

Certified weed-free forage and straw is produced and available for sale in California!

And we now have a supplier list!

A survey of weed-free forage suppliers and products has been completed by Wendy West and Becky Miller-Cripps, UCCE – Central Sierra, as part of the Yellow Starthistle “Stop the Spread into the Sierras” project. The weed free forage list was compiled by surveying County Agricultural Commissioners, which offer inspection services to certify materials as weed free. Certified weed-free forage is defined as: hay, feed, straw or straw mulch that has been inspected, and certified not to contain propagative plant parts or seeds of noxious weeds. The availability list is ready for use by land managers, project planners and recreationalist taking horses/livestock into the backcountry!

For more information and to view the list, go to one of these California Department of Food and Agriculture – Pest Exclusion web pages:

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pdfs/pe/WFF-Supplier-List-2011-CoverLtr.pdf>

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/PE/index.html>

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/InteriorExclusion/>

The information and list (plus other great prevention resources) is also available at the California Invasive Plant Council - Invasive Plants Prevention page:

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

Note:

1. If you need a large amount of material for the coming year, **contact vendors early in the growing season** to make sure sufficient weed-free forage/straw will be certified and available for your project needs.
2. Proof of certification, in the form of a copy of CDFA Form 66-079 “Certificate of Quarantine Compliance (CQC)” associated with the inspection of the specific forage/straw materials, is the legal documentation verifying that the materials have been inspected.
3. Producers seeking certification for weed-free hay and straw: contact your local County Agricultural Commissioner’s office to arrange inspection and certification. Contact information is available at: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap/>