



In this edition you will read all about endangered species, ergot, deer in your bales, insects, invasive plants and why we love our beef!



# GROWING & GRAZING WITH SPECIAL AREAS

## SPECIAL AREAS AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN



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This quarter we are focusing on the threatened species the Ferruginous Hawk, who is native to our region.

# DEER IN YOUR BALE STACKS?

*By: Special Areas Board Agricultural Fieldmen*

With last summer's dry conditions limiting feed supplies and some deep snows covering whatever grass was left, producers in the region have experienced an increase in ungulate damage to stored feed. Ungulates include deer, elk and moose, animals who not only consume forage, but make large messes and destroy 3 to 4 times what they eat.



The first defense against ungulate damage to bales is a secure stack yard. [Alberta Agriculture's Agri-Facts](#) recommends fencing your feed yards with 7 foot tall mesh wire/game fence or using electric fencing with 12.5 gauge high tensile wires spaced 30 cm apart. This will help ensure elk cannot enter these areas.

Some things you can do to reduce ungulate damage include moving bales to stackyards as soon as possible in the fall, monitoring for wildlife and chasing them away from the yard as soon as they appear. If you can net wrap feed and stack bales two tiers high with bottom bales on their ends, you can help deter animals. Another suggestion is placing a row of straw bales around the stacked hay.

Keeping your yards as clean as possible will help prevent unwanted pests. Be sure to clean up any spilled grain, loose hay, and keep all grain inside secure bins. Avoid open piles of feed! Scarecrows wearing human scented clothing, scare devices, repellents, and radios may also be helpful to deter wildlife. During hunting season, hunting pressure can help reduce overall numbers of ungulates.

If the above strategies are still not helping, you may be eligible for compensation. Contact your local Fish & Wildlife officer first, then your local AFSC office. Fish & Wildlife will assess your situation and may be able to lend deterrent materials. AFSC will also work with you to start the claim process.



# ON FARM CLIMATE ACTION FUNDING

By: Karin Roen, Chinook Applied Research Association (CARA)

The federal government has recently initiated a two year cost-share funding program designed to mitigate the effect of climate change by offsetting the costs of adopting beneficial management practices (BMPs). The **On-Farm Climate Action Fund** (OFCAF) is designed to deliver technical and economic support to Canadian farmers. The scope of BMPs may fall under activity categories such as cover crops, nitrogen fertilizer management, or rotational grazing. There is up to \$75,000 available over two years per producer wanting to implement or expand BMPs on their farm.

In Alberta, producers can apply to the [Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association \(CFGA\)](#), [Results Driven Agriculture Research \(RDAR\)](#) or the [Canola Council of Canada \(CCC\)](#) for OFCAF funding. Who you apply to for funding (and the level of cost share) is dependent on which BMP you are implementing. The CFGA program is taking applications for rotational grazing BMPs, while RDAR is taking applications for rotational grazing, nitrogen fertilizer management and cover crops. The CCC accepts nitrogen fertilizer BMPs specifically for canola acres only. All three organizations do have different intake applications and deadlines, as well as cost-share splits. Producers may apply to more than one organization, but the total funding cannot exceed the \$75,000 limit between the three groups. Nor can you be paid for the same BMP twice by different organizations.

## How To GET STARTED?

Producers need to register for an online account with the respective delivery group they plan to apply to. This is where producers can submit invoices, a BMP Action Plan, pictures of the project, and check on applications statuses. All applications will require a BMP Action Plan, which must include the new or existing BMP (cover crop, rotational grazing or N-management) and how the management practice will offset any GHG emissions caused by agricultural activities.

The Action Plan will have to be completed and signed off by a Professional Agrologist (PAg) or Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) that agrees the submitted BMP Action Plan is feasible, mitigates any negative environmental impact, and contains region-specific management practices. Up to 10% of the total cost of the project or \$2000 for consultation fees from the PAg or CCA can be reimbursed by the OFCAF program. A list of CCA and PAg professionals in your area can be provided by CARA or your local Ag Fieldman's office. The [Chinook Applied Research Association \(CARA\)](#) is also available to help complete applications, give region-specific agronomic advice and walk you through the process!



