



Alberta's Certified Weed Free Forage and Straw

Canadian Land Reclamation Association
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Outline

- About the AISC
- History of the Weed Free Forage Program
- Current Status of the Weed Free Forage Program
- Potential for a Certified Weed Free Straw Program
- Next steps



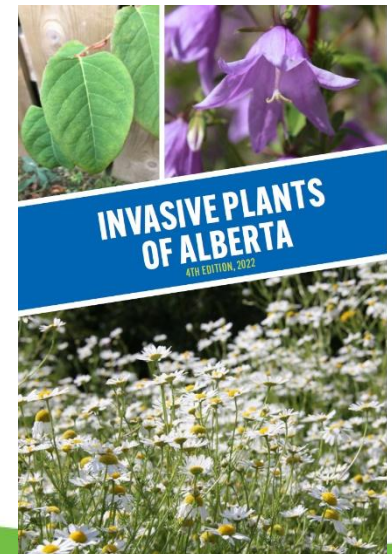
About the AISC



- Non-profit established in 2006
- Large Board of Directors from variety of backgrounds
- Two (and a half) staff
- Funding comes from a variety of sources

AISC Resources

- www.abinvasives.ca
- Over 150 factsheets
- Invasive species photo galleries
- 7 education and outreach campaigns
- Free online webinars
- Annual conference
- Quarterly newsletters – sign up on website
- Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (Citizen Science and Pro Version)
 - Distribution maps
- Administer the Biocontrol Release Program
- Pet Store Recognition Program
- Major revision to the Weed ID Guide
- Coordinate the Alberta Certified Weed Free Forage Program



Why do we need Weed Free Forage?



- Invasive species are a threat to Alberta's economy and environment
- Invasive species can be introduced and spread through contaminated forage
- Prevention is key!
- There is a demand for this product!

History of Alberta's Certified WFF Program

- Alberta signed an MOU with NAISMA in 2000 to participate in the program
- Variable and low uptake
- Until recently only a few municipalities participating in the program with few inspections each year



The Revitalization!

- CAP funding for 2.5 years to actively work on revitalizing the program
- AISC's role is that of a coordinator



WFF Inspections

- Weed Inspectors (county staff) are trained to be WFF Inspectors
- Municipality must be willing to offer the service
- Producers contact the county to schedule an inspection

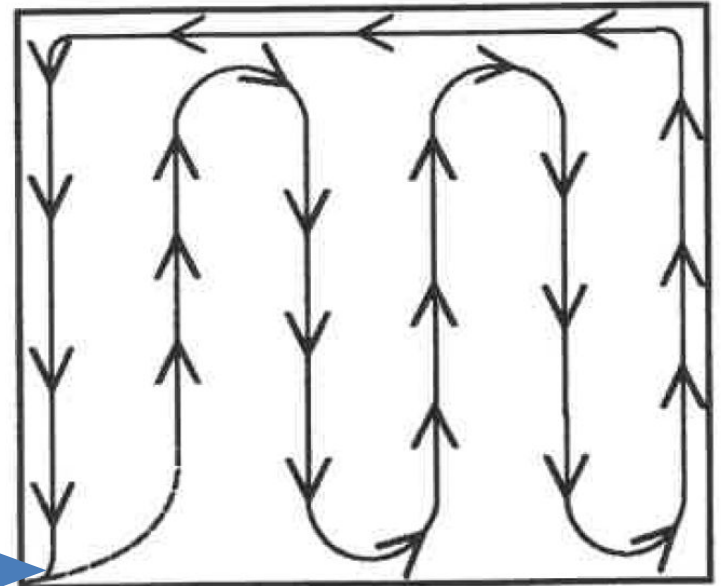


Participating Counties – visit www.abinvasives.ca for updates

- Northern Sunrise County
 - Parkland County
 - Mountain View County
 - Smoky Lake County
 - County of Barrhead
 - Clearwater County
 - Rocky View County
 - Red Deer County
 - MD of Bonnyville
 - Kneehill County
 - MD of Bighorn
 - MD of Greenview
 - County of Vermillion River
 - Cardston County
 - Lacombe County
- 

WFF Inspections

- Inspection conducted within 10 days of harvest
- Storage areas must be inspected



WFF Inspections

If weed species are found, further inspected to see if propagative parts are present

- If not, the forage and the weeds can be certified
- If there are seeds, or stolons, etc. that area is taped off and is not to be cut with the rest of the forage



Alseed.com

WFF Inspections

- Assessed for all species on AB Weed Act plus an additional 15 identified by NAISMA
- Forage is cut within 10 days and baled in uniquely coloured twine
- Weed Free Forage Certificate issued



Barriers to Success

- Difficult for producers and buyers to get information on the program
- Disconnect between producers and buyers



AISC has committed to:

- Providing a page on our website dedicated to the program
- Providing a current list of WFF producers with inventory to sell
- Promoting the WFF program to buyers and sellers
- General coordination and administration

