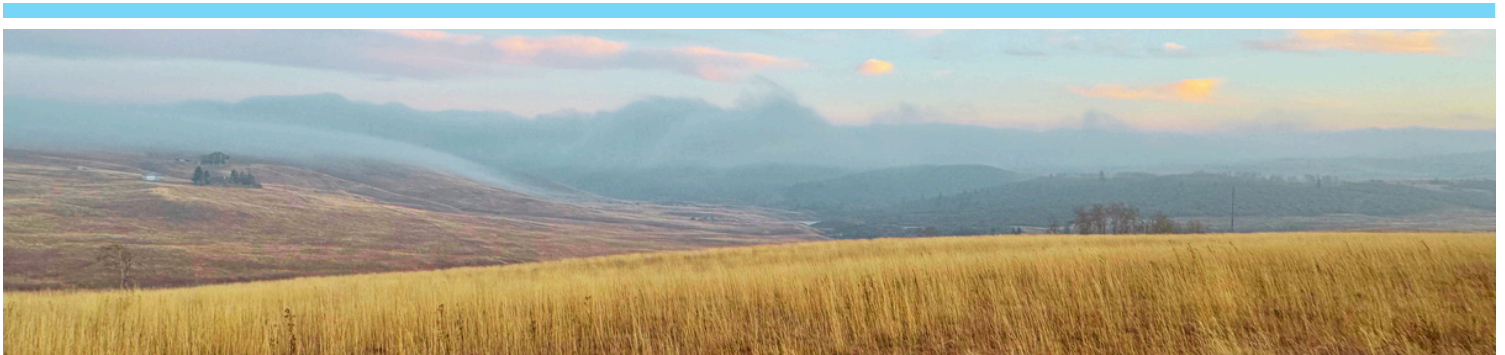


MD OF RANCHLAND

AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



FOOTHILLS CALVING SYSTEM

Dr. Elizabeth Homerosky has adapted the Sandhills calving system for producers who prefer to calve near facilities or have limited land base. In this modified approach, the bred cowherd remains in a single calving area, while each new cow-calf pair is moved to a designated nursery pasture within 24 hours of birth. Groups of calves born on the same day are moved together once they have nursed and are mobile. This process continues for 10 to 14 days, after which newborn pairs begin moving to a secondary nursery pasture, and later a third, preventing overcrowding and maintaining clean ground.

This system is designed to reduce pathogen exposure and limit the spread of scours. Because newborn calves do not shed scours-causing pathogens in their first 24 hours, early movement keeps the nursery areas cleaner and prevents contamination from the main cowherd. If scours does occur, the Foothills-style system helps contain the issue within a small, manageable group rather than affecting the entire herd, improving both animal health outcomes and producer efficiency

Source(s): 1) Article written by MD Ranchland staff based off of information from the Beef Cattle Research Council, Calving & Calf Management - <https://www.beefresearch.ca/topics/calving-calf-management/>

GRANT TO APPLY FOR

RDAR OFCAF

Results Driven Agriculture Research - On Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)

RDAR is a program delivery partner that will administer OFCAF in Alberta, for Alberta's producers. RDAR is delivering OFCAF in three activity categories; Improved Nitrogen Management, Increasing Adoption of Cover Cropping, and Expanding Adoption of Rotational Grazing. These practices also provide other environmental benefits such as improved biodiversity and soil health.

Other activities to support the adoption of BMPs, such as outreach, education, and training, are also supported.

Application intake opens: April 10, 2026

Contact staff at 403-646-3131 or ag3@ranchland66.com with any questions.

WEED TO WATCH

Invasive Phragmites

Phragmites australis australis

ID characteristics: Perennial with large stems up to 4 m tall. Alternating leaves, 25 to 50 cm long and 1 to 5 cm wide. Feathery seed head with several flowered spikelets that are 10 to 18 mm long.



Photo Source: [iNaturalist](#)
ID Source: [GOA](#)

MD PRODUCER FUNDING PROGRAMS

PRODUCER WEED ASSISTANCE

Producers may apply for financial assistance, in the form of rebates, to help with the cost of invasive weed control within the MD. Don't forget to review the MD's Integrated Weed Management Plan for more details on our approach to invasive species management!

INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN APPLICATION FORM








PRODUCER RIPARIAN ASSISTANCE

Producers may apply for financial assistance, in the form of rebates for projects related to water and riparian preservation. 50% Cost share funding, up to a maximum of \$2000 per project, is available.

APPLICATION FORM



Find us online!

-  MD of Ranchland Ag
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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, regulated 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

Alberta Environmental Farm Plan

STEWARDSHIP BEGINS WITH YOU

With day to day responsibilities pulling us in all directions, it's hard to find time to even think too hard about the future, much less plan for it.

That's where we come in. The EFP walks you through step by step, highlighting areas that need attention on your operation and coming up with a plan to address those areas. Addressing environmental risks not only benefits your operation, but also the next generation of farmers.

You are probably already doing great things on your operation. Completing an EFP provides you with the opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to environmental stewardship.

