

**NAISMA WEED FREE FORAGE  
MINIMUM CERTIFICATION STANDARDS**

Revised 1/24/97, 9/16/97, 8/9/99, 10/30/02, 10/20/03, 9/21/04, 1/05/05, 10/18/06, 11/1/12, 3/31/15, 02/01/16, 10/23/17, 10/17/18, 4/16/20

**INTRODUCTION**

There is a growing demand in North America for the use of certified weed free forage and mulch as a preventative program in integrated weed management systems to limit the spread of noxious weeds.

The Standards are designed to:

Provide some assurance to all participants that forage certified through this program meets a minimum acceptable standard;

- Provide continuity between the various provinces, states, and federal lands in the program.
- Limit the spread of noxious weeds.

Participating jurisdictions may wish to add to these standards within their specific state or province but must

meet the minimum standards outlined in this document to be recognized by NAISMA.

NAISMA Forage Certification Standards may not meet the forage quality standards adopted by the Hay Marketing Task Force of the American Forage and Grassland Council.

**DEFINITIONS** Revised 1/24/97, 10/30/02, 5/15/08, 3/31/15, 10/23/17, 10/17/18

*Certification*

Inspector certification is available at the NAISMA Conference and online. An administrative fee may be applicable for this certification.

*Certification Markings*

NAISMA approved tags or twine, or both.

*Cubed hay*

Harvested with equipment which forms the hay into small compact self-binding units. These are not considered pellets as defined in this document, and therefore the field of origin must be certified.

*Designated authority*

Must be one of the following:

- Representative of a state or province's department of agriculture.
- Manager of a state, provincial, local government or federal agency staff responsible for managing legislated weed species within their jurisdiction (ex: Weed Supervisor, Weed Superintendent, Ag. Fieldman).

- An individual designated as an inspector under that state or province's weed control legislation or federal agency staff. 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.
- University Extension Agent.
- Representative of a State Crop Improvement Association.
- Other authority as approved by NAISMA.

### Federal Agency

Federal land management agency with no financial gain in NAISMA Minimum Standard Certification programs.

### Forage

Any crop, including alfalfa, grass, small grains, straw, and similar crops and commodities, that is grown, harvested, and sold for livestock forage, bedding material, or mulch related uses and the byproducts of those crops or commodities that have been processed into pellets, cubes, or related products.

### Prohibited Weed

Those plant species, including any weed seed or propagative plant parts, voted on by MOU holders and approved by the NAISMA BOD in Appendix A, as well as weeds listed under weed control legislation within the state or province of the forage's origin.

### Pellets

Agglomerated feed formed by compacting and forcing through die openings by a mechanical process. If heat is not used in the process, the field of origin must be certified.

### Propagules

Any part of a plant capable of enabling it to reproduce (may include seeds, roots, and/or stolons).

## **NAISMA MINIMUM WEED FREE FORAGE STANDARDS** (revised 3/31/15, 10/23/17)

- Forage shall be free of prohibited weeds as defined in these minimum standards.
- Forage shall be inspected in the state/province of origin by the designated authority.
- Forage shall also be inspected in the field of origin by the designated authority per Appendix E.
- Forage which contains any prohibited weeds may still be certified if the field upon which the forage was produced is treated to prevent prohibited weed seed or other propagule viability according to agricultural practices acceptable to, and to the satisfaction of the designated authority.
- Pellets as defined in these standards may also be certified if they are declared free of viable prohibited weed seeds or other propagules by a test conducted by a state/provincial seed testing laboratory approved by the designated authority.
- Cubed hay as defined in these standards may also be certified if the field of origin has been certified by the designated authority according to these standards.

- An Inspection Certificate as per Appendix B shall document the above requirements are met.
- Shipment of NAISMA Certified Weed Free Forage shall be accompanied by NAISMA Certification Marking as outlined in Appendix D, or an original printed or digital copy of the Transit Certificate issued by the designated authority as outlined in Appendix C.

