



National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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APHIS REVISES RRA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

St. Paul, MN - On December 18, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published a supplemental administrative order as it relates to the production, shipping, and labeling requirements for Roundup Ready alfalfa.

On May 3, 2007, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California issued a permanent injunction which regulates the production of Roundup Ready alfalfa. Subsequent to the issuance of the permanent injunction, the National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance (NAFA) submitted a Petition for Reconsideration to APHIS to request additional options and greater flexibility in its interpretation of the Court's requirement for the handling of Roundup Ready alfalfa.

In its original order, APHIS required that all alfalfa that leaves the farm on which it was produced be "identified by a bale tag attached to the binding twine or wire and marked 'Roundup Ready Alfalfa.'" Recognizing the difficulty, feasibility and practicality of such a requirement, NAFA proposed an additional option which allowed for identification by "lots" accompanied by detailed documentation relating to the buyer, seller, load.

"APHIS's revised order is a great relief to alfalfa producers," said Beth Nelson, NAFA President. "It makes compliance more affordable, practical and much safer. We're very pleased with the outcome."

For additional information on this matter, please visit the USDA website at:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/current_initiatives.shtml#alfalfa.