

# MD OF RANCHLAND AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



## TRUMPETER SWANS

The Trumpeter Swan is the largest bird species native to North America. Adult swans are pure white with black markings (face patch, legs and beak), can measure up to 2 meters in length and weigh an average of 11kg. Due to overhunting and the loss of nesting habitat, these birds were almost extinct by the early 1900's. Swans are very sensitive to human development within wetlands such as boating, swimming, shoreline vegetation removal and fluctuating water levels due to agricultural uses. In 2013 a 5 year recovery plan was released, focusing on preventing the loss of critical breeding habitat. Within Alberta there are several well established breeding locations for Trumpeter Swans, occurring mostly in the Peace Country. Conservation successes include a survey conducted in 2015 returning a population of 7,734 swans in Alberta compared to the 792 that were counted in 1995. We can contribute to the recovering populations of Trumpeter Swans in Alberta through efforts to preserve water quality in wetlands and mitigate disturbance occurrences including loud, high-energy activities.

If interested in discussing further, please contact Shayna at [ag2@ranchland66.com](mailto:ag2@ranchland66.com) or 403-646-3131.

Source: <https://naturealberta.ca/trumpeter-swan-recovery/>

## GRANT TO APPLY FOR

<https://www.watertonbiosphere.com/projects/carnivores-communities/>

### **Carnivores and Communities Program**

The Carnivores and Communities Program (CACP) was initiated in response to increasing conflicts between large carnivores and people in southwestern Alberta. Attractant management projects could include but not limited to, deadstock removal, electric fencing, securing grain, feed and garbage and may be eligible for funding. If interested, contact Shayna at 403-646-3131 or [ag2@ranchland66.com](mailto:ag2@ranchland66.com).



## WEED TO WATCH

### Ventanata

*Ventenata dubia*

ID characteristics: An annual grass that is basally branched, and has rolled or folded leaves. Ligules are membranous, nodes are reddish-black in late spring and typically has spikelets comprised of 3 florets. Some awns are bent and twisted.



Photo credit: Mary Dorey, Montana, CC BY-SA 2.0

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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](mailto:ag2@ranchland66.com) with the subject line "Bulletin". Thanks for reading and I look forward to your feedback!




## WEBINAR

### Using Livestock Guardian dogs and other management practices to reduce livestock/wildlife conflicts



Louise Liebenberg owns and runs a purebred and commercial beef and sheep ranch in Northern Alberta. Involvement includes lecturing, speaking at conferences, and discussing topics such as predator-friendly ranching, coexistence between ranching and wildlife, as well as the training, raising, and working of both Livestock Guardian Dogs and herding dogs. The ranch in Northern Alberta holds the distinction of being the first in Canada to be certified as "Predator Friendly." Predators are not killed on the ranch; instead, predation is managed through the implementation of good husbandry skills and management. Emphasis is placed on seeking and employing long-term sustainable solutions for predator management.

**PRESENTED BY**  
**Louise Liebenberg**

**3rd October 11 AM**

**REGISTER NOW**  
[www.battleriverresearch.com](http://www.battleriverresearch.com)  
**OR**  
**CALL AT (780 582 -7308)**








## ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

### Canadian Prairies Prescribed Fire Exchange

<https://www.grasslandfire.ca/>

The Canadian Prairies Prescribed Fire Exchange provides training, planning and knowledge sharing around the use of prescribed fire as a management tool for enhancing healthy prairie and parkland ecosystems. We recognize the importance of fire as an instrument for conservation, traditional practice, and public safety.

