

MD OF RANCHLAND

AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



COWS IN THE PARK

Grazing programs are a highly effective grassland rejuvenation tool. The cattle seen in Chain Lakes Provincial Park in the late summer and fall are on a short-term, intense grazing program that serves to enhance the health of the grassland ecosystems. Thatch is a fibrous layer of living and dead plant stems, leaves, and roots that occurs between the soil surface and the actively growing grass. While thin layers of thatch are beneficial, as it acts as insulation from extreme temperature fluctuations and aids in moisture retention of the soil, should this layer become too thick, it then becomes a barrier to water, sun, air, and fertilizer, ultimately impeding plant growth. Targeted fall grazing programs ensure the cattle consume more old growth than new, keeping the layer of thatch at optimum levels for allowing sunshine to reach young shoots of native grass. Additionally, the manure produced by the cattle will act as a natural fertilizer resulting in higher nutrient values and ultimately a much more robust grassland.

If interested in discussing further, please contact Shayna at ag2@ranchland66.com or 403-646-3131.

Source(s): 1)<https://ag.umass.edu/turf/fact-sheets/what-is-thatch> 2) Roxy Wideman-local rancher

GRANT TO APPLY FOR

<https://www.alberta.ca/farm-technology-program.aspx>

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership-Farm Technology Program

The farm technology program supports adoption of tech that minimizes agricultural waste, optimizes farm efficiency, or improves the security of farming operations. Funding up to \$48,000/applicant for items under Farm Technology Stream, and up to \$2,000/applicant for items under Farm Security Stream. Program funding retroactive to April 1, 2023. If interested, contact Shayna at 403-646-3131 or ag2@ranchland66.com.



WEED TO WATCH

Nodding Thistle

Carduus nutans

ID characteristics: A biennial plant with alternate, deeply lobed leaves. Can grow up to seven feet tall, and have one or many branched stems covered with spines. Stem below the flower head is soft to the touch. There is a single purple flower head for each stem that droop at a 90 degree angle from the stem.



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<https://mdranchland.ca/>

If you would like to contribute to this bulletin by writing an article, submitting a photo to be featured, recommending an organization, noxious weed, or grant, or any other suggestions, please send an email to ag2@ranchland66.com with the subject line "Bulletin". Thanks for reading and I look forward to your feedback!

ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

Canadian Council on Invasive Species

<https://canadainvasives.ca/about/>

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species (CCIS) serves as a national voice and hub to protect Canada from the impacts of invasive species. With members and chapters from all corners of Canada, along with governments and businesses, the CCIS brings people together to build practical solutions to prevent the spread of invasive species. The national organization is governed by a four-chamber board that brings together governments, businesses, indigenous groups, organizations and chapters to help guide the CCIS in achieving success.