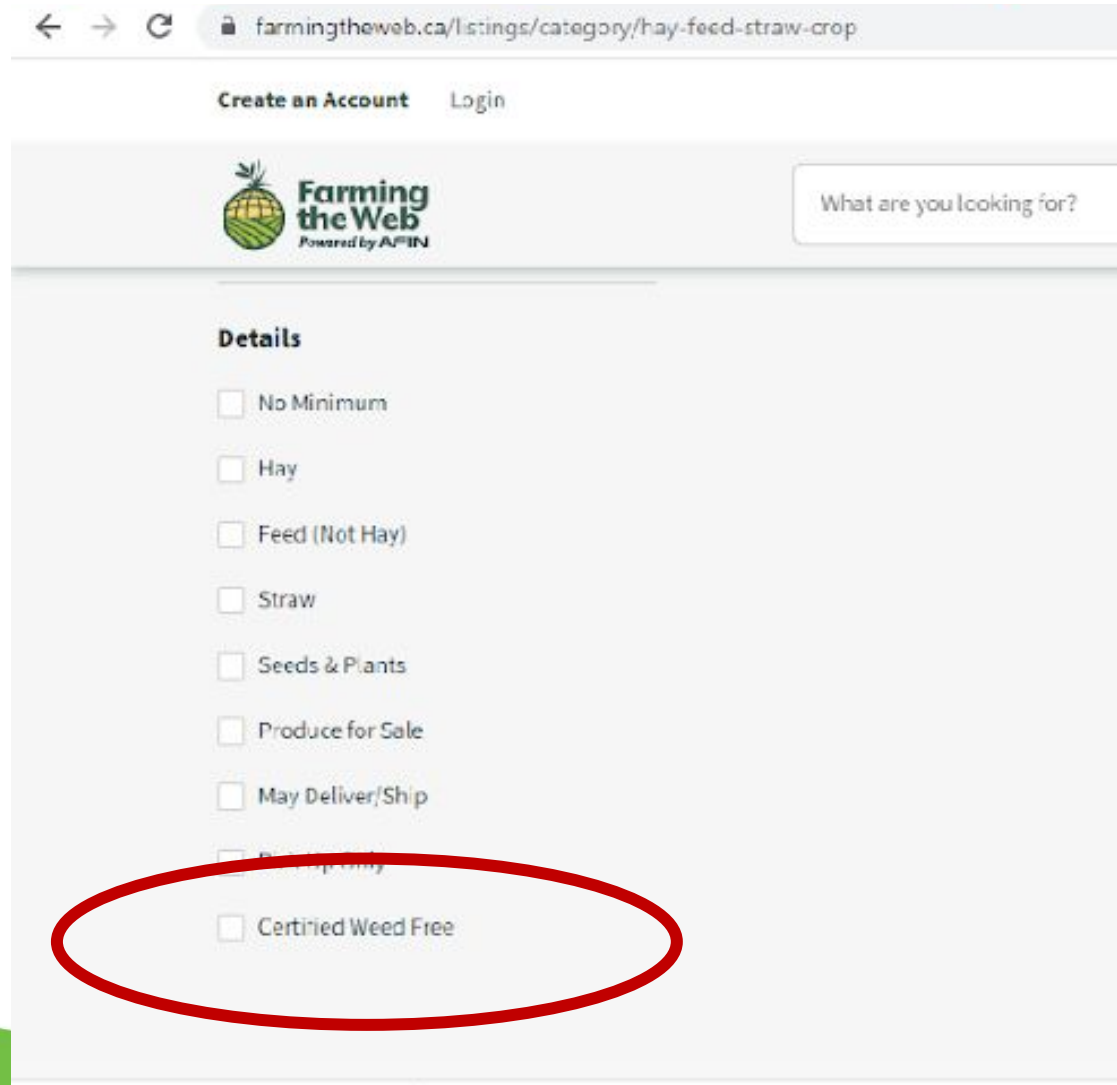


Where to find Certified Weed Free Forage


www.abinvasives.ca

OR

Farming the Web



2021 Results

- 45 WFF Inspectors trained
 - 11 counties offering inspections
 - 3 inspections with 2 different producers
 - 112 acres certified
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Certified Weed Free Straw

- Straw is often used in erosion control – in areas where we definitely don't want to be introducing weeds



Credit: water-pollutionsolutions.com


Certified Weed Free Straw

- Straw could be certified through this same process.
- Is there a demand for this product?



Credit: Kuert.com

Poll Questions

- Have you ever been asked to use Certified Weed Free Straw?
 - Would you ever consider using Certified Weed Free Straw?
 - Would you or your clients be willing to pay a premium for Certified Weed Free Straw?
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Summary

- AISC is working to revitalize the AB Certified Weed Free Forage program.
- Can incorporate Weed Free Straw if there is a demand
- For more information about the program visit www.abinvasives.ca
- To find Certified Weed Free Products visit www.Abinvasives.ca OR Farming The Web!





presents:



VIRTUAL FORUM

May 11, 2022 at 6 PM

Learn everything you
need to know about
wild boar at large!



Thank you!

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