After a producer has applied for OFCAF by submitting an application with a funding request and Action Plan, they will receive written approval to go ahead and purchase the materials associated with the project. All costs of the projects are paid up-front by the producer, who is then reimbursed after providing invoices online. Eligible BMP costs are retroactive from April 1, 2022. The project size must be a minimum of \$2,500.

Karin Roen and Lacey Gould at the Chinook Applied Research Association in Oyen are available to help producers apply for OFCAF, develop Action Plans and answer any questions you may have. Producers can call the CARA office at (403) 664-3777 or email [cara-3@telus.net](mailto:cara-3@telus.net) with questions.

## ALBERTA'S ON-FARM CLIMATE ACTION PARTNERS

### Canola Council of Canada

- Applications open August 17, 2022.
- 85/15 cost share, up to \$12,000/ 2 years
- For N-management BMPs on fields seeded to canola
- Need a 4R Action Plan submitted with the application that has been completed with a PAg or CCA, who also has their 4R Nutrient Stewardship designation from Fertilizer Canada.
- Producer Eligibility: Registered partnerships, sole proprietors, corporations and cooperatives must be operational control over the field in the application, are seeding those fields to canola, and have a 4R designated agronomist completed a verified 4R Action Plan for the field.

• [Apply Online](#)

### RDAR

- Applications for the 2022 fiscal year are open from August 4, 2022 to November 7, 2022. Projects that will be completed in 2023 need to be submitted by February 2023.
- 85/15 cost share, up to \$75,000/ 2 years
- Producer Eligibility: An active producer, including proprietorship, corporation or registered partnership which grosses a minimum of \$25,000 of farm income in AB. Develop a BMP with PAg or CCA, submit the application with the Action Plan and provide permission for post-project inspections.

• [Apply online](#)

### CFGA

- Application intake open until December 31, 2024
- 70/30 cost share, up to \$75,000/2 years
- Rotational grazing BMPs only
- Producer Eligibility: An individual producer, incorporated farm or partnership in AB, BC, SK or QC with a gross minimum farm income of \$10,000, have GST # or business number to which all payments will be made to.

• [Apply online](#)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Click on the posters for more event details



**CARA Soil Health Lab**

## MASH MASH MASH

Management Alternatives for Soil Health

**THE SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE**  
Dr. James White  
New Horizons for Soil Science to  
Optimize Nutrients

**THE FARMERS PERSPECTIVE**  
Shorty Funder  
Using the Johnson Soil Monitor for  
Developing Biological Soil Amendments

**OPTIONAL WORKSHOP SESSION**  
A maximum of 15 farmers can discuss farm  
products and related soils business for their  
specific soils with Dr. M. A. CARA Soil Health  
Benchmark report from the past 3 years will  
be required.

**REGISTER** → Call CARA at 403-664-3777  
or email: cara-3@telus.net



Chinook Applied Research Association

## Shelterbelt Workshop

Participants will learn about proper planting  
techniques, establishment tips, shelterbelt design and  
tree selection, and pest management!

**Hand Hills Hall**  
March 17, 2023  
4pm-8pm  
Cost: \$30/person  
Registration: call 403-664-3777  
or email cara-3@telus.net  
Supper included with  
registration!

**Presented By:**  
**TOSO BOZIC**  
Previously a forestry expert with Alberta Ag and current CEO of ATIS Group, Toso  
Bozic has over 25 years of experience as a tree-planting consultant. Toso has  
knowledge in agriculture and forestry systems at the local, provincial, and global  
level.



## Ladies Calving Clinic

\$30/person

Success after calving  
Shetler Veterinary Clinic  
Negotiating wind, oil & gas leases on farm  
Farmers Advocate Office  
Hoof care for the herd  
Lyle & Lori Hronek  
Supper & Mini Tradeshaw  
Calving cameras 101  
Kristen Pollock, Dalbey Farms  
Producer Brawl, or Panel: When's the best time to calve?  
Sponsoring Calving  
Sweepstake & Drawings

Register before Feb 27th at  
<https://ladiescalvingclinic2023.eventbrite.ca>  
Or call (403) 664-1114 or (403) 772-3783

**THURS**  
**MAR 2 2023**  
Delta Community Centre  
4:00-8:00PM



## Ag Service Board Crop Event

**Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**  
**Acadia Valley Hall**

9:00-9:45 am: Braeden Peters, RSCA  
(CARA Crop Agronomist)  
Overview of Crop Projects and Results  
from the Grudecki Site

10:00-10:45 am: Chris Neeser (SA Ag &  
Irrigation, Plant & Bee Health Surveillance)  
Triple Herbicide Resistant Kochia:  
What's Next?

