

# NAISMA Weed Free Forage & Gravel Standards and Certification Program

Supporting Multi-Jurisdictional Cooperation

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North American Invasive Species  
Management Association



STOP INVASIVE SPECIES  
IN YOUR TRACKS.

# Overview

- **What** is the Weed Free Forage and Gravel Program and participation requirements
- **How** does the Weed Free Forage and Gravel Pit Certification Work; Mulch standards being developed
- **Who** can be certified to be a Weed Free Forage or Gravel Inspector
- **When** you can take the training

# Who We Are

## North American Invasive Species Management Association

**Mission:** to support, promote, and empower invasive species prevention and management in North America.

**Vision:** North America's lands and waters are protected from invasive species.

**27 Years old:** In 2012, name changed from NAWMA to NAISMA to include all taxa.

# What We Do

- Promote International Standards
- Support standards, regulation, and certification of weed-free forage, mulch, and gravel producers
- Outreach and Awareness: PlayCleanGo
- Professional Development
- Annual Conference
  - Whitefish, MT October 6-8, 2020



**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES  
IN YOUR TRACKS.**

[PlayCleanGo.org](http://PlayCleanGo.org)

# Weed Free Forage and Gravel Program

- Started in 1993
- Grassroots group of Western County & State Land Managers came together
- Goal: ensure that the same noxious weeds were being controlled across jurisdictional boundaries

# Weed Free Forage and Gravel Program

- A cooperative program that sets standards for inspection and certification of forage, mulch and gravel producers
- Provides a unified system of inspection and training that is standardized across jurisdictional boundaries.



# The Challenge

- Forage and gravel can be pathways of spread for invasive species
- Federal lands and increasing areas of state lands require WFF&G



# The Opportunity

- Local county and state inspectors are skilled at being able to identify invasive species
- States and counties have Weed Laws or other regulations; Federal lands require WFF&G
- No other continent-scale, cooperative program exists for these pathways

# The Solution

- Agreed-upon standards
- Cross-jurisdictional agreement and cooperation
- Independent organization, NAISMA, coordinates MOUs and maintains certification records

# Weed Free Forage and Gravel Standards and Certification Program

- The only international standards program for these specific pathways
- Relies on cooperation and agreement to uphold standards across jurisdictions

# Certification Program

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Weed Free Forage & Gravel  
Minimum Certification Standards

Certification Training

Certificate of Inspection Minimum  
Standards

Transit Certificate Minimum Standards

# Who Is Involved?

- State agency (usually Department of Agriculture) holds MOU with NAISMA
- County Weed Control Staff, Crop Improvement Association, States, Federal Agencies  
Inspectors take the NAISMA training

# Who Is Involved?

- NAISMA staff coordinate MOUs, maintain records, and facilitate inspector trainings and certifications
- Guided by a volunteer committee of NAISMA general members and board members (planning to create an Eastern Committee)
- Changes to the WFF&G program standards must be agreed upon by the committee and voted and approved by the NAISMA membership









North American Invasive Species Management Association  
Weed Free Forage and Gravel Program

**Memorandum of Understanding**

The North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) Weed Free Forage and Gravel Committee requires the use of this memorandum of understanding to participate in the Weed Free Forage and Gravel Program. Sponsoring State or Provincial agencies or organizations are asked to enter agreement with NAISMA to sponsor the Weed Free Forage and/or Weed Free Gravel Program in their State or Province. This MOU may be printed out and completed with the appropriate information relevant to your state or province.

- Scope of the MOU: (Check box)
- Weed Free Forage
  - Weed Free Gravel
  - Weed Free Forage and Gravel

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

BETWEEN THE NORTH AMERICAN INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION  
And

\_\_\_\_\_

**1. Parties.** The Memorandum of Understanding hereinafter referred to as "MOU" is made and entered by and between the \_\_\_\_\_, whose address, phone and email contact is: \_\_\_\_\_

and The North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) whose address, phone and email contact is 2025 N. Lake Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53202; 414-967-1350; bbergner@naisma.org

**2. Purpose.** This agreement, between the above-named parties, is entered to provide some assurance that the forage/mulch or gravel/soil products are certified to be free of weed species named on the applicable NAISMA Weed Free Certification Standards.

