Weed Free Forage and Mulch PROGRESS!

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BACKGROUND

An extraordinarily high proportion of California is still largely or completely free of invasive non-native (noxious) weeds. The most effective, economical, and ecologically sound method of managing invasive plants is to prevent their invasion in the first place. Resources can be spent most efficiently on proactive activities that focus on stopping the movement of plant seeds and other reproductive parts to new areas.

One way that invasive weed seeds and root fragments can be moved is in hay and straw used for animal feed and bedding or in materials used for erosion control. Seeds can also be transferred in animal manure if the animal has recently ingested invasive plants in infested feed or while grazing. These seeds and plant parts can then reproduce and colonize a previously uninfested area --- and if left unchecked, cause damage to rangelands, wildlife habitat, endangered and threatened species, watershed health, agriculture, recreational opportunities, and property values.

Federal, State and local agencies along with key non-profit groups are coordinating the effort at the State level to require that only certified weed free forage and straw may be used on public lands. The restriction would be phased in over several years to allow public education and to provide ample time for producers, balers, wholesalers, and retailers to make certified products widely available. Regulations requiring certified mulch for highway restoration projects are already in place with Caltrans.

Certified weed free forage (WFF) is produced and available for sale in California. County Agricultural Commissioners, in conjunction with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), offer inspection services to certify weed free forage materials, which are defined as "hay, feed, straw or straw mulch that has been inspected, and certified not to contain propagative plant parts or seeds of noxious weeds".

WHAT ARE WFF INSPECTIONS?

Weed Free Forage and Mulch inspections are completed for species listed on the CDFA noxious weeds list (California Code of Regulations, section 4500), any A or Q rated plants that aren't on the noxious weed list, and the Federal noxious weed list (Federal Plant Protection Act). The inspection of hay and straw products prior to harvest and certification by county agricultural staff greatly reduces the probability that invasive plant seeds/parts are present in the final product. However, keep in mind that inspection processes cannot reduce the risk of weed spread to zero nor are these materials inspected for invasive weeds not listed on the stated lists. Definition of noxious weed according to the Federal Plant Protection Act:

Proof that hay/straw has been inspected may be in the form of a copy of the CDFA Form 66-079 "Certificate of Quarantine Compliance (CQC)".) Noxious weed

health, or the environment.

The term "noxious weed" means any plant or plant product that can directly or indirectly injure or cause damage to crops (including nursery stock or plant products), livestock, poultry, or other interests of agriculture, irrigation, navigation, the natural resources of the United States, the public



ARE WEED FREE PRODUCTS PERFECT?

Weed free materials are **NOT** perfect, however through some challenging work over the last few years, the product reliability is improving. Inspectors are now more inclined to inspect along the NAISMA standards so production can be sold across state lines. Even though all wildland weeds are not evaluated, there are managers that are finding reduced weed problems around facilities that use WFF materials. To improve your WFF chances of satisfaction, the following is recommended:

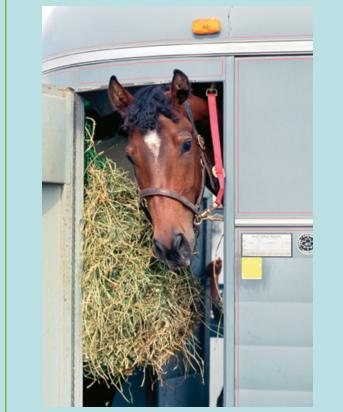
- 1) get to know you local grower/producer and meet with them in the field to brief them on your concerns,
- if you have a large amount of material for the coming year, contact producers and/or vendors early in the growing season to make sure sufficient weed free forage/straw will be certified and available for your project needs,
- 3) If you don't see your local vendor, you may want to call them to see if they can order supplies from one of the major producers and have their business added to the table(s).

Can you get WFF certified to NAISMA standards?

Yes! As time goes on and more forage is certified to the standards of the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA), you will see more "signature" yellow and purple NAISMA standard twine on certified bales. This will indicate that the bales have been inspected for weeds listed in the California Voluntary Weed-Free Forage Inspection Protocol as well as the weeds listed on the North American Designated Noxious Weed list. CDFA inspection requirements have been aligned with NAISMA Minimum Standards. If you are interested in forage that has been inspected for both the California WFF Inspection Protocol and the NAISMA standard, you may want to contact your producer or vendor and notify them of your expected quantity needed and to let them know they will need to be surveying for the additional species found on the NAISMA list. All certifications should have what protocol was used for the inspection process.