10:45-12:00 pm: Dr. Yamilly Zavala (CARA  
Soil Health & Crop Management Specialist)  
Soil Health

Free Lunch by Acadia Valley Cafe

# REGIONAL RESOLUTIONS FROM ASB CONFERENCE

By: Special Areas Board Agricultural Fieldmen

On October 25, 2022 Agricultural Service Boards gathered in Crowsnest Pass for the 2022 South Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference.

Agenda topics were as varied as wild boar management, crop pest updates, bighorn sheep challenges, updates on invasive species and a new exciting molluscicide registration!

Two resolutions were passed to be discussed at the Provincial ASB Conference in Grande Prairie in January. To discuss these topics further, please reach out to your local agricultural service board members.

Therefore be it resolved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards request that when Federal and Provincial governments approve large scale energy developments that they consider local environmental conditions and the policies that the local municipality has in place on the development through their permitting process.

Therefore be it resolved that the Provincial Agriculture Service Board Committee establish a task force comprised of Agricultural Service Board Members, agricultural producers, experts in agricultural science, agronomy and business, as well as representatives from the oil and gas industry associations, to conduct a full review into the function and mandate of the Surface Rights components of the LPRT as directed by related legislation, with a focus on matters of, or related to:

- Contractual negotiations being fully paid by energy operators,
- Implementation of mandatory mediation prior to LPRT application,
- Improved timeliness of applications, and
- Clarity of terms used in the Surface Rights Act



L to R: Jesse Williams (SA2 Ag Fieldman), Laurie Ferenc (SA4 Council Member), Corrine Kelts (SA4 Farm Member), Nathan Berg (SA2 Farm Member), Don Hogan (SA3 Ag Fieldman), Justine Comeau (SA4 Ag Fieldman) at South Region ASB Conference



# CHECK YOUR FEED FOR ERGOT

By: Special Areas Board Agricultural Fieldmen

“



2022's long, cold, wet spring conditions in Special Areas may have contributed to increased levels of ergot in grasses and cereal crops, and dangerous levels of mycotoxin in some livestock feed. Ergot develops when *Claviceps purpurea* fungus infects susceptible crops (rye is highly susceptible, followed by triticale, wheat, and to a lesser extent barley and oats) during the flowering period, which was extended for longer than normal during last springs temperatures. The ascospores of this fungus are carried by wind to nearby grasses and cereals.

The fungus then develops black mouse-dropping-like ergot bodies where a kernel of grain should be. The alkaloids these ergot bodies produce can be highly toxic and can cause blood flow restriction in tails, feet and ears, essentially causing the extremities to slough off (gangrene). In rare cases, it can also cause convulsions, muscle spasms and temporary paralysis. In smaller amounts, the alkaloids can also reduce appetite, growth, milk production and immunity, as well as cause spontaneous abortion in cattle. While the annual crops mentioned above can host these fungal infections, many perennial grasses can too. Since the fungi overwinter on soil surfaces, today's farming practices of minimal tillage, grain-on-grain rotations and un-mowed field edges, all provide overwintering habitats for these sclerotia bodies.

## How Much is too Much?

The Beef Cattle Research Council reported that while ergot can cause a 5-10% reduction in yields, the real concern is feeding these infected crops unknowingly to cattle. It only takes 0.1-0.3% ergot bodies by weight of grain to pose a risk to your cattle. That is roughly 5-10 ergot bodies in a liter of grain (depending on the bushel weight). That is extremely small!



If feeding grain, greenfeed, or grazing standing or swathed crops, be sure to test your feed for ergot alkaloids prior to feeding. This is because it may take up to 6 weeks for symptoms to appear, but the results can be absolutely devastating. If feeding screenings, pellets or distillers grains, the concentration of ergot can be highly concentrated. Chinook Applied Research Association (CARA) can help local producers with sampling procedures and testing of feed samples. They also have a dedicated animal nutritionist that can formulate cattle rations. For more information call CARA at (403) 664-3777 or email [cara-lr@telus.net](mailto:cara-lr@telus.net).