**3. Term of MOU.** This MOU shall commence upon the day last signed and executed by the duly authorized representative of the parties to this MOU, and shall remain in full force and effect until terminated. Termination of this MOU may be made without cause, by either party upon thirty (30) days formal notice.

**4. Payment.** No payment shall be made to either party by the other party as a result of this MOU.

**5. Responsibilities.** Responsibilities of NAISMA and the \_\_\_\_\_ shall be to provide uniform standards and policy of inspection, certificate of inspection, and transit certification procedures as applicable. The designated authority shall complete the required inspection and transit forms per the NAISMA standards.

MOU  
NAISMA  
Weed Free  
Forage &  
Gravel  
Program



# Forage & Gravel Producers Certification

- WFF and WFG each have their own Minimum Certification Standards
- NAISMA WFF & G Prohibited Weed List is the same.
  - To change list the Procedure for Species considered for addition or deletion must be followed.

# Weed Free Forage Minimum Certification Standards

- Crop Improvement Agency & Other Authority may uphold standards as approved by NAISMA
- Updated Standards 10/17/18

## 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, 3/31/15, 02/01/16, 10/25/17

### 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 and states 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

#### 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, purple and yellow twine, and galvanized wire.

#### 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

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

# Certification Training

## Availability:

- Annual Conference
- Online Year Round

# \*Sample\* Form for WFF Certificate Minimum Standard Requirements

- Each WFF MOU has  
their own Certificate  
of Inspection #.



NAFCS/WDA - 69.02

Inspection Date

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Producer No: \_\_\_\_\_

NAFCS No. WY/ \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate #

## WYOMING CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION

\*Note: This is not a Transit Certificate

County Weed and Pest Control District \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: 307- \_\_\_\_\_

This certifies that the field(s) described herein, have been inspected and found to be free of weeds which are prohibited or noxious. The objective of this program is to help prevent and slow the spread of weeds which are prohibited or noxious and the potential for transport and dispersal of listed weed species.

Meets NAISMA Standards

which is free of the

Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

Producer Contact

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Field(s) Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Description

Acres Inspected: \_\_\_\_\_

Hectares, Acres

Size

Tons/Bales: \_\_\_\_\_

Package Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Marking System \_\_\_\_\_

lbs. or tonnage

FORAGE PRODUCT \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Forage

A. \_\_\_\_\_ EXCEEDS requirements of the North American Forage Certification Standards and contains prohibited or noxious forage plant material. No other plants or weeds noted.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ MEETS requirements of the North American Forage Certification Standards. This forage contains variable amounts of annual weeds and/or other weeds not listed as prohibited or noxious.

(Weeds noted): \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_ COMPLIES with MINIMUM requirements of the North American Forage Certification Standards.

This forage contains variable amounts of Prohibited or Noxious weed species which are immature, (no viable seed) when harvested, or were treated to prevent seed formation. These plant parts, although not usually desirable in the forage product, are not considered able to begin new infestations.

(Weeds noted): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment Section

Producer agrees \_\_\_\_\_

to the "certified forage for sale" list.

### REQUIREMENTS

Forage must be certified within 10 days of harvesting; and inspected in the Field of Origin by proper officials. Inspection shall include surrounding ditches, fence rows, easements, roads, ect. and loading areas and stackyards.

Certificate shall document included information based on reasonable and prudent inspection. This certificate shall be in effect for the current season or as specified.

Termination Date \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date

Certified by: \_\_\_\_\_

Designated Authority Signature

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Disclaimer: \_\_\_\_\_

Any forage from non-certified field(s) shall constitute a violation of the Wyoming Weed and Pest Act and prosecution charges may be filed with the proper County Attorney.

