

MD OF RANCHLAND AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



IS YOUR PASTURE READY TO GRAZE?

Effective grazing management improves forage yield, sustainability, and animal health while lowering production costs. To know when a pasture is ready to graze, focus on these key factors:

- Plant growth: Identify where each forage species is on its growth curve to choose the right grazing window.
- Rest and recovery: Prevent overgrazing by giving plants enough time to regrow, especially slow-growing species.
- Stand management: Follow the “Take Half, Leave Half” rule to maintain plant diversity and productivity.
- Grazing plan: Match herd size to expected forage supply before turnout.
- Paddock design: Adjust paddock size and layout based on terrain, soil, forage type, yield, herd size, and water access.
- Livestock distribution: Use fencing, virtual collars or strategic salt/mineral placement to encourage grazing in underused areas.
- Grazing legumes: Incorporate legumes (in tame pasture), to boost soil nitrogen, increase forage yield, and extend carrying capacity.

Source(s): Article written by MD Ranchland staff based off of information from the Beef Cattle Research Council <https://www.beefresearch.ca/topics/grazing-management/>

GRANT TO APPLY FOR Waterton Biosphere Reserve Region Habitat Stewardship Program

Financial and technical assistance to landowners undertaking projects within Waterton Biosphere Region that steward wetland, riparian, and grassland habitats, ensure water quantity and quality, provide habitat corridors, or maintain particular habitat features required by species at risk. Projects are typically on a cost-share basis; the landowner portion can include cash or in-kind contributions or can include partner funding.

Please reach out to Elizabeth at 403-563-0058 or eanderson@watertonbiosphere.com if you have ideas on how to improve your operation in tandem with conserving local biodiversity.

WEED TO WATCH

Downy Brome

Bromus tectorum






ID characteristics: Typically a winter annual, most active in cool season. Needs to germinate early or late season as hot, dry weather kills seedlings. Stems are erect, slightly hairy and 10-70cm tall. Leaves are 4-16cm long and 2-4mm wide.



Photo Credit: Devon Wood - iNaturalist
<https://www.inaturalist.org/photos/568884766>

Strategic planning, stewardship and future planning?
 Yeah, we can help with that.

Find us online!

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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, 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

Waterton Biosphere Reserve

Located in the southwestern corner of Alberta, the Waterton Biosphere Region encompasses some of the most spectacular and ecologically diverse landscapes in Canada. Alberta's Rocky Mountains, parkland and natural grassland areas can be found in the Waterton Biosphere Region. Several rare or threatened plant and animal species are found in the region. This special area is also home to many vibrant communities including Pincher Creek, Cardston, Crowsnest Pass, Piikani and Kainai Reserves. They all have rich cultural histories and rely on a wide range of economic drivers. The economy here owes its success to natural resource development including agriculture, tourism, energy development, and forestry.