## Did You Know?

Through [Ducks Unlimited's Forage Program](#) you can receive a rebate of \$100 per 50lb bag of Proven Forage Seed to convert cultivated land to hay or pastureland.

Contact your Nutrien Ag Solutions Retailer in Delia at (403) 364-3735 for more information.







A.

B.



C.

## CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE INVASIVE SPECIES?

Click on the image of each invasive pest to learn their name and more about them.

If you see any of these insects - capture it in a jar, record the location and bring to your Ag Fieldman. There are currently no positive sightings in the Special Areas!

## INVASIVE SPECIES POP QUIZ



D.

E.



F.

Answers: (a) Brown Marmorated Stinkbug, (b) Western Bean Cutworm, (c) Red Lily Beetle, (d) Asian Long Horned Beetle, (e) Japanese Beetle, (f) Moth Larvae

## Now We're Cooking With BEEF!!!

Tired of cooking the same meals over and over? [Canadabeef.ca](http://Canadabeef.ca) has videos, recipes, cookingtipsandmore to spice up your beef!

Check out this online cooking course!



We really love our beef!  
Corrine Kelts - ASB4 Member

### Canadian Beef Oven Roasting Course

How to cook a roast is the #1 search term on Canada Beef!

#### Online Cooking Course

Therefore, we had the Canadian Beef Centre of Excellence team created a **FREE** online Oven Roasts Course.

This course will take approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

In this course, you will learn:

- The technique of oven roasting
- How to identify and select a roast
- The difference between oven roasts and pot roasts
- How to prepare a roast
- How to cook a roast in the oven
- How to serve an oven roast

Get started!

Click here to access the [on-line oven roasting course](#)



Download your Cookbook!

Are you a beef enthusiast between 18 and 35 wishing to expand your knowledge of the beef industry?

**Canadian Cattle Young Leaders** is now **OPEN** for applications!



Get your 2023 Blue Book (Crop Protection Guide) by visiting [albertabluebook.com](http://albertabluebook.com)



**CALF 911**  
 COLOSTRUM MANAGEMENT

**KNOW WHEN SUPPLEMENT**

- Twins
- Weak calves
- Poor suckle reflex
- Difficult calvings
- Poor udder health
- Lack of maternal instincts

**DO**

- Ensure the head is up to date on vaccinations.
- Intervene early. The ideal intake is 2 litres of colostrum within the first 2 hours of life and another 2 litres in the next 8-12 hours.
- Give enough. Calves need a minimum of 100g of IgG in their first feeding. Ensure the replacer totals 100g, which may require more than one package.
- Collect your own colostrum. Fresh or frozen colostrum from your own farm is always best.

**DO NOT**

- Do not give the wrong product. meant to be used when no other colostrum have been made and contain adequate levels of IgG. meant to be added to a calf's already received some colostrum
- Do not automatically tube feed. better to try feeding via a nipple unsucessful then move to tube feeding places fluid directly into which doesn't allow for maximum of IgG and nutrients.
- Do not thaw frozen colostrum in microwave, instead use a water
- Do not bring in colostrum from other farms. Diseases not commonly found could be introduced by using products from other farms.

**CALF 911**  
RECOVERY POSITION

**PLACEMENT**

- Place the calf up on its sternum.
- Pull the front feet forward to allow the chest to expand.
- Pull the back legs up toward the calf's ears.

**PROCEDURE**

- Rub the calf vigorously.
- Stimulate breathing by poking the nasal septum with a piece of straw.
- Squirt a few drops of cold water in the ear to cause them to gasp.

**REMEMBER**

- DO NOT hang the calf upside down to drain fluid. This only empties the stomach and puts pressure on the diaphragm.

[www.BeefResearch.ca](http://www.BeefResearch.ca)

Scan to watch a 4.5 minute video

Technology is an amazing tool and having information at our fingertips in every situation has become the norm.

But when you are in the barn and your hands are otherwise occupied, accessing a screen is just not practical. Print these tips and hang them where you can refer to them in a pinch!

## ELECTRIC FENCING TIPS FOR WINTER GRAZING

Featuring local Special Areas Producers!



## CALVING COMPLICATIONS?

**CALF 911**  
 TUBE (ESOPHAGEAL) FEEDING

**POSITION**

- Restrain the calf in a corner to maintain head control.
- Place the head in a neutral position.