Producers seeking certification for weed free hay and straw: contact your local County Agriculture Commissioner's office to arrange inspection and certification. Contact information is available at:

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/county/county_contacts.html



Current inspections include the 4500 list and the Federal Noxious Weed List (green and blue). If you want to be NAISMA compliant, ask your producer to have fields inspected for the NAISMA list

2014 Updated WFF&M Suppliers List

Yes, we have an updated 2014 list of providers that sell certified weed free forage and straw in California. The National Park Service contacted all vendors on the 2012 list and the lead California Agricultural Commissioners contacts all counties to inquire who was certifying fields. Outreach to parks who have obtained certifications were made and the list built to 5 pages of vendors. You will find primarily the hay and straw vendors in the abbreviated table below. This list may not be complete, but instead, is a best attempt at a comprehensive compilation of the survey information.



Alpine	Phone	Address	City, ZIP Code	Product
Gansberg Ranch	530-694-2268	2277 Foothill Rd.	Markleeville, 96120	grass hay
Colusa			,	
Hay Connection (John Foster Hay)	530-681-0306	352 Vawter Rd.	Arbuckle, 95912	erosion control straw, hay
Shadinger Arbuckle Ranch	530-476-0725	633 Gabby Rd.	Arbuckle, 95912	rice straw, wheat straw, straw wattles (erosion control)
Cal-Vista Erosion	530-476-0706	459 State Hwy. 99 W.	Arbuckle, 95912	certified rice straw wattles
Glenn				
K & R Farming	530-934-4500	6439 County Rd. 48	Willows, 95988	rice straw
Rick Green	530-570-0459	2130 County Rd. S.	Willows, 95988	rice straw
Inyo-Mono				
Curti Ranch El Dorado	775-291-4073	999 Cunningham Wy.	Coleville, 96107	grass hay
R & S Hay Barn	530-295-3990	4451 Missouri Flat Wy.	Placerville, 95667	rice straw, alfalfa pellets
Kern				
Western Fiber Co.	661-747-5581	4234 Sandrini Rd.	Arvin, 93203	straw wattles
Placer				
Echo Valley Ranch	530-823-8320	205 Nevada St.	Auburn, 95603	rice straw, alfalfa pellets
San Joaquin				
Lee's Lockeford Hay Station	209-727-0131	18503 N. Hwy. 88	Lockeford, 95237	wheat straw, alfalfa pellets
Rankins Ag., Inc.	209-321-0780	17400 W. Bethany Rd.	Tracy, 95391	wheat hay, alfalfa
Scott LaMunyon Farms	209-535-8164	Will deliver locally	Waterford, 95386	oat hay
Santa Clara				
Sam's Downtown Feed & Pet	408-287-9090	759 W. San Carlos St.	San Jose, 95126	rice straw, alfalfa pellets
Shasta				
Hawes Ranch & Farm supply	530-365-2332	21923 Dersch Rd.	Anderson, 96007	wheat, rice straw
McArthur Ranch, Inc.	530-336-6815	26312 Jim Day Rd.	McArthur, 96007	alfalfa grass, alfalfa straw
Sonoma				
Frizelle-Enos	707-992-0144	10035 Main St.	Penngrove, 94951	rice straw, alfalfa pellets
Fuolumne				
Hurst Ranch	209-984-3016	17415 State Hwy. 108	Jamestown, 95327	rice straw (c), alfalfa pellets
Yolo				
Chamberlain Farms	530-662-2620	34530 County Road 29	Woodland, 95695	wheat straw, rice straw
NEVADA				
Green's Feed, Inc.	775-323-1502	4701 N. Virginia St.	Reno, 89506	wheat straw, alfalfa pellets
Sierra Feed	775-853-6700	7460 S. Virginia St.	Reno, 89511	mixed hay, alfalfa, alfalfa pellets

Weed-Free Hay and Straw Providers - California and Nevada

These suppliers provide certified weed free hay and straw that has been inspected and certified by local County Agricultural Commissioners.

If you know of other vendors or comments on this list, call Bobbi Simpson at 415.464-5190. For full list, including vendors that have equestrian alfalfa pellets go to:

http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/prevention/20140903_WFFProviderList.pdf.

