

# MD OF RANCHLAND AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



## BEAVERS: PEST OR PARTNER?

There are numerous misconceptions about beavers. For some, they are seen as pests due to flooding and damage. Truthfully, however, beavers are a very beneficial addition to watershed ecosystems.

For food and habitat, beavers cut aspen, willow, and cottonwood trees. These trees tolerate cutting by regenerating from the cut stands, then developing a bitter taste to prevent a second harvest. Improved moisture also supports new tree growth.

Beavers benefit livestock with better moisture retention leading to drought-proofed pastures and more forage production. Other benefits of beavers include dams that filter contaminants; reduced erosion from slower flow; increased habitat diversity for other species; and transformed intermittent flows to permanent flows.

Floods and infrastructure damage is a concern for producers, and often why beavers are called pests. Living with beavers can be challenging, but there are ways to make it easier, such as protective wire mesh around trees; strategic fencing and piping around culverts to stop plugging; and underwater pond levelers to prevent flooding. Trapping or shooting beavers or destroying dams or lodges are often not successful solutions, as they leave suitable habitat open for other beavers or lead them to simply rebuild.

Beavers are a unique and valuable part of watersheds. With the right management, ranchers and beavers can live in a beneficial partnership. For help with managing beavers on your property, please contact Erin at [erin@ranchland66.com](mailto:erin@ranchland66.com) or 403-646-3131.

## GRANTS TO APPLY FOR

<https://cap.alberta.ca/>

### CAP Market Assurance Program

Addresses market assurance gaps for biosecurity, livestock health/welfare, traceability, and surveillance. Supports access to technical, compliance and market expertise, as well as technologies to implement assurance for market opportunities. Goal is to reduce risks with assurance related market interruptions.



## WEED TO WATCH

### Orange Hawkweed

*Hieracium aurantiacum*

ID characteristics: flowers orange-red in a small cluster at the top of a hairy, leafless stem, leaves narrow, oblong, and hairy in a low rosette.



Peter M. Bick, 2005

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



## AMP Grazing for Water Management



## WEBINAR

January 21st, 2022  
1:00 PM MST

Visit [rr2cs.ca/events](https://rr2cs.ca/events) to register

## ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

### Southern Alberta Land Trust Society (SALTS)

<https://salts.land/>

SALTS 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.

