

Weed Free Forage Standards

Alaska's Weed Free Forage program adheres to the North American Noxious Weed Association Noxious Weed List (below). Certification is shown with a special colored twine.

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|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Absinth Wormwood | Bermuda grass |
| Buffalobur | *Canada thistle |
| Common Burdock | Common crupina |
| *Common Tansy | Dalmation toadflax |
| Diffuse knapweed | Dyers woad |
| *Field bindweed | Hemp |
| Henbane, Black | Hoary Cress |
| Horsenettle | Hountstongue |
| Johnson grass | Jointed goatgrass |
| *Leafy spurge | Matgrass |
| Meadow knapweed | Medusahead |
| Milium | Musk thistle |
| *Orange Hawkweed | *Oxeye daisy |
| Perennial pepperweed | Perennial sorghum |
| *Perennial Sowthistle | Plumeless thistle |
| *Poison hemlock | Puncturevine |
| *Purple loosestrife | *Quakgrass |
| Rush skeletonweed | Russian knapweed |
| Scentless chamomile | Scotch broom |
| *Scotch thistle | Sericea Lespedeza |
| Silverleaf nightshade | Skeletonleaf bursage |
| Spotted knapweed | Squarrose knapweed |
| St. Johnswort | Sulfur cinquefoil |
| Syrian beancaper | Tansy ragwort |
| Toothed spurge | *Wild oats |
| Wild proso millet | *Yellow hawkweed |
| Yellow starthistle | *Yellow toadflax |

***Of special concern to Alaska**

Alaska Weeds of Concern List: The Alaska Weed Free Forage Certification program will separately certify that forage is free of these plants using a specially designed tag.

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|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Garlic Mustard | Japanese knotweed |
| Hempnettle | Bird vetch |
| Wild buckwheat | Narrow leaf hawksbeard |

For more information on how to obtain locally grown, weed free forage products please contact your closest District office:

- Anchorage 677-7645
- Delta 895-4241
- Fairbanks 479-1213
- Homer 235-8177
- Kenai 283-8732
- Kenny Lake 822-4479
- Kodiak 486-5598
- Mid Yukon 675-4269
- Palmer 745-1441
- Wasilla 357-4563

This document was produced by: Brianne Athearn-Alaska Association of Conservation Districts with support from the Alaska Division of Agriculture.



Certified Weed Free Forage



- Supporting local Agriculture •
- Keeping our wildlands pristine •

Certified Weed Free Forage (WFF)

What is WFF?

The **weed free forage** program provides locally grown, value added forage products to Alaskans.

- Inspections ensure no propagative plant parts of problem **invasive weeds** are in the forage crop.
- Reduces the spread of **invasive weeds** in public lands and other areas where forage or mulch are used.

What is an Invasive Weed?

Invasive weeds are exotic plants that grow uncontrollably and have a negative impact on natural resources, agriculture, and the economy.

- Invasive species threaten salmon and wildlife populations by outcompeting the native vegetation that they depend on.
- Invasive weeds have traits, such as prolific seed production, that help outcompete desirable vegetation.
- Some invasive weeds are toxic to wildlife and livestock.
- Invasive weeds grow uninhibited in new environments, like Alaska, because their natural predators are not present.



Control of knapweed infestations like this cost MT over \$42 million annually*. Photo: Norman Rees-USDA ARS.

Who can use WFF?

Mushers

Mushing in Alaska offers people the unique escape to wild country that may otherwise be inaccessible. Straw bedding is often carried on the trail for the dogs which can contain invasive seeds harmful to the natural landscapes, and harmful to the dogs.



Straw bedding travels with mushers on the trail.

Photo: Brianne Athearn AACD

Livestock /Pet Owners

On the trail or in the yard, horse hay bales can deposit invasive weed seeds directly to the soil or through horse manure. Even dog owners who use straw on their own property can benefit from weed free forage. Many invasive infestations start from “small populations” in urban or rural areas that get out of control.

Conservation Organizations

“Mulch” used for streambank stabilization or erosion control presents an easy pathway for invasive seed dispersal. Using weed free forage limits the threat of invasive plants establishing along waterways and other critical salmon and wildlife habitat.



Mulch applied as erosion control during a restoration project. Photo: Wasilla SWCD

How do you purchase certified WFF Products?

Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District

Get in touch with producers early!

- Producers must have their fields inspected prior to cutting to have a certified crop.
- If you are purchasing a large order for an event, plan a season in advance to ensure production and certification.

Encourage local pet/livestock supply stores to stock locally produced weed free forage.

Look for special colored twine and Alaska Grown tag on weed free forage bales.



Specialty twine to designate Certified Weed Free Forage

Purchase locally grown, WFF to:



- Support local agriculture
- Support local economies
- Minimize shipping costs
- Help prevent the spread of invasive species into our wildlands