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**Australian Certification Reminders for Phytosanitary Seed Field Inspection Applicant:**

In order to export alfalfa seed to Australia, there are additional requirements. The requirements as of January 2, 2013 are attached; be advised that these requirements are subject to change without notice. The most rigorous requirement is that the mother plants and all alfalfa within one kilometer must be in the Phytosanitary Field Inspection of Seed Program.

When we receive an alfalfa application indicating Australian certification, we will survey the surrounding kilometer for additional alfalfa fields that are not already in the program. We call these fields "adjacent" even if they are not actually adjacent. If "adjacent" fields are found, we will provide you with a map and a list of the fields that need to be included for each Australian application submitted. You would then be responsible for submitting the additional applications; if all are not received before March 10<sup>th</sup>, Australian certification will not be possible.

Occasionally, an "adjacent" field is cross listed to more than one Australian application. This occurs when more than one Australian application is submitted that is in close proximity to another field. A cross listed "adjacent" field application should only be submitted once, to save on fees and confusion. We will attempt to bring these fields to your attention, but we are not responsible for additional fees that result due to repeat submissions.

When we provide you with the list of "adjacent" fields, we will use pesticide records to provide you with a contact name and, if possible, a phone number. If we do not have a corresponding record, we may only be able to provide you with a map and a canal gate. We attempt to provide you with this information so that you are able to contact the grower before placing the field in the program. We require this step to ensure that we have permission to enter and inspect the field. On occasion, the representative of the adjacent fields is not contacted by the applicant and has refused entry to our inspectors at the time of inspection. This ends up invalidating the Australian certification.

Ultimately, this process has been developed in an attempt to achieve certification as smoothly as possible. As the number of Australian applications has increased, this has become much more of a challenge for our office. We will continue to provide the outlined level of assistance as long as staffing and resources allow. As always, good communication is the most effective way to ensure that certification is achieved.

Sincerely,

Margo Sanchez  
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner  
Pest Detection and Eradication Division