage Producer:

It's that time of year again. Thanks to your cooperation and willingness to follow established procedures, I have agreed to assist the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) once again by inspecting your fields during 2014. I would ask that we continue to follow the system from previous years. You should call my office at 758-5554 at least 4-5 days before cutting to make an appointment for inspection. If I'm in the field, my cell is 261-5554. This year I will have a back-up person. If I am not able to get to your property, you can call Don Roe at the Flathead County Weed Department. His number is 406-758-5798.

The Northwest Montana Fair is August 11-16 and we have almost 700 4-H students. I will be collecting data on the cherry research during end of July, the hops and grapes late August - early September. I may not be available every day. Your help in scheduling ahead will be greatly appreciated.

Most fields are ready at the same time and I will do my best to schedule you by geographical location.

The following are guidelines to the inspection process:

- Producer will provide a means of transportation around the perimeter of the field and be present for inspection.
- Forage must be inspected within 7 days of harvest.
- The fee for inspection is \$4.50 per acre inspected plus mileage at the state rate of \$.50 from Kalispell. There is a \$25.00 minimum charge per field for forage inspection.
- Twine is \$50.00 per box.
- Markers are .50 per tag.
- Fields will be weed free. There are over 60 weeds with a zero tolerance policy. It will save time and money for both the inspector and the producer if fields have been

prescreened to eliminate walking fields that contain weeds. Fields that do not pass inspection the first cutting are eligible to be re-inspected at second cutting.

- Fields that are inaccessible or that have irrigation running will not be inspected.
- Payment will be collected at the time of inspection.

Reminder: Pesticide product label requirements regarding Milestone®, ForeFront®, and Chaparral™ have changed. Hay from grass treated with Milestone within the preceding 18-months can only be used on the farm or ranch where the product is applied unless allowed by supplemental labeling. This means that if you use Milestone in your field, you will not be able to sell the forage. It will have to stay on your farm. I know many of you use it to control thistle.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Antonick, NWSFF Program Coordinator, Montana Department of Agriculture at 406-444-7819

I look forward to working with you again and assisting with the weed free forage program. Best wishes,

Pat McGlynn

Montana State University Agriculture Extension Agent, Flathead County