\* This certificate is Not Transferable; and will not be accepted by Law Enforcing Agencies or Port of Entry Authority. End User Must Have the original white form (NAFCS/WDA- 70) Transit Certificate (no photo copies), or forage must be identified with an approved NAFCS marking system such as special twine or tags. For additional information call the District in your area or the Wyoming Department of Agriculture at 307-777-6585.

Designated Authority Contact

White copy - Producer;

Yellow copy -

# Certified Weed Free Forage: Safe for Transport





# Weed Free Forage

- ***Each MOU Sets Their Method of Marking***

## Certification Marking

1. Twine: Purple & Yellow
2. Galvanized Baling Wire
3. Forage Tag





# Gravel Inspection Certification Program



# Gravel Inspection Form Minimum Requirements

- Inspection Minimum Standards

**Date of Inspection:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Inspection Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Permit Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Inspection Number** \_\_\_\_\_

Inspection of gravel pit, mining operation area, aggregate storage area and surrounding lands.

This certifies that the area described below has been inspected per the NAISMA program is to help prevent the spread of the Prohibited Weeds by providing gravel propagative parts of weed species.

Meets NAISMA Standards

**Owner/Operator** \_\_\_\_\_ **Gravel Pit Owner/Manager** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact Information** \_\_\_\_\_ **State/Province:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pit Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State/Province:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parcel Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Legal Description** \_\_\_\_\_ **Township:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Section:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of acres/hectares inspected:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Acres/Hectares** \_\_\_\_\_

**Level of Certification:**

\_\_\_\_\_ EXCEEDS requirements of the NAISMA standards and contains only the specified gravel/borrow material with no plant material noted.

\_\_\_\_\_ MEETS requirements of the NAISMA standards. This material contains variable amounts of plant material not listed as prohibited weeds.

\_\_\_\_\_ MINIMUM requirements of the NAISMA standards are met\*. This material contains variable amounts of prohibited weeds which were immature or controlled to the satisfaction of the designated authority to prevent propagation.

\_\_\_\_\_ FAILED

**Weeds Noted/Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

Comment Section

**Requirements**

Material must be certified to the NAISMA standards and inspected by the designated authority. Inspection shall include, but not be limited to surrounding ditches, top soil/gravel/sand piles, fence rows, roads, easements, rights-of-ways, working areas, storage areas and buffer zones surrounding the area. Certification shall be based on a reasonable and prudent visual inspection.

**This certification terminates on: Date:** \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ **Certification Termination Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Designated Authority:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Designated Authority** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact Information** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Disclaimer: Certified material may have viable seeds from previous years. Plant seeds are not killed by registered pesticides. Some Prohibited Weeds can reproduce by plant parts other than seeds.

# \*Sample\* Weed Free Gravel Certificate of Inspection

Incorporates state  
or province  
requirements.



## Becker County Gravel Pit Certificate of Inspection (Enforcing Jurisdiction)



Date of Inspection: \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Number: use parcel number

Inspection of gravel pit, mining operation area, aggregate storage area and surrounding lands.

This certifies that the area described below has been inspected per the NAISMA standards. The objective of the program is to help prevent the spread of the Prohibited Weeds by providing gravel/borrow material that is free\* of propagative parts of weed species. \*MACAI requires two inspections a year.

Owner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Pit Information: Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of acres inspected: \_\_\_\_\_

### Level of Certification:

\_\_\_\_ EXCEEDS requirements of the NAISMA standards and contains only the specified gravel/borrow material with no plant material noted.

\_\_\_\_ MEETS requirements of the NAISMA standards. This material contains variable amounts of plant material not listed as prohibited weeds.

\_\_\_\_ MINIMUM requirements of the NAISMA standards are met\*. This material contains variable amounts of prohibited weeds which were mature and controlled to the satisfaction of the designated authority to prevent propagation.

