

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD



Notes from the Field — June 2017

Meet the Summer Ag Staff!



Special Areas No. 2 L to R: Stephanie Reeve, Jesse Williams, Shantal Smith, Jordyn Stockwell. Front: Michael Page Missing: Shane Hart



Special Areas No. 3 L to R: Back: Landen Brockman, Bill Kolkman Front: Don Hogan, Kyle Hoffman, Kathleen Skjenna, Tanya Niwa & Shayna Shead



Special Areas No. 4 L to R: Alex Coulton & Shania Kropinske Missing: Justine Simpson

Is that “Daisy” Noxious?

As we start to get our spring blooms and flowers, be sure to be on the lookout for one of the earliest emerging noxious pests—**Scentless Chamomile**.

What should you look for?

Look for white, ‘daisy-like’ flowers with a yellow center. This flower combined with “carrot-like”, short segmented, alternate leaves. The plants can grow up to 1m tall, but may also be found growing and flowering close to the ground.

Where should you look for it?

Scentless Chamomile is a very versatile species, but tends to do the best in clay based soils, near or around flood plains, it can however thrive in a variety of environments that do not have healthy competition from native or desirable vegetation. The seeds float on water, which is why infestations are often found in or near dried up, flood areas.

What can you do about this noxious weed?

Hand pulling can be very effective on smaller infestations, as the plants are easily pulled in their entirety. When hand pulling an infested site be sure to move from the outside of the grouping, towards the center of the outbreak. Pulled plants should then be bagged, and burned to prevent further spread.



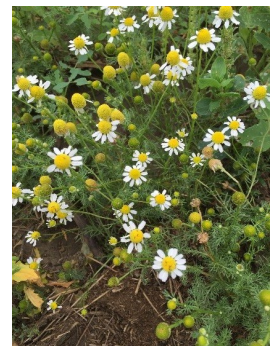
What else can you do to prevent the establishment of this weed?

Cultivation in the late fall or early spring can deter the establishment of this plant in your fields, while multiple, shallow tills can exhaust the seed bed when done prior to the plant setting seed.

Grazing is not a recommended control method, as the seeds will survive digestion, and the plant is generally bitter and unpalatable to grazing animals.

Chemical control options include: Aminopyralid (alone or in a product mix with 2,4-D or Metsulfuron-methyl), Chlorsulfuron, Clopyralid (alone or in a product mix with MCPA), Dicamba, Glufosinate ammonium, Hexazinone, Picloram, MCPA (in a product mix with Bromoxynil), Metsulfuron- methyl and Tribenuron-methyl (in a product mix with Thifensulfuron-methyl) are registered for use on scentless chamomile. Always check product labels to ensure the herbicide is registered for use on the target plant in Canada by the PMRA. **ALWAYS read and follow label directions.** Consult your local Agricultural Fieldman or Certified Pesticide Dispenser for more information.

If you find a suspicious plant, please take pictures or take a bagged sample and bring to your local District Office for a Weed ID confirmation. Be sure to note the land location it was found as to help our staff keep on top of weed infestations throughout the Special Areas.



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Ratepayer Meetings are back!

On behalf of the Special Areas Board, Advisory Councilors and our administration, you are invited to come out and participate in your annual Ratepayer meetings. These meetings happen annually, and give you the chance to meet with your local elected official, managers and staff.

Have questions about what the Board is up to in 2017? Want to talk about an issue you are dealing with? Come and talk about your concerns with our administration. You will be able to learn about the strategies the Board has developed to manage the issues over the next year.

We look forward to meeting with you and getting a chance to talk about your ideas and any concerns? We look forward to continuing to work together to support the Special Areas as a positive, dynamic place to live and work in..



2017 ANNUAL RATEPAYER MEETINGS SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

Our current discussion topics will include:

- ◆ Upcoming Municipal Elections
- ◆ Climate Change Taskforce Update
- ◆ Bovine Tuberculosis Update

Participate in the
conversation - Have your
voice heard.

