

MD OF RANCHLAND AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



BIOCONTROL AND TARGETED GRAZING FOR INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT

Invasive weeds can reduce forage quality, threaten native plant communities, and cost time and money to manage. For ranchers and land managers nature-based tools like biocontrol and targeted grazing offer practical, cost-effective solutions that work with the land, not against it.

Biocontrol involves using natural enemies like specific insects or pathogens to suppress invasive plants. For example, leafy spurge beetles have been successfully released to control leafy spurge infestations. These beetles feed on the roots and foliage, weakening the plants over time. Once established, biocontrol agents can provide long-term, low-maintenance weed suppression with minimal impact on native species.

Targeted grazing uses livestock, often sheep or goats, to selectively graze invasive weeds. With proper timing and intensity, grazing can reduce weed seed production, weaken root systems, and open space for desired native forage species to regrow.

Combined with other stewardship tools like manual removal and reseeding, biocontrol and targeted grazing can form the foundation of an integrated weed management strategy.

To discuss further, please contact staff at ag3@ranchland66.com or 403-646-3131.

Sources(s): 1) abinvasives.ca/biocontrol-release-program 2) agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-production/crop-protection/agricultural-pest-management-resources/managing-leafy-spurge-hungry-beetle
3) grasslandrestorationforum.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Targeted-Grazing-Plant-and-Animal-Interactions-2022.pdf
4) edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/Targeted-Grazing-Monitoring-Module_2021.pdf?cb=1679540582&

GRANT TO APPLY FOR

alberta.ca/on-farm-value-added-program

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) - On-Farm Value-Added Program

The On-Farm Value-Added Grant Program supports producers in adding value to their agricultural products to grow sales, expand production capacity, explore market opportunities, and create jobs. Funding categories include processing capacity expansion, food safety improvement, new product, and process development, and market development and access. Contact staff at 403-646-3131 or ag3@ranchland66.com with any questions.



WEED TO WATCH

Purple Loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria

ID characteristics: plants usually 1-1.5m tall, stems woody with 4-6 sides in cross section, leaves opposite and pointed, flowers in long spike clusters at the top, purple-pink with 5-7 petals each, and bloom from bottom to top.



Source: abinvasives.ca/fact-sheet/purple-loosestrife

CELEBRATING RANGELANDS CONNECTING RESEARCH TO ON-RANCH MANAGEMENT

NOVEMBER 13, 2025
CLARESHOLM COMMUNITY CENTRE
9:00AM - 4:00PM

FEATURING TALKS ON VIRTUAL FENCING, CARBON AND GRAZING,
ROTATIONAL GRAZING, DROUGHT RESILIENCE, RANGE
MANAGEMENT HISTORY AND MORE!

COST:

ATTENDEE: \$40

STUDENT GRADUATE RESEARCH POSTERS: \$40

NON-PROFIT BOOTH: \$50

INDUSTRY BOOTH: \$75

REGISTRATION & DETAILS:
[HTTPS://RANGELAND.EVENTBRITE.CA](https://rangeland.eventbrite.ca)



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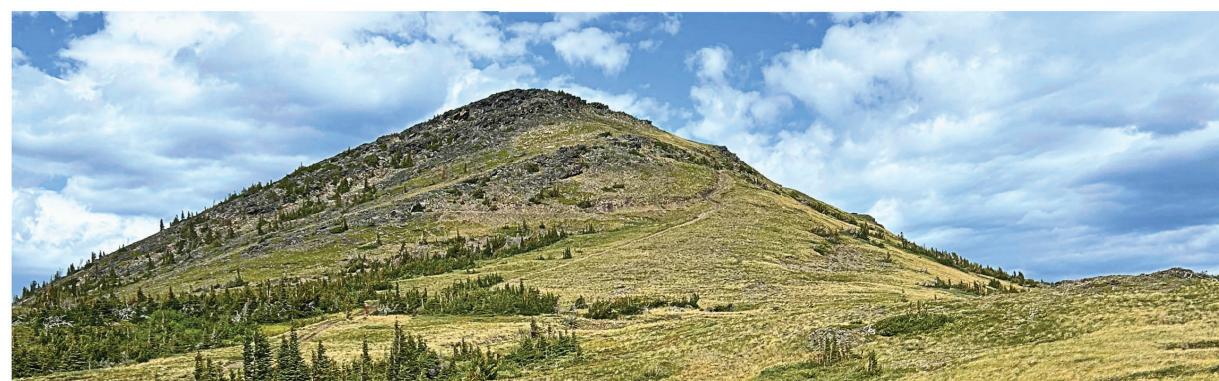
If you would like to contribute to this bulletin by writing an article, submitting a photo to be featured, recommending an organization, noxious weed, or grant, or any other suggestions, please send an email to ag3@ranchland66.com with the subject line "Bulletin". Thanks for reading and I look forward to your feedback!

ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

Society for Range Management

rangelands.org

The Society for Range Management (SRM) is an international professional society and conservation organization whose members study, conserve, manage and sustain the varied resources of rangelands which cover nearly half the land on earth. Members include land managers, scientists, educators, students, ranchers and conservationists. They offer certifications for professionals, student activities like scholarships and competitions, and have many applicable resources to improve access to rangeland knowledge. They also host an annual international conference to share expertise.



Bulletin Content Written by MD of Ranchland Agriculture Staff