**Appendix A: NAISMA Weed Free Forage Prohibited Weed List**

Revised: 01/24/97, 04/20/97, 09/16/97, 10/30/02, 10/05/05, 10/09/09, 03/31/15, 02/01/16, 10/23/17, 10/17/18, 4/16/20

The designated authority shall inspect fields for NAISMA prohibited species and their state or province designated noxious weed lists.

Absinth wormwood ( <i>Artemisia absinthium</i> )	Orange hawkweed ( <i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i> )
Austrian fieldcress ( <i>Rorippa austriaca</i> )	Oxeye daisy ( <i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i> )
Black henbane ( <i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> )	Perennial pepperweed ( <i>Lepidium latifolium</i> )
Buffalobur ( <i>Solanum rostratum</i> )	Perennial sowthistle ( <i>Sonchus arvensis</i> )
Canada thistle ( <i>Cirsium arvense</i> )	Plumeless thistle ( <i>Carduus acanthoides</i> )
Caucasian Bluestem ( <i>Bothriochloa bladhii</i> )	Poison hemlock ( <i>Conium maculatum</i> )
Common burdock ( <i>Arctium minus</i> )	Puncturevine ( <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> )
Common crupina ( <i>Crupina vulgaris</i> )	Purple loosestrife ( <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> )
Common mullein ( <i>Verbascum thapsus</i> )	Quackgrass ( <i>Agropyron repens</i> )
Common tansy ( <i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> )	Rush skeletonweed ( <i>Chondrilla juncea</i> )
Common teasel ( <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> )	Russian knapweed ( <i>Centaurea repens</i> )
Cutleaf teasel ( <i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i> )	Scentless chamomile ( <i>Matricaria perforata</i> or <i>M. milaceum</i> )
Dame's rocket ( <i>Hesperis matronalis</i> )	Scotch thistle ( <i>Onopordum acanthium</i> )
Dalmatian toadflax ( <i>Linaria dalmatica</i> )	Sericea lespedeza ( <i>Lespedeza cuneata</i> )
Diffuse knapweed ( <i>Centaurea diffusa</i> )	Spotted knapweed ( <i>Centaurea maculosa</i> )
Dyers woad ( <i>Isatis tinctoria</i> )	Squarrose knapweed ( <i>Centaurea virgata</i> )
Field bindweed ( <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> )	St. Johnswort ( <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> )
Field scabious ( <i>Knautia arvensis</i> )	Sulfur cinquefoil ( <i>Potentilla recta</i> )
Hoary Alyssum ( <i>Berteroa incana</i> )	Tall buttercup ( <i>Ranunculus acris</i> )
Hoary cress ( <i>Cardaria spp.</i> )	Tansy ragwort ( <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> )
Horsenettle ( <i>Solanum carolinense</i> )	Vipers Bugloss/Blueweed ( <i>Echium vulgare</i> )
Houndstongue ( <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> )	Wild oats ( <i>Avena fatua</i> )
Johnsongrass ( <i>Sorghum halepense</i> )	Wild proso millet ( <i>Panicum miliaceum</i> )
Jointed goatgrass ( <i>Aegilops cylindrica</i> )	Yellow Bluestem ( <i>Bothriochloa ischaemum</i> )
Leafy spurge ( <i>Euphorbia esula</i> )	Yellow hawkweed ( <i>Hieracium pratense</i> )
Meadow knapweed ( <i>Centaurea pratensis</i> )	Yellow starthistle ( <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> )
Medusahead ( <i>Taeniatherum caputmedusae</i> )	Yellow toadflax ( <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> )
Musk thistle ( <i>Carduus nutans</i> )	