SA	SUBDIVISION	LOCATION	DATE	ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS
2	7 & 8	Buffalo Community Centre	May 17 @ 1:30 pm	Daryl Swenson, Brad Osadczuk
3	4, 5 & 6	Cereal Hall	June 8 @ 1:30 pm	Travis Foot, Kevin Wilson, Graham Caskey
2	3 & 4	Hardgrass Hub, Pollockville	June 1 @ 1:30 pm	Brad Storstad, Brent Horner
2	1 & 5	Hanna Legion Hall	June 15 @ 1:30 pm	Bob Gainer, James Madge
4	1, 2 & 3	New Consort Community & Seniors Centre	June 19 @ 1:30 pm	Lawrence Letniak, Bonnie Sansregret, Robert Worobo
2	2	Handhills Hall	June 20 @ 1:30 pm	Neal Roes

Are poisonous plants *lurking* in your pastures?

SPOTTED WATER-HEMLOCK

Spotted water-hemlock is a native plant with large umbrella-shaped clusters of small white flowers. This



species is considered the most toxic poisonous plant known to cause frothing of the mouth within 30 minutes of consumption and violent

convulsions following. Water front and riparian areas house ideal growing conditions for Water-Hemlock. This species has been found growing in Special Areas.

This plant looks very similar to Cow Parsnip, a native non-poisonous plant. If you are unsure of the identification, contact your Ag Fieldman. **Do not touch the plant as all parts of it are poisonous.**

LOCOWEED

Locoweed has several different variations however; all types are known to be poisonous to livestock. Damage done to the heart, nervous system and reproductive system is common when consumed. It is common to see neurological issues presented in livestock after consuming locoweed. Locoweed is commonly found in grasslands and pasturelands within Special Areas.



KOCHIA

This salt-tolerant annual is found extensively in both roadsides and croplands,



but did you know it is poisonous to livestock?

Continuous grazing of Kochia can lead to depressed appetite, swollen eyelids, and crusty areas surrounding the eye. Although Kochia is poisonous, it can be fed if proper gradual introduction allows ruminants to adapt.

BLACK HENBANE

This flowered annual is not only poisonous, but is a noxious weed in Alberta. While this plant is unpalatable it will be consumed if limited forages are available. Clinical signs of consumption include restlessness, pupil dilation, labored



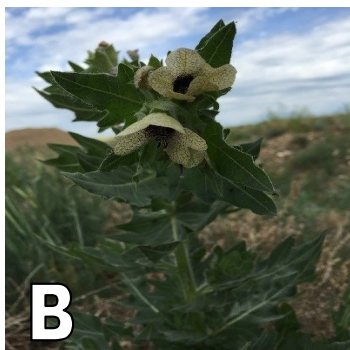
breathing and occasional seizures. While treatment is not usually necessary, Black Henbane has been known to cause death in cattle in extreme cases. *If you spot this weed contact your local Ag Fieldman.*

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POP QUIZ! *How well do you know your weeds?*



*Answers: All of the above weeds are noxious and must be controlled according to the Weed Control Act.
A: Dames Rocket, B: Black Henbane, C: Broadleaved Pepper Grass, D: Burdock*

Canadian Beef Industry Conference

August 15-17, 2017—Calgary, AB

**REGISTRATION
OPEN NOW**

The 2nd Annual Canadian Beef Industry Conference
"Sharing Common Ground"
August 15-17 2017 at the BMO Conference Centre in Calgary, Alberta



Western Canada Conference on Soil Health & Grazing

December 5-7, 2017—Edm., AB

Reminder!

2% Liquid Strychnine is still available for Richardson's Ground Squirrel control at the Hanna, Consort and Oyen District Offices during regular office hours.

Tree Planters for Rent

Planting a shelterbelt? Special Areas Ag Service Board has tree seedling planters available for free of charge. Call your local Ag Fieldman to rent on today.

For more information, go to www.specialareas.ab.ca or visit us on our Facebook page and Twitter @SpecialAreas.