**PLACEMENT**

- Gently advance the tube. If there's resistance, pull it out and start again.
- Palpate the calf's neck. When the tube is in the correct position, you will feel two tube-like structures (trachea and esophagus).

**REMEMBER**

- It's important to feed slowly. It can take up to 3 minutes for the stomach to fill.
- Ensure the fluids are body temperature (38°C/100°F).
- Before pulling the tube, link and pull in one swift motion to ensure no fluid is inhaled.
- To ensure pathogens are not introduced to the herd, use separate feeders for sick and healthy animals.
- Clean the equipment thoroughly.

[www.BeefResearch.ca](http://www.BeefResearch.ca)

Scan to watch a 4 minute video

# BE PLANT WISE

Itching to get into your garden this spring? Be sure the plants you choose are NOT invasive or on the Alberta Weed Control Act. Here are some common noxious species we find in Special Areas gardens, and some great alternatives to try this year!

Download your Grow Me Instead brochure from Alberta Invasive Species Council



**YELLOW CLEMATIS**  
*Clematis tangutica*

Spreading vine plant. Yellow, pendant flowers. Seeds have silky, long tufts easily carried on wind and water. Aggressive plant once established. Urban and natural area infestations are becoming more common, displacing native flora and increasing fire hazard. This species is also moving into mountain parks.

**NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES**

**Honeybelle Honeysuckle**  
*Lonicera x brownii*

Deep golden coloured flowers. Compact twining vine. Clean, round medium-green foliage. Blossoms throughout the season. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Zone 4

**Dropmore Scarlet Honeysuckle**  
*Lonicera x brownii 'dropmore scarlet'*

Fast-growing twining vine with waxy green leaves and showy orange to scarlet trumpet-shaped flowers. Blooms throughout the summer. Prefers full sun but will grow and flower with partial shade. Developed in Manitoba for Canadian prairie conditions. Zone 4

**Western White Clematis**  
*Clematis ligusticifolia*

Lovely white flowers with yellow centers. Blooms June/July. Decorative "Old Man's Beard" seed head. Twining climber that does not die back to the ground over winter. Zone 3

**ALSO CONSIDER:** Common Hop (*Humulus*) Zone 3; Persian Yellow Rose (*Rosa foetida persiana*) Zone 4; Hardy grapes, Zone 3

**DAME'S ROCKET**  
*Hesperis matronalis*

Often confused with garden phlox. Dame's rocket has 4 petals and alternate leaves, phlox has 5 petals and opposite leaves. Flower colour can be magenta through to pink or white. Considered a "traditional" garden flower. Prolific seed producer often found in "wildflower" mixes. Especially problematic near woodlands.

**NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES**

**Garden Phlox**  
*Phlox paniculata*

Native to eastern and central United States and eastern Canada, it is a summer garden favourite due to the clouds of billowy blooms, long flowering season, and easy care. The five-petaled flowers are packed into dense clusters. Many cultivars available in a range of flower colours, and fragrances. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Zone 3

**Spotted Joe-pye Weed**  
*Eutrochium maculatum* var. *maculatum*

Native to Canada, this attractive plant produces pale pink-purple flowers atop red stems that last mid-summer through fall. A must have for wildflower lovers, it attracts a multitude of butterflies with its sweet nectar. Zone 3

**Giant Hyssop**  
*Agastache foeniculum*

Plant this species as an ornamental or in the herb garden. Short-lived perennial that reseeds and grows in a clumping habit. Small blue-purple flowers in fuzzy spikes bloom all summer and into fall. Flowers are edible and can be crumbled into salads or made into tea. Mint and licorice scented foliage. Attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Zone 4

**ALSO CONSIDER:** Autumn Joy Sedum (*Sedum x 'Autumn joy'*) Zone 2; Blue False indigo (*Amorpha australis*) Zone 3; Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) Zone 3



# FARM KID SAFETY!

Kids are a big part of family farming operations. From doing chores to running the tractor - lets keep our farm kids safe!

For more resources on keeping your kids farm safe, visit: <https://www.abfarmsafety.com/>

## DO YOU KNOW YOUR HAZARD SYMBOLS?



Find and circle the words in the list. Words in the puzzle can be read across or down.