\_\_\_\_ FAIL

Weed	Comments

### Requirements

Material must be certified to the MACAI & NAISMA standards and inspected by the designated authority. Inspection shall include, but not be limited to surrounding ditches, top soil/gravel/sand piles, fence rows, roads, easements, rights-of-ways, working areas, storage areas and buffer zones surrounding the area. Certification shall be based on a reasonable and prudent visual inspection.

This certification terminates on: Date: 5/20/2019

Becker County Agriculture Inspector: Marsha Watland Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 218-846-7360

\*NAISMA – North American Invasive Species Management Association

\*Minnesota Association of County Agricultural Inspectors

\*Disclaimer: Certified gravel/borrow material may have viable seeds from previous years. Plant seed is not killed by registered pesticides. Certification consists of a prudent and visual inspection for that year certification for this pit.

# New Gravel/Borrow Pit Inspection

Inspect Buildings

Border: walk or drive

## Inspect:

- Entire Border
- Around building & Equipment
- All storage areas
- All work areas

*\*Material may not be moved from site till there is a completed signed inspection.*

080233000

Detroit

Permitted Gravel Pit Area

13

Inspect Work Areas -Pasture

080229000

## New Gravel/Borrow Pit Inspection



Inspection: Meet with owner to go over area.  
Minimum of one inspection required.

State/Province are not limited to one inspection, may require more inspections to meet State/Province standards.



1. First Inspection-check entire border. 8/4/17

2. Second Inspection. 9/8/17

# New Gravel/Borrow Pit Inspection

Roads & parking areas  
free of prohibited  
weeds



All equipment, crushers and working areas must be inspected.



# New Gravel/Borrow Pit Inspection



All piles, equipment areas, work areas, borders and roadways shall be inspected.

9/8/17



8/4/17 NE Corner

# Prohibited Noxious Weed

Procedure for species considered for addition or deletion.

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.

# WFF & G Committee Prohibited Noxious Weed

Process of presenting recommendations for vote

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.

# WFF & G Committee Prohibited Noxious Weed

Process of presenting recommendations for vote

If the NAISMA BOD supports the Weed Free Forage Committee recommendation on the petition, it will be presented at NAISMA's AGM for approval/rejection by NAISMA's membership.

The Minimum Standards will be modified after the above procedures have been carried out.

# NAISMA NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

## WEED FREE MULCH

- Being Developed in WFF&G Sub-Committee
- Stand-alone Certification
- Will not include Compost

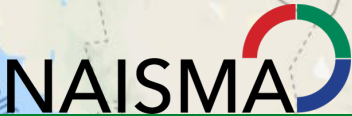


# Program Fees

- Provides minimal support for program administration, communications, testing, and program improvements.
  - Annual fee for MOU holder: \$100
  - Three year certification fee of \$30 for each designated authority inspector. No fee when certified at Annual Conference.

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Alberta
- California  
(Inyo-Mono and Shasta Counties)
- Colorado
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Montana
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- Nevada
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oregon
- South Dakota
- South Carolina
- Utah
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

# Participating States and Provinces



# How to Become a Certified Inspector

- Contact your local, relevant agency (Department of Agriculture, Crop Improvement Association, or Other Agency)
- Agency fills out MOU with NAISMA
- Agency contact informs NAISMA of preferred training method – online or in person at annual conference



# Summary

## Weed Free Forage and Gravel Standards and Certification Program

- The only international standards program for these specific pathways
- Relies on cooperation and agreement to uphold standards across jurisdictions
- Ability to add State Noxious Weed Lists to

# Join Us

- If you are not a current partner and are interested in participating, contact us.

Belle Bergner, Executive Director

414-967-1350

[bbergner@naisma.org](mailto:bbergner@naisma.org)

Dave Burch, WFF&G Program Manager

406-461-4719

[dburch@naisma.org](mailto:dburch@naisma.org)

# Thank you



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