**Procedure for species considered for addition or deletion:**

1. Petition must be sent to the NAISMA Weed Free Forage and Gravel (WFF&G) Committee from a designated authority as defined in these standards formally requesting a species be added or removed from listing to Appendix A:
2. Petition shall contain a risk assessment of species proposed to be added with information on its potential and/or actual impacts to natural resources at a state/provincial and/or regional level.
3. Petition shall contain a risk assessment of species proposed for deletion with information on why the species is no longer considered a potential and/or actual threat to natural resources at a state/provincial and/or regional level.
4. Petitioner shall send the formal petition to add or delete a species to the NAISMA WFF&G Committee Chair at least 90 days before the committee meets at NAISMA's Annual General Meeting (AGM).
5. NAISMA WFF & G Committee Chair will send the petition to committee members and MOU holders at least 60 days in advance of NAISMA's AGM.
6. NAISMA WFF & G Committee will formulate a recommendation to support or deny the petition to be presented and voted on by MOU holders. The decision (by simple majority) is then presented to the NAISMA Board of Directors (BOD) for their consideration prior to NAISMA's AGM.
7. MOU holders can only vote once and can vote by proxy.
8. If the NAISMA BOD supports the Weed Free Forage Committee recommendation on the petition, it will be presented at NAISMA's AGM.
9. Appendix A will be modified as necessary after the above procedures have been carried out.

**Appendix B: Inspection Certificate Standards and Certificate of Inspection Minimum**

**Requirements:** Revised 1/24/97, 10/30/02, 3/31/15, 10/23/17, 4/16/20

- Designated authority contact information.
- Inspection Certificate numbering system.
- Forage producer contact information.
- Legal description of property being inspected.
- Number of acres or hectares inspected.
- Size of package or bale.
- Number or tonnage of bales or packages.
- Type of forage.
- **"Meets NAISMA Standards"** statement.
- Inspection date.
- Designated authority's inspector signature.
- Comments section.
- Expiration Date.

**Appendix C: Transit Certificate Standards and Transit Certificate Minimum Requirements:**

Revised 1/24/97, 10/20/03, 3/31/15

- Designated authority contact information.
- Transit Certificate numbering system.
- Transporter contact information.
- Consignee contact information.
- Specific destination.
- Reference to Inspection Certification Number (Appendix B)
- Type of Certification Marking used (Appendix D)
- Size of package or bale.
- Number or tonnage of bales or packages.
- Type of forage.
- Issue date.
- Issuer signature, title, and contact information.
- Comments section.
- **"Only Original Print / Digital Copy Approved By Designated Authority Accepted"** Statement

**Appendix D: Certification Marking** Revised 1/24/97, 10/30/02, 10/20/03, 5/15/08, 3/31/15, 10/23/17, 4/16/20

- Special twine as approved by NAISMA.
- Forage Tag Minimum Requirements:
  - The words **"NAISMA Weed Free Forage Certification Program"**.
  - A number system (for tracking purposes).
  - State or Province of issue.
  - Designated authority contact information.
  - **A statement that the product is "Certified to the NAISMA Standards"**.

**Appendix E: Field Inspection Standards and Minimum Guidelines for Field**

**Inspections:** - Revised 1/24/97, 3/31/15, 2/1/16

- Fields shall be inspected within a maximum of 10 days prior to cutting / harvesting.
- Fields must be inspected again if circumstances prevent harvest of the forage for a period greater than 10 days from the first inspection.
- There shall be a minimum of two entry points per field.
- There shall be a minimum of one entry point per each 10 acres (4 hectares).
- Each point of entry shall be at least 150 feet (45 meters) into the field, and each additional 150 feet (45 meters) traveled shall constitute an entry point.
- Travel shall be uninterrupted, proceeding through the field being inspected.
- Field borders shall be inspected, including surrounding ditches, fence rows, roads, easements, rights-of-way, and/or a buffer zone surrounding the field as determined by the designated authority.
- The storage area for the forage shall also be inspected and meet these standards.
- An inspector may not inspect fields of which said inspector has ownership or financial interest.