EXPLODE  
BURN  
FIRE  
SICK  
BLOW UP  
EATAWAY  
HEAT  
SKULL  
KABOOM  
BONES  
FLAMES  
TOXIC

G	F	S	S	K	U	L	L	H	F	F	M
Q	W	Z	N	O	U	K	J	V	D	L	B
S	E	X	P	L	O	D	E	B	J	A	L
K	D	Q	E	W	V	B	N	M	R	M	O
A	F	T	H	J	K	X	C	N	P	E	W
B	I	Z	X	A	S	B	U	R	N	S	U
O	R	D	R	U	Y	I	K	L	T	Y	P
O	E	D	B	O	N	E	S	G	J	G	Y
M	I	H	R	T	W	I	P	O	M	C	Z
R	T	S	I	C	K	W	Q	E	R	F	G
H	E	A	T	B	E	A	T	A	W	A	Y
V	T	O	X	I	C	N	G	R	E	W	P

Sort the words under the symbol they belong with:



Explosive

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Corrosive

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Flammable

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Poison

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Answer at <https://www.abfarmsafety.com/resources/hazard-symbol-identification/>

**FEB 15, 2023**



**CANADA'S AGRICULTURE DAY**

It's official, **Canada's Ag Day** will be celebrated on **February 15, 2023!**

Mark your calendars to raise your fork and acknowledge the ongoing effort and commitment made by each of you.

Join our community to engage in conversations about food and agriculture and get the word out on social media across Canada with #CdnAgDay. Remember to keep your best photos and videos on hand to share them when the day comes!

No matter how you get social, make sure to use #CdnAgDay when you do!

# AG PODCASTS WE'RE LISTENING TO

## The Bovine by Alberta Beef Producers

Join host Debra Murphy as she interviews researchers, ranchers, ABP delegates and staff, chefs, nutritionists, and others all along the beef supply chain. You'll hear content as diverse as the guests who bring it- from cooking beef to managing pastureland, the latest tech to great entertainment, cattle markets to weather predictions, and more.

Latest Topics:

- [Preparing for drought during autumn office hours](#)
- [An overview of the markets with Brenna Grant, Canfax](#)
- [Barley, corn, and wheat markets with Brennan Turner](#)
- [Animal Pathology Services with Dr. Jennifer Davies](#)



## The First Sixteen by Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada



The First Sixteen is AAFC's podcast series that explores the freshest ideas in agriculture and food. Each episode explores a single topic in depth- digging into new practices, innovative ideas, and their impacts on the industry.

Latest Topics:

- [Saving our organic soils](#)
- [Shedding light on food fraud](#)
- [Putting a rope around antimicrobial resistance in cattle](#)

## Inspect & Protect by Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Every episode co-hosts Greg Rogers and Michelle Strong exploring stories about food safety, animal health and plant protection. Listen as they connect with the people at the heart of these issues.

Latest Topics:

- [Feeling the sting: The impact of honey fraud on beekeepers](#)
- [Canada's Christmas tree industry is booming- fir real!](#)
- [Working with the world's deadliest diseases](#)
- [How Canada is keeping its pigs safe: African Swine Fever](#)





# SPECIES AT RISK

**Common name:**  
Ferruginous Hawk

**Latin name:** Buteo regalis

**Conservation Status:**  
Threatened

**Range:** Alberta,  
Saskatchewan, Manitoba

**Lifespan:** 20 years or more.  
The oldest recorded age is  
23 years and 8 months

**Size:** Wingspan of 133-142  
cm, head-to-talon length of  
56-69cm, weight of 0.97-  
2.1kg, females are larger

The Ferruginous Hawk comes in a light and dark colouration. The light colouration has a white belly, while the dark colouration is a dark brown on its back and stomach. Both have white on the underside of their wings. The light colouration also has a brown-feathered "V" along the underside of its legs and tail.



Nature Canada © to Bill Gracey on Flickr, used under Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 2.0 Generic



Nature Canada © to Doug Greenberg on Flickr, used under Attribution-NonCommercial 2.0 Generic

Canada has committed to the goal of protecting 30% of lands, ocean, and freshwater in Canada by 2030.

This goal will help protect ecosystems, restore habitats, and fight climate change. All these things are a step in protecting Canada's at-risk animals.