Acknowledgements to the members of the entire Weed Free Forage and Mulch Working Group and particularly the dedication of Joanna Clines, Ron Ross, and LeeAnne Mila during the deliberations on improving this process.



The only difference between the NAISMA and standard California WFF inspection protocol is the inspection for the additional species found on the NAISMA list and the requirement that bales be marked in the unique purple and yellow colored twine.



Purple and yellow twine used to certify bales and forges that meet the standards of the North American Weed Free Forage Certification Program

Cenchrus echinatus	Salsola vermiculata	Solanum rostratum
Carthamus leucocaulos	Salsola paulsenii	Cynodon dactylon
Cenchrus incertus	Salvia aethiopis	Cirsium arvense
Cenchrus longispinus	Salvia virgate	Arctium minus
Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea diffusa	Scolymus hispanicus Senecio jacobaea	Crupina vulgaris Tanacetum vulgare
Centaurea iberica	Senecio linearifolius	Linaria dalmatica
Centaurea maculosa	Senecio mikanioides	Centaurea diffusa
Centaurea melitensis	Senecio squalidus	Isatis tinctoria
Centaurea solstitialis	Sesbania punicea	Convolvulus arvensis
Centaurea squarrosa	Setaria faberi	marijuana _Cannabis sa
Centaurea sulphurea	Solanum cardiophyllum	Hyoscyamus niger
Ceratopteris thalictroic	es Solanum carolinense	Cardaria spp.
Chondrilla juncea	Solanum dimidiatum	Solanum carolinense
Chorispora tenella	Solanum elaeagnifolium	Cynoglossum officinale
Cirsium arvense	Solanum lanceolatum	Sorghum halepense
Cirsium japonicum	Solanum marginatum	Aegilops cylindrica
Circium undulatum	Sonchus arvensis	Euphorbia esula
Cirsium vulgare	Sorghum almum	Nardus stricta
Cirsium vulgare Convolvulus arvensis	Sorghum almum Spartina alterniflora and hybrids	Centaurea pratensis Taeniatherum caputmed
Coronopus squamatus	Spartina anglica	Milium vernale
Cortaderia jubata	Spartina densiflora	Carduus nutans
Crupina vulgaris	Spartina patens	Hieracium aurantiacum
		Chrysanthemum
Cucumis melovar. var.		leucanthemum
Cuccuta can	Sphaerophysa salsula	Lepidium latifolium
Cuscuta spp.	Striga lutea	Songhus arvensis
Cynara cardunculus	Symphytum asperum	Sonchus arvensis
Cyperus esculentus	Tagatas minuta	Carduus acanthoides
Cyperus rotundus	Tagetes minuta	Conium maculatum
Cytisus scoparius	Tamarix chinensis	Tribulus terrestris
Diodia virginiana	Tamarix gallica	Lythrum salicaria
Drymaria cordata	Tamarix parviflora	Agropyron repens
Egeria najas	Tamarix ramosissima	Chondrilla juncea
Elytrigia repens	Tribulus terrestris	Centaurea repens Matricaria perforata or N
Euphorbia esula	Ulex europaeus	milaceum
Euphorbia graminea	Viscum album	Cytisus scoparius
Euphorbia oblongata	Zostera japonica	Onopordum acanthium
Euphorbia serrata	Zygophyllum fabago	Lespedeza cuneata
Euphorbia terracina	FED Noxious Weed List	Solanum elaeagnifolium
Fatoua villosa	Acacia nilotica	Ambrosia tomentosa
Gaura drummondii	Ageratina adenophora	Centaurea maculosa
Gaura sinuate	Ageratina riparia	Centaurea virgata
Genista monspessulan	Alternanthera sessilis	Hypericum perforatum
Halimodendron halode	Arctotheca calendula	Potentilia recta
Halogeton glomeratus	Asphodelus fistulosis	Zygophyllum fabago
Helianthus ciliaris	Avena sterilis	Senecio jacobaea
Heteropogon contortu	Carthamus oxyacantha	Euphorbia dentata
Hydrilla verticillata	Chrysopogon aciculatus	Avena fatua
	Chrysopogon aciculatus Commelina benghalensis	Avena fatua Panicum miliaceum