

## Certification Standards

The Division of Agriculture, in partnership with Alaskan stakeholders and agencies, has adopted standards developed by the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA). The Forage & Straw Certification Program uses NAISMA standards, adapted to meet Alaska's unique needs. Species of special concern to Alaska are noted in bold text.



### Alaskan Species of Concern

- **Narrowleaf hawkweed**
- **Bird vetch**
- **Hawkbit/fall dandelion**
- **Hempnettle**
- **Black bindweed/wild buckwheat**
- **Corn spurry**

### NAISMA Prohibited Weeds List

Absinth wormwood	Horsenettle	Sericea Lespedeza
Austrian fieldcress	Houndstongue	Spotted knapweed
Black henbane	Johnsongrass	Squarrose knapweed
Buffalobur	Jointed goatgrass	St. Johnswort
<b>Canada thistle</b>	<b>Leafy spurge</b>	Sulfur cinquefoil
Caucasian bluestem	Meadow knapweed	Tall buttercup
Common burdock	Medusahead	Tansy ragwort
Common crupina	Musk thistle	Vipers Bugloss/
Common mullein	<b>Orange hawkweed</b>	Blueweed
<b>Common tansy</b>	<b>Oxeye daisy</b>	<b>Wild oats</b>
Common teasel	Perennial pepperweed	Wild proso millet
Cutleaf teasel	<b>Perennial sowthistle</b>	Yellow bluestem
Dames rocket	Plumeless thistle	<b>Yellow hawkweed</b>
Dalmatian toadflax	<b>Poison hemlock</b>	Yellow starthistle
Diffuse knapweed	Puncturevine	<b>Yellow toadflax</b>
Dyers woad	<b>Purple loosestrife</b>	
<b>Field bindweed</b>	<b>Quackgrass</b>	
Field scabious	Rush skeletonweed	
Hoary Alyssum	Russian knapweed	
Hoary cress, (Whitetop)	Scentless chamomile	
	<b>Scotch thistle</b>	

## Where can Certified Weed-Free Forage & Straw be Purchased?

Visit your local feed store and ask if they sell "Certified Weed-Free" Forage or Straw. This is a specialty product and large orders should be coordinated with producers well in advance. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for a list of participating producers.

### DISTRICTS:

Fairbanks (907) 479-1213 ext. 4 fairbankssoilandwater.org	Kodiak (907) 486-5574 kodiaksoilandwater.org
Homer (907) 235-8177 ext. 5 homerswcd.org	Palmer (907) 357-1440 palmersoilandwater.org
Kenai (907) 283-8732 ext. 5 kenaisoilandwater.org	Salcha-Delta (907) 895-6279 www.salchadeltaswcd.org



For more information about Alaska's Weed-Free Forage & Straw Certification Program, or to become an inspector, contact:



[plants.alaska.gov/invasives/weed-free-forage.php](https://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/weed-free-forage.php)

Invasive Weeds and  
Agricultural Pest Coordinator  
Alaska Division of Agriculture  
(907) 745-8721



Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
**Division of Agriculture**

## Certified Weed-Free Forage & Straw Program



The Weed-Free Forage & Straw Certification program strives to reduce the transport and dispersal of noxious and harmful invasive plants within Alaska's landscape. Forage and straw producers can provide a value-added product through adherence to certification standards and field inspections. Please help prevent the spread of invasive species by choosing **Weed-Free**.





### About the Program

The Certified Weed Free Forage & Straw program is voluntary, offered at no cost to the producer (other than the purchase of twine for baling). Certified fields are inspected within 10 days of harvest by a certified inspector. To qualify as Weed-Free,

forage and straw must meet program minimum standards and the field must be free of the listed weed species.

Certified products are denoted by a special colored twine that is available to participating producers.

If you would like to schedule an inspection of your fields, please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District. District contact information is listed on the back of this brochure.

Find out more online:  
[plants.alaska.gov/invasives/weed-free-forage.php](http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/weed-free-forage.php)



### Inspector Training and Certification

Inspector training sessions are offered online by NAISMA, and an Alaska specific supplemental session is held each spring for new forage and gravel inspectors.



*Inspector training is offered each spring.*

Training is hosted by the Division of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Serv. Inspector certification is valid for 3 years, although annual training is encouraged to keep plant identification skills fresh.



### Certified Weed-Free Forage & Straw

#### Who uses Weed-Free Forage?

Choosing Certified Weed-Free Forage & Straw for bedding, mulch and animal feed avoids the potential for introducing invasive plants into sensitive or pristine areas. Some examples of its use include:

- Landowners and livestock managers who want to avoid introducing new weeds;
- Dog mushers or people traveling into the backcountry with pack animals; and
- Conservation organizations who use mulch for streambank stabilization & erosion control.



#### Why produce Weed-Free Forage?

Certification programs offer a way for producers to assure that their products have reduced potential for transport and dispersal of weeds that are listed as noxious and invasive in Alaska.



*Weed Free Forage is a specialty product and large orders of material should be coordinated with producers well in advance.*

#### Benefits of Weed-Free Forage:

- Support local agriculture
- Support local economies
- Minimize shipping costs
- Help prevent the spread of invasives into wildlands



#### What is an Invasive Weed?

Invasive species are typically recognized as non-native species that once introduced spread beyond control to negatively effect natural resources, agriculture and the economy.