## QUICK FACTS

- Eats mainly rodents, but will eat what's available, including: small to medium-sized mammals, smaller birds, snakes, and large insects
- Is the largest hawk in North America
- Catches prey by using the "sit-and-wait" method – they wait on the ground outside the prey's den
- Courtship involves dancing in the sky, diving on the part of the male, and the pair spiralling towards the ground holding each other's beaks and talons
- Use things like sticks, shrubs, shredded bark, and cow dung to make nests. In the past, they also used bison hair and bones
- Its name, "ferruginous," refers to the hawk's rusty colouring

## THREATS?

The Ferruginous Hawk population in North America is now only a quarter of what it was in the early 1900's, and its range is only half of what it was in the past. The loss of and fragmentation of its habitat, [native grasslands](#), are a serious threat to the population. Ferruginous Hawks also suffer from a lack of nest sites as more and more trees are cut down in their habitat. They are also threatened by human activity and the loss of prey, particularly Richardson's ground squirrel.

## WHAT'S BEING DONE?

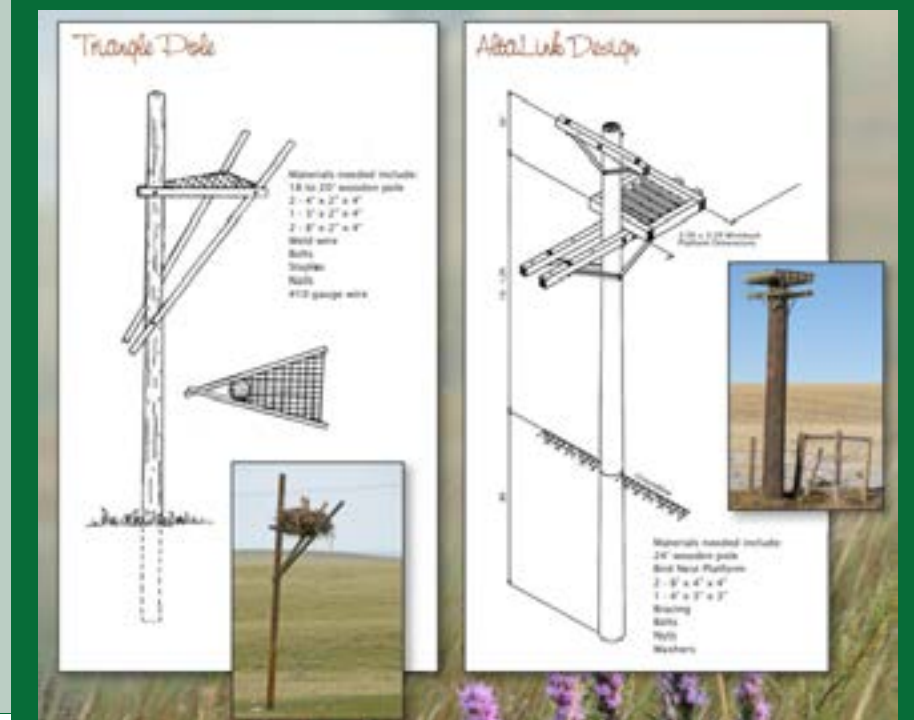
The species is protected by the Canada National Parks Act in the Grasslands National Park of Canada. It is also protected under Alberta's Wildlife Act and the Manitoba Endangered Species Act.

Alberta has the [Alberta Ferruginous Hawk Recovery Plan 2009-2014](#) in place. This focuses on habitat preservation, reducing human disturbances and human-caused mortality, population monitoring, outreach, and research.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

