

# Alaska's Weed Free Forage Program

15<sup>th</sup> Alaska Sustainable Agriculture  
Conference

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# Purpose of the Program

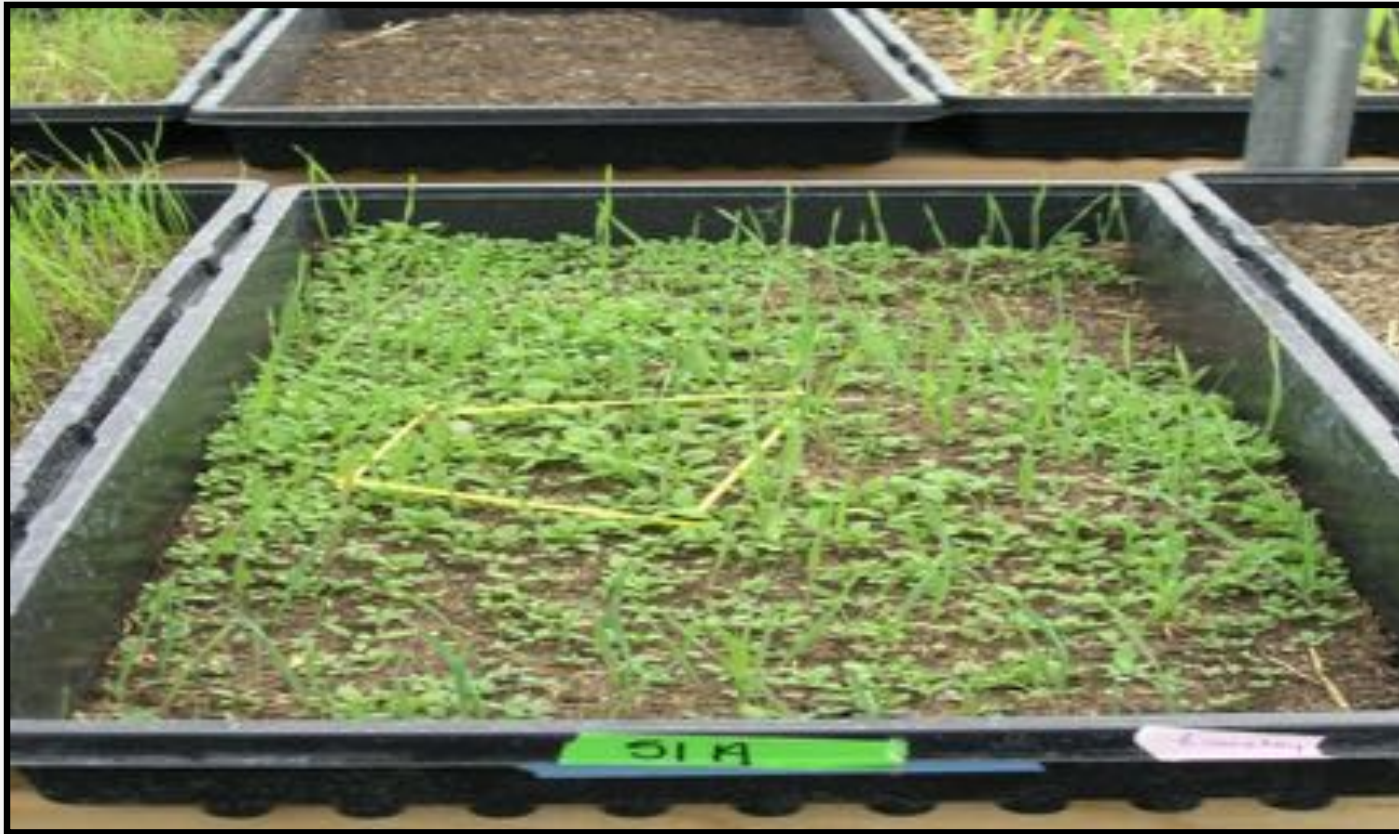
- Certified forage/straw will be free of propagative plant parts.
- Protect our natural resources
- Certain public lands are requiring certified commodities.
- Offer quality “Alaska Grown” products that meet minimum standards.
- Provide a value added opportunity for producers.

