

MD OF RANCHLAND AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



UTILIZING RANGE AND RIPARIAN HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

Rangelands and riparian lands are some of the most important ecosystems that livestock producers manage. They provide valuable forage and water sources, as well as countless other benefits such as wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, soil protection, water filtration, biodiversity, and more.

It is crucial for producers to keep range and riparian lands healthy. Management decisions such as timing, frequency, and duration of grazing, fencing distribution, and use of off-stream waterers are all influenced by the health of the range or riparian area being managed.

The best way to determine how healthy range and riparian lands are is to conduct health assessments. These assessments consider type, season of growth, origin, response to grazing, and forage value of all the plants present, as well as other ecosystem factors. They then determine a final health score for informing management.

Keeping rangelands and riparian lands healthy can be a delicate balancing act. The use of health assessments to inform management decisions makes the balancing much easier for producers.

GRANT TO APPLY FOR

<https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/WATER>

Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Water Program

Directly supports producers in enhancement of agricultural water management. On-farm water supply projects can include wells, springs, dams, cisterns, wetland assessments, and more. If interested, contact Erin at 403-646-3131 or erin@ranchland66.com.



WEED TO WATCH

Blueweed

Echium vulgare

ID characteristics: biennial (rosette first year, flowers second year), stems with stiff hairs, leaves long & pointed, flowers bright blue & cup shaped with five fused petals.



GROWING NATIVE PLANTS

34th Alberta Native Plant Council Virtual Workshop

Saturday March 12, 2022
8:30 am-4:30 pm

Workshop Fee \$25 Register at https://anpc.ab.ca/?page_id=7032

Here you will learn from expert growers and restoration professionals presenting on successful native plant gardening and restoration projects. Presentations will touch on seed collection and propagation, considerations for planting sites such as soil, moisture and sunlight, as well as choosing appropriate native plant species. Through case studies, presenters will highlight the benefits of using native plant species, including water conservation and the creation of wildlife and pollinator habitat. Opportunities for open discussion, photo sharing and fun activities will also be provided.

www.anpc.ab.ca

Find us online!



MD of Ranchland Ag



@mdofranchlandag



@mdofranchlandag



@mdofranchlandag



<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 with the subject line "Bulletin". Thanks for reading and I look forward to your feedback!

ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

Alberta Ecotrust Foundation

<https://albertaecotrust.com/>

Three main priorities: 1) ensure quality water by maintaining healthy rivers and lakes; 2) balance human activities with sustainable land use, especially by protecting natural areas and wildlife habitats; and 3) initiate projects and policies which combat climate change. They have a variety of grants and collaborations to support this work. One current project in Ranchland is engaging recreationists in the Oldman Headwaters through education and restoration. For more information, visit the website.

