

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.

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	*Quackgrass
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.

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

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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



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