# HISTORY



- Late 90's NAWMA (Now NAISMA) took over program
- '99 Presidential EO
- 2003 Adrienne Peterson invited to CNIPM conference
- 2004 CES provides first training for inspectors & Soil Water Conservation Districts show interest
- 2005-06 Jeff Conn imported hay study
- 2008 Adrienne Peterson visit AK again for gravel program.





Slidecredit:  
Jeffery S. Conn,  
Casie A. Stockdale, and  
Jennifer Morgan  
USDA-ARS Fairbanks

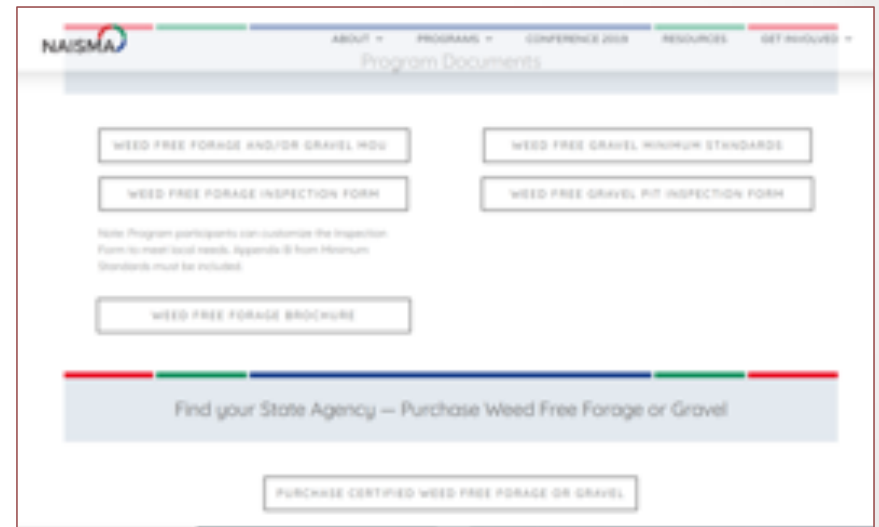
## How Big is the Pipeline?

### Example: 1 20T Truck Load of Timothy from Washington

- 50,490,000 shepherd's purse
- 826,600 flixweed
- 144,400 common groundsel
- 63,600 common chickweed
- 839,200 timothy
- 7,764,000 downy brome
- 5,600 barnyardgrass
- 2,688,400 mouse barley

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# North American Invasive Species Management Association



Images from <https://www.naisma.org/programs/weed-free-standards/>, October 22, 2019

# North American Invasive Species Management Association “Designated Authorities”

- (a) Representative of that state or province's department of agriculture
- (b) Manager of a state, provincial, or local government responsible for managing legislated weed species within their jurisdiction (ex: Weed Supervisor, Weed Superintendent, Ag. Fieldman)
- (c) University Extension Agent
- (d) An individual designated as an inspector under that state or province's weed control legislation. This individual must be trained and certified in accordance with the state/provincial standard operating procedures for weed inspection as well as NAISMA's weed free forage standards.
- (e) Crop Improvement Agency
- (f) Other authority as approved by NAISMA.

# Minimum standards

- Weed List
- Inspection request form
- Field/pit inspection
- Inspection certificate
- Twine/Forage Tag
- Transit Certificate





## *2016 NAISMA Noxious Species / Alaska Weeds of Concern*

Absinth wormwood  
Austrian fieldcress  
Black henbane  
Buffalobur  
**Canada thistle**  
Common burdock  
Common crupina  
Common mullein  
**Common tansy**  
Common teasel  
Cut leaf teasel  
Dame's rocket  
Dalmatian toadflax  
Diffuse knapweed  
Dyers woad

**Field bindweed**  
Field scabious  
Hoary Alyssum  
Hoary cress  
Horsenettle  
Houndstongue  
Johnsongrass  
Jointed goatgrass  
Leafy spurge  
Meadow knapweed  
Medusahead  
Musk thistle  
**Orange hawkweed**  
**Oxeye daisy**  
Perennial pepperweed  
**Perennial sowthistle**  
Plumeless thistle  
**Poison hemlock**  
**Puncturevine**

**Purple loosestrife**  
**Quackgrass**  
Rush skeletonweed  
Russian knapweed  
Scentless chamomile  
**Scotch thistle**  
Sericea lespedeza  
**Spotted knapweed**  
Squarrose knapweed  
St. Johnswort  
Sulfur cinquefoil  
Tall buttercup  
Tansy ragwort  
Vipers Bugloss/Blueweed  
**Wild oats**  
Wild proso millet  
**Yellow hawkweed**  
Yellow starthistle  
**Yellow toadflax**

