

Fodder management guidelines

Help reduce the spread of weeds and prevent the establishment of new weed species in the region and state.



These guidelines will help land managers and the community to protect and maintain productive agricultural resources.

Definition

Fodder is defined as any dried livestock feed, such as natural pasture or sown crops cut for hay or silage, cereal stubble and chaff.

Contaminated fodder and grain

Section 177 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* prohibits the sale of declared plants and animals and the sale of anything carrying a declared plant including parts of plants such as seeds, etc.

Any fodder contaminated with a **declared** plant cannot be sold or transported without the written permission of an authorised officer from the source region and agreement of the authorised officer from the region where the fodder is to be delivered.

Please contact Natural Resources Kangaroo Island (NRKI) if you suspect that purchased fodder may be contaminated with declared weeds or weeds that are not present on Kangaroo Island.

Producer responsibilities

The producer of fodder should:

- prepare fodder free of stones, wire, toxic plant material, mould or parts of any plants declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*
- minimise the risk of fodder becoming contaminated by declared plant seeds after preparation
- provide written advice of known contaminants
- clean out fodder storage areas before introducing a new supply.



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The NRKI control officers can help with plant identification to reduce potential hazards for production areas.

Buyer responsibilities

The buyer of any fodder should ask the vendor or producer to state:

- the major constituent plant species of the fodder
- known weed species present in the fodder and in the production area
- origin of the fodder if not produced by the vendor
- whether herbicide resistance has been noticed for any of the weeds present
- whether there has been a test for annual ryegrass toxicity.

Transport

Care must be taken when transporting fodder to avoid:

- the spread of weed seeds on to road reserves and adjoining lands
- loss of valuable produce
- danger to other road users.

Fully secure loads of fodder in transit to avoid these dangers. After the delivery of the consignment, thoroughly clean the vehicle in a place where weeds can be readily detected and easily destroyed if the fodder was contaminated.



Images: Hay on truck (Fairfax Media);
Cattle eating hay (Reef Catchments).

Storage

Closely monitor the area where fodder is stored to detect any germinating weeds. The storage area should not be near livestock or vehicle traffic to reduce the risk of accidental weed seed spread.

Feeding

Stock fed on imported fodder should:

- remain in the feedlot for at least 2–3 weeks before being released into another paddock, or
- feed on imported fodder in the same area of paddock each time to allow for easy weed detection and control.

These practices will minimise the risk of ingested weed seed being spread to other parts of the property in stock waste, which is a major mechanism of weed spread. Weeds that do germinate will be much easier to eradicate from a small holding paddock or feedlot than the whole property.

Contamination

If any strange or unidentifiable plants are found while feeding out fodder or in following seasons, contact the Natural Resources Centre, Kingscote: 8553 4444. Control officers can help with the identification of plants and recommend measures for control.

Waste disposal

Stockpile and burn fodder residue from storage areas and completed stock feeding locations. Check these areas for weeds for several years and have unknown plants identified immediately.

For more information

Team Leader Pest Management: 0429 616 414

Animal and Plant Control Officer: 0418 708 557

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Australian Government

National
Landcare
Programme



This project is jointly funded through Natural Resources Kangaroo Island and the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.