

# MD OF RANCHLAND AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



## GRAZING SMALL RUMINANTS CAN BENEFIT YOUR PASTURE & WALLET

Grass overgrazed? Stubborn weeds or shrubby brush slowly taking over? Looking to diversify your business with a new market area? The answer may be in small ruminant grazing.

Small ruminants mainly include sheep and goats. They have the same type of stomach as cattle, but their food preferences are quite different. While cattle prefer to munch on grass, goats will happily fill their stomachs with woody browse species. Cattle tend to avoid weeds with latex such as Leafy Spurge, but sheep actually prefer them. The difference in diet means it can be complementary to cattle grazing. Unfortunately regulations do not allow goats on public lease land at this time.

Grazing small ruminants improves land utilization, reduces weeds, taps into new markets, and enhances overall rangeland health. There are many online resources if you would like to learn more.

## GRANTS TO APPLY FOR

[www.cap.alberta.ca](http://www.cap.alberta.ca)

### Farm Technology Program

For the adoption of innovative technology to minimize waste, optimize efficiency, and implement best management practices for security.

### On-Farm Value-added Program

Supports economic recovery by investing in projects that increase company sales growth, expand markets, develop new products, and create jobs.



## WEED TO WATCH

### Downy Brome

*Bromus tectorum*

ID characteristics: drooping heads, medium length awns (stiff hairs) from spikelets, and fuzzy leaves that are often purple at the base



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[www.mdranchland.ca](http://www.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!

## Keep Alberta DED free

- Under the Alberta *Agricultural Pests Act (APA)* "Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation (PNCR)" the Dutch Elm Disease (DED) pathogens, smaller European elm bark beetle, and the native elm bark beetle are named declared pests.
- DED prevention/control measures for Alberta are enforceable under the APA and are found on the STOPPED website.
- Elm trees from a DED infected province cannot be shipped into Alberta.
- Elm Pruning Ban is April 1 -September 30 annually.

**CANADIAN  
AGRICULTURAL  
PARTNERSHIP**



Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease

[www.stopped.org](http://www.stopped.org) 1-877-837-ELMS (3567)



## ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

### Waterton Biosphere Reserve

[www.watertonbiosphere.com](http://www.watertonbiosphere.com)

WBR is an organization that works to protect and preserve ecologically diverse lands in the Waterton area by balancing biodiversity and sustainable human use. They provide support for local projects that address land management concerns. WBR hosts the South West Invasive Managers (SWIM) project, of which our Ag Fieldman Rick Niwa is the Vice-Chair. Here they are responsible for removing deadstock from the road. Interested in learning more? Please visit the website.

