

## California Certified Weed Free Forage and Straw 2015 Supplier List Briefing

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 minimizing the movement of seeds and plant 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 contaminated feed or while grazing. These seeds and plant parts can then reproduce and colonize a previously uninfested area. If left unchecked, these invasive weed infestations cause damage to watershed health, agriculture, recreational opportunities, and as crucial habitat for wildlife and threatened or endangered species.

Certified weed free forage 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 materials as weed free, and are defined as follows:

Weed Free Forage - hay, feed, straw or straw mulch that has been inspected, and certified not to contain propagative plant parts or seeds of noxious weeds

The 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.

You can find a link to the "California's Weed Free Forage Providers List" here: <http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/prevention/weedfreeforage.php>. This is a list of suppliers that sell certified weed free forage and straw. It is an update from a list compiled in 2012 and 2014. In 2014, all vendors on the 2012 list were called and products verified. The list has subsequently been updated in both 2015 and 2016. The list is an iterative list that will be updated through feedback from new vendors and customers. You will find the hay and straw vendors in the first table and the pellet vendors in the second table. If the vendors have both types of products they are in both tables. We added new vendors that received inspections by the County Agriculture Commissioners in the last 2 years. Producers were contacted to obtain a list of vendors that bought their materials; then the vendors were contacted and added to the availability list. This list may not be complete, but instead, is a best attempt at a comprehensive compilation of the survey information.

### **Please note:**

1. 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).

2. If you need 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. 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)". Click here for a sample of this form: [66-079](#). As time goes on, more forage will be certified to the standards of the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA). You will be able to identify these NAISMA certified bales by the "signature" yellow and purple NAISMA standard twine. This will indicate that the bales have been inspected for weeds listed in the California Voluntary Weed-Free Forage Inspection Protocol, as well as any additional weed species on the [North American Designated Noxious Weed list](#). These standards can be found on the NAISMA website: <http://www.naisma.org/images/WFFStandards.pdf>
4. 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](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/county/county_contacts.html)
5. If you are a producer and have certified weed free products and are not on this list, send [Bobbi\\_Simpson@nps.gov](mailto:Bobbi_Simpson@nps.gov) your business details (name of business, full address – including county, products you sell, volume you anticipate, your e-mail address and telephone number).
6. For upland (not wetland prone) restoration sites, certified weed free rice straw is considered the most weed free option followed by uncertified rice straw and certified weed free straw.

#### **Resources:**

Weed-free forage website for California:

<http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/prevention/weedfreeforage.php>

Weed-free forage inspection protocol:

<http://phpps.cdfa.ca.gov/PE/interiorexclusion/CPTM/pdf/CAProceduresforWFF.pdf>

Noxious Weed List for California:

<http://phpps.cdfa.ca.gov/PE/InteriorExclusion/pdf/CCR4500.pdf> or

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/docs/4500Text04012015.pdf>

County Agriculture Commissioners – by county:

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap/>

State of Nevada-Weed Seed Free Forage Growers list:

[http://agri.nv.gov/Plant/Noxious\\_Weeds/WFForageProducers/](http://agri.nv.gov/Plant/Noxious_Weeds/WFForageProducers/)

North American Invasive Species Management Association:

<http://www.naisma.org/weed-free-forage>

Federal Noxious Weeds:

list [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/weeds/downloads/weedlist.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/weeds/downloads/weedlist.pdf)

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<sup>i</sup> Supplier list overview originally created by Wendy West (2012) and updated by Bobbi Simpson, National Park Service, and Joanna Clines, US Forest Service (2014-15) and LeeAnne Mila (2016).