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Upcoming Ag Events in the Special Areas

Soils Workshop with Dr. Jill Clapperton

Healthy soil is the foundation for healthy food & a healthy world

Tuesday, June 6, 2017
Lakeland College Vermilion Campus
9:30 am to 5:00 pm (lunch provided)

\$30.00 for members
\$40.00 non-members

Dr. Jill Clapperton – world-renowned researcher, international lecturer, educator and advocate of farm practices which promote soil health. She will discuss new crops, rotations, and products that create healthy productive soils as well as new technology to help farmers assess soil fertility, plant nutrition, and soil microbial activity.

Get down & dirty at this hands-on workshop—measure soil health; assessing and monitoring soil organisms, earthworms, soil respiration, impact of cropping practices, plant pathology & rooting and more...

Register by contacting:
780-826-7260 or e-mailing livestock.lara@mcnet.ca
Space is limited so register early!

CARA, GRC, Alberta Government, Battle River Research Group, Western Forestry, LARA

Jim Gerrish 3-Day Grazing School

June 12-14, 2017
Gem, AB

Whether you're a beginner, intermediate, or advanced grazer, this 3-day workshop will help you move to the next level. Key concepts of stocking rate, stock density, residual, intake, balancing use and recovery will all be covered in detail along with more advanced topics of year-round grazing and feed allocation. This combination of classroom and field sessions provides both the conceptual and practical application of Management-Intensive Grazing.

100 HILLS FORD AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION

Jim's experience includes over 20 years of beef-forage systems research and outreach while on the faculty of the University of Missouri. As well he has 20 years of managing a commercial cattle and sheep production on their family farm in northern Missouri. His research encompassed many aspects of plant-soil-animal interactions and provides foundation for many of the basic principles of Management-Intensive Grazing.
American Grazing Lands Services

Limited Space!
\$200/FFGA members,
\$225/non-members
REGISTER:
jimgerrishgrazing.eventbrite.ca

Includes classroom and field sessions!

14th ANNUAL Southern Alberta Grazing School For Women

Registration Deadline: July 18th
Cost: \$100.00

REGISTER BY JUNE 16TH FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE!

JULY 25TH-26TH 2017

To Register Contact:
Kristi Stebanuk
Ph: 403-382-0927
email: kstebanuk@co.washandfish.org
Link to Register: <https://2017SAGSW.eventbrite.com>
Blogspot: southernalbertagrazing.blogspot.ca

MUNSON COMMUNITY HALL
STARLAND COUNTY, AB

TOPICS INCLUDE

- Range & Riparian Health
- Local Plant Identification
- Floating Islands
- Pasture Weeds
- Post Calving Care & Bovine TB
- Tour Starland County in an AC Bus
- ** Evening Social Opportunity to the Historic Last Chance Saloon in Wayne¹⁹¹⁰

COUNTY OF STARLAND COUNTY, CARRA, ALBERTA, and Parks

Your Agriculture Fieldmen

JESSE WILLIAMS

DON HOGAN

JUSTINE SIMPSON



SA2

(403) 854-5625/(403) 854-1114



SA3

(403) 664-3618/(403) 664-5585



SA4

(403) 577-3523/(403) 575-5525

We offer support for programs including:

- ♦ Plant identification & noxious weed control
- ♦ Grazing management & strategies
- ♦ Pest management & controls
- ♦ Growing Forward 2
- ♦ Environmental Farm Plans
- ♦ Shelterbelt programs & planning
- ♦ Animal predation concerns
- ♦ Equipment rentals including RFID tag readers & pest traps
- ♦ Concerns related to *Soil Conservation Act*, *Weed Control Act*, *Agricultural Pest Act*, *Animal Health Act*, and other legislation.

Special Area No. 2

Hanna District Office
(403) 854-5600

Special Area No. 3

Oyen District Office
(403) 664-3618

Special Area No. 4

Consort District Office
(403) 575-3523