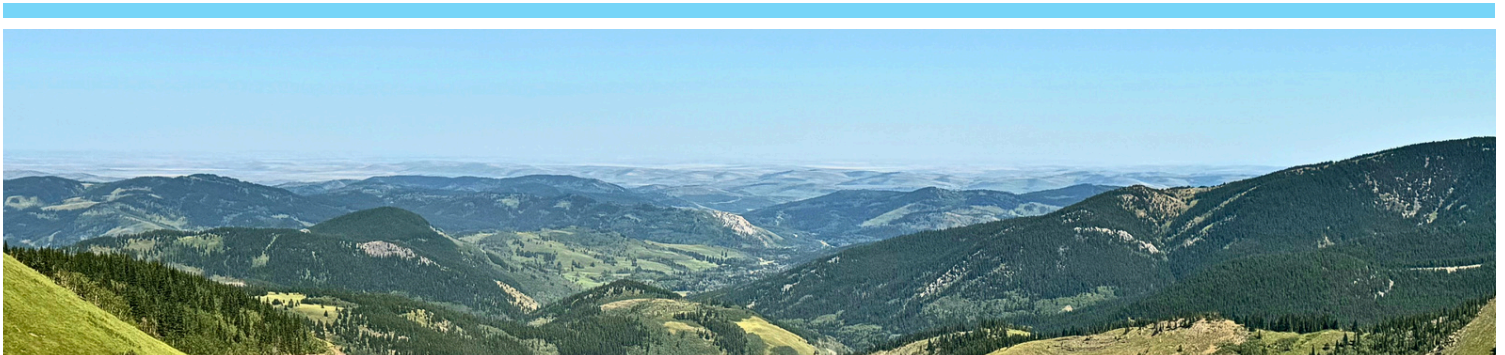


# MD OF RANCHLAND AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



## ALBERTA RAT CONTROL PROGRAM

Since the establishment of the Rat Control Program in 1950, Albertans have enjoyed a rat-free environment. Norway rats, which are known for their destructive behavior, were first discovered on the eastern border of Alberta in 1950. Upon discovery, they were declared a pest under the Agriculture Pests Act of Alberta and the Rat Control Program was created. Under the act, Norway rats and any other rats from the genus *Rattus* are declared pests. While the province oversees the Rat Control Program, it is the responsibility of every individual and municipality to actively prevent rats from establishing on their property. The Act also makes it illegal to import, sell, or keep rats as pets in the province.

Alberta's Rat Program has been a great success. There is no permanent rat population in the province, and any attempts by rats to establish themselves are swiftly dealt with. While occasional small infestations do occur, they are quickly isolated and eradicated using effective control methods.

If interested in discussing further, please contact Erika at [ag3@ranchland66.com](mailto:ag3@ranchland66.com) or 403-646-3131.

Source(s): 1) <https://www.alberta.ca/history-of-rat-control-in-alberta>  
2) <https://www.alberta.ca/rat-control-methods>

## GRANT TO APPLY FOR

<https://www.alberta.ca/on-farm-efficiency-program>

### On-Farm Efficiency Program

The intent of the On-Farm Efficiency Program (OFEP) is to support producers in achieving environmental benefits by improving the efficient use of agricultural inputs. These practices contribute to environmental sustainability by: reducing emissions, minimizing chemical runoff and , promoting the efficient use of natural resources.

Contact Erika at 403-646-3131 or [ag3@ranchland66.com](mailto:ag3@ranchland66.com) with any questions.



## WEED TO WATCH

### Yellow Toadflax

*Linaria vulgaris*

ID characteristics: Yellow toadflax plants have erect, hairless stems that can grow from 15 cm to 1 m tall. The leaves are soft, lance-shaped, pale green, and numerous, mainly alternate. The flowers are bright yellow, arranged in dense spikes, and have a long spur, with snapdragon-like blooms. They flower at different times depending on site conditions. The seeds are winged, disk-shaped, and dark brown to black, with prolific seed production but low germination rates.



Source: <https://abinvasives.ca/fact-sheet/toadflax-yellow/>

## CATTLE DRONE SCHOOL

**September 25 & 26**  
**Meadow Bank Hall, High River**

**FLY SAFELY**

- Flight training suitable for complete beginners
- From first takeoff to autonomous mapping
- Learn to fly using our fleet of drones

**FLY LEGALLY**

- Basic RPAS ground school: air law, drone systems, theory of flight, human factors, meteorology, navigation, and maintenance
- Take the Transport Canada online test and leave with your Basic Pilot's Certificate

**SAVE TIME & MAKE MONEY**

- Two full days of hands-on learning, flight practice & real-world farm and ranch uses
- Beyond pretty pictures & video, you'll learn how to create accurate hi-res maps of fields
- New: intro to spraying and cover-crop spreading
- Demystifying the remote-sensing jargon: thermal, NDVI, multispectral, LIDAR

**\$590 for two full days including lunches**

Use discount code 'FFGA' when registering for \$100 off

Use discount code 'FAMILYFARM' for groups of 2 or more for ANOTHER \$100 off

Register at [LandView.com](https://LandView.com) or call (780) 448-7445

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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 [ag3@ranchland66.com](mailto:ag3@ranchland66.com) with the subject line "Bulletin". Thanks for reading and I look forward to your feedback!

## ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

### Southern Alberta Land Trust Society

<https://salts.land/>

SALTS (Southern Alberta Land Trust Society) is a rancher-based society that works for viable water, natural habitats, and rural communities and ranches. Their goal is to help implement lasting conservation solutions. Conservation easements are the main way they achieve this goal. Landowners who want to preserve agricultural, watershed, and wildlife values enter a conservation easement agreement that sets restrictions on future development. In return, SALTS can provide financial incentives. Visit the website above for more information.