# *Alaska Weed List*

- Narrowleaf hawkweed
- ~~Narrowleaf hawksbeard~~
- Bird Vetch
- Hawkbit/fall dandelion
- Hempnettle
- Black bindweed/ wild buckwheat
- Corn spurry

# Field inspection Standards



- Storage area shall also be inspected and meet the standards.
- Field inspected/ re-inspected within 10 day prior to harvest.
- Minimum of 2 entry points per field
- Minimum of 1 entry point per 10 acres( 4 hectares)

- Each point of entry shall be at least 150ft, each addition 150ft. shall constitute an entry point.
- Field border shall be inspected.





Noxious weeds can be present in the field or pit area as long as there is no danger of dissemination of seed or injurious portion of the weed, or the plants are not capable of producing a new plant.



# Paper trail



- Inspection Request Form
- Field Certification Form
- Transit Certificate

# Certified Twine





# Challenges To The Program

- Few producers – all subjected to the same weather conditions
- Limited herbicide options
- Limited crop rotation options
- Aggressive summer fallow measures needed
- Lack of year-round storage
- Continuous concern of importing weeds





## POSITIVES:

- Additional scouting to observe changes in weed dynamics
- Minimal resistance problems..... To Date
- Growing demand for value- added certified products.



# Alaska Weed Free Certification Programs



Department of Natural Resources  
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources / Agriculture / Plant Materials Center

## INVASIVE PLANTS AND AGRICULTURAL PEST MANAGEMENT

Welcome to Alaska's Invasive Plant Program. Our program coordinates prevention, outreach, and management strategies for invasive plant issues through collaboration with land managers, agencies, organizations, and policy makers across Alaska. These efforts are guided by the implementation of our [Strategic Plan](#) and relevant noxious weed regulation and policy. Our goal is to help keep Alaska's pristine landscapes and natural resources free from impacts of noxious and invasive plants.

### PMC Programs

- PMC Home Page
- Horticulture
- Industrial Hemp Pilot Program
- Invasive Plants
- Plant Pathology
- Pathways
- Revegetation
- Seed Production
- Soil Conservation
- Publication List
- Native Plant Source Directory
- Seed Library Directory
- PMC Staff Directory

### Weed Free Certification Programs

Land managers are increasingly concerned with the spread of selected highly invasive weeds to new areas such as natural areas, rivers and wetlands. Work is being done to address the introduction and spread of invasive weeds to these high-value areas through construction practices, seeding specifications and weed-free products.

The North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) has led the way in developing nationwide weed-free forage straw and gravel certification standards. The Division of Agriculture, in partnership with Alaskan stakeholders and agencies, has adopted these standards as a voluntary program to meet the unique needs of our state.

The Alaska Weed Free certification programs offer a way for producers to ensure that their products meet NAISMA standards and have reduced potential for transport and dispersal of listed weed species.

The Division of Agriculture has certification programs in place for both [forage](#) and [gravel](#) materials, offering producers and gravel pit managers the opportunity to have their sites certified during the growing season. Each program is based on [NAISMA standards](#) and is adapted to Alaska.



[Weed Free Forage Certification Program](#)

[Weed Free Gravel Certification Program](#)

**ALASKA**  
PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

1110 E. Bering Street  
Palmer, AK 99646  
Phone: 907-748-6480  
Fax: 907-748-1348

Images from <http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/weed-free.htm>, October 23, 2019

Hay	Acres Inspected	Acres Passed
2014	210	19
2015	138	85
2016	215	180
2018	448	193
2019	463	463

Straw	Acres Inspected	Acres Passed
2014	1,390	565
2015	0	0
2016	1,695	383
2018	1,959	167
2019	3,175	191









# Results of seed cleaning

Bin-run sample

Weed Species	Number per pound
Lambsquater	157
Chickweed	12
Corn spurry	6
Wild buckwheat	46
Brassica spp.	15
Wild oat	5

Post Scalper

Weed Species	Number per pound
Wild buckwheat	2

Post Complete Cleaning

Weed Species	Number per pound
None	0

