



The Revitalization of Alberta's Certified Weed Free Forage

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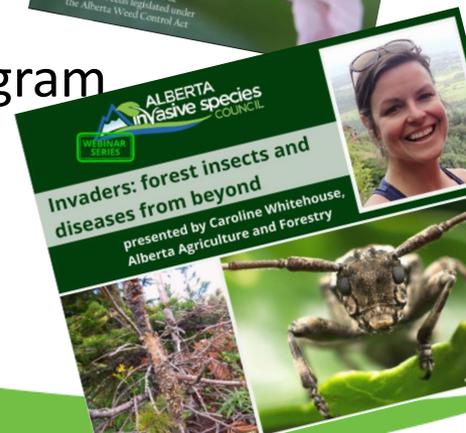
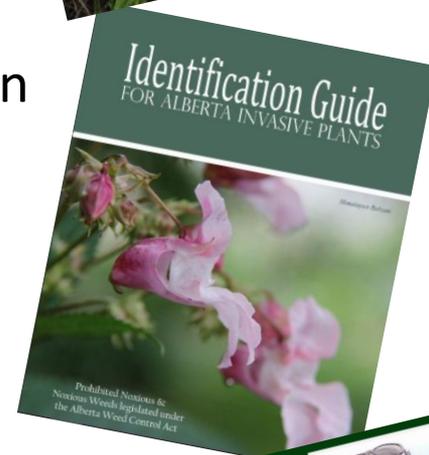
About the AISC

- Non-profit established in 2006
- Large Board of Directors from variety of backgrounds
- Two staff
- Funding comes from a variety of sources
- We aim to:
 - Increase awareness
 - Serve as a respected source of credible information
 - Foster partnerships
 - Engage and empower Albertans to prevent, detect and take action against invasive species



AISC Resources

- www.abinvasives.ca
- Over 150 factsheets
- Invasive species photo galleries
- 7 education and outreach campaigns
- Annual conference (March 14-18, 2022)
- Quarterly newsletters
- Free online webinars
- 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!

What does 'Weed Free' mean?

- Forage shall be free of prohibitive weeds as defined in the NAISMA standards
- Forage which contains noxious weeds may be certified as weed free, provided no propagative parts are present that could enter into the baled forage



What does 'Weed Free' mean?

- Inspected in the state/province of origin by a certified inspector
- Inspected in the field of origin, prior to cutting by a certified inspector



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 3 years to actively work on revitalizing the program
- AISC's role is that of a coordinator



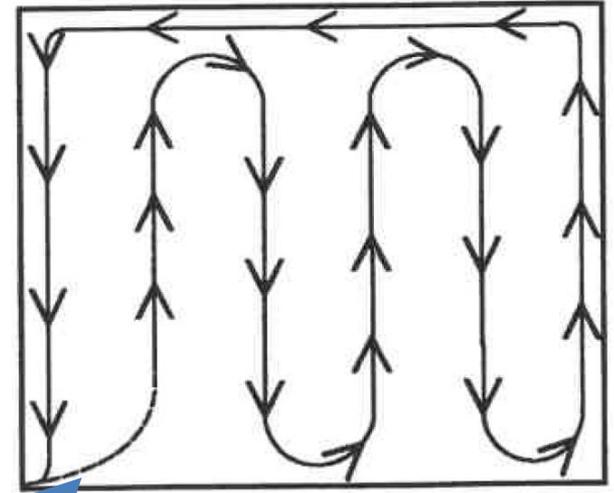
How the WFF Program Works

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



How the WFF Program Works

- Inspection conducted within 10 days of harvest
- Storage areas must be inspected
- All or portions of fields can be certified
- No propagative parts present
- Prohibited species are those on the AB Weed Act and the NAISMA list



How the WFF Program Works

- 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
 - Producers don't always get a higher price for their product
 - Inspections are time consuming so not all municipalities will be keen to participate (participation is voluntary)
 - WFF twine isn't necessarily the best product for indicating WF
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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
 - Coordinating WFF Inspector training
 - Working with municipalities to customize the program to suite their needs (e.g., inspection fees, etc.)
 - Record keeping and other administration
 - Researching and producing alternative WFF markers
(alternatives to twine)
- 

AISC has committed to:

Providing a current list of WFF producers with inventory to sell

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL abinvasives.ca/resources/certified-weed-free-forage/. The navigation menu on the left includes several items, with the first one, "List of Producers with Certified Weed Free Forage", highlighted by a red circle and a red arrow pointing to it. Below the menu is a video player with the title "Play Clean Go Horseback ...". The main content area features a large image of a haystack with a magnifying glass over a section of it, and a text overlay that reads "Is your forage Certified Weed Free?". The image also contains the "CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP" logo and the "ALBERTA invasive species COUNCIL" logo. The footer of the page includes the "Alberta" and "Canada" logos.

abinvasives.ca/resources/certified-weed-free-forage/

Apps Weed Seeds Order, ... EDDMapS 150,000 Botanical a... Outlook Coronavirus COVID... AISC - Dropbox 4 Hot Products Government Payme... Environmental fund... Reading list

Alberta Invasive Species Council Customize 5 0 + New Edit Page GD cORE Beaver Builder Insights 7 WPForms Managed WordPress Howdy, Megan

List of Producers with Certified Weed Free Forage

The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen

NAISMA Weed Free Forage Minimum Certification Standards

Informational Weed Free Forage Rack Card

Play Clean Go Horseback ...

Is your forage Certified Weed Free?

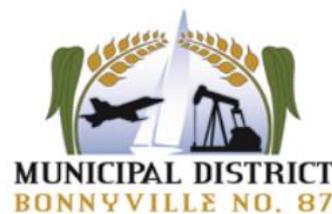
CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP
Innovate. Grow. Prosper.

ALBERTA invasive species COUNCIL

Alberta Canada

Type here to search -5°C Mostly cloudy 5:02 PM 11/16/2021

Participating Counties



2021 Results

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



Summary

- Certified Weed Free Forage is not a new program
- AISC is working to revitalize it!
- Help us promote the Alberta Certified Weed Free Forage program!
 - Tell your friends
 - Visit www.abinvasives.ca for more details



Thank you!

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