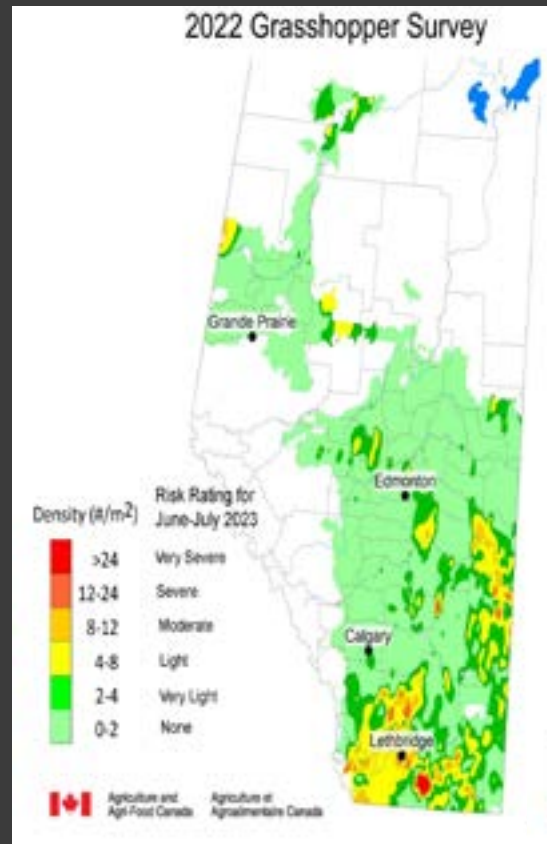
Build an artificial nesting pole to attract ferruginous hawks to your native prairie!

Not only will you be helping a hawk at risk, you can use this natural predator to control your gopher populations. Check out [this brochure](#) on how to construct your nesting poles before March 15!





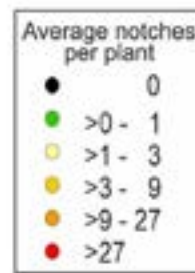
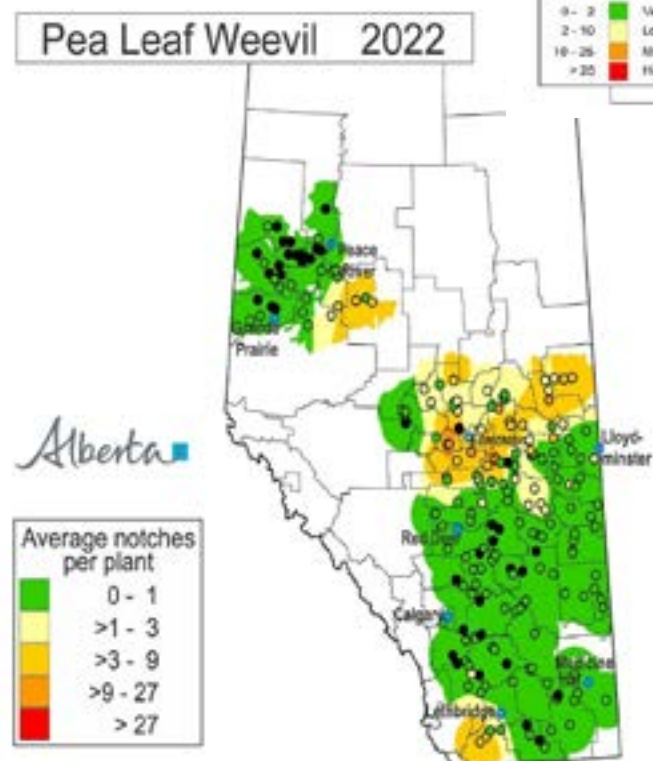
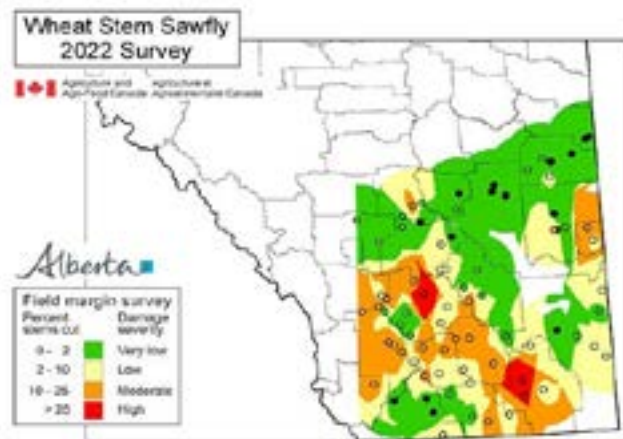
# 2022 INSECT SURVEY RESULTS



Did you know Special Areas Agricultural Service Board staff help Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation to complete their annual pest surveys?

You may notice ASB inspectors out in your fields with sweep nets in August collecting grasshopper samples! The information they collect is sent to the entomology experts of the province to create survey maps and infestation predictions for the next year.

You can see all of the results at the [Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network](#).



# WINTER GOT YOUR TREES DOWN?

By: Yard Whispers

There are many reasons why evergreen trees and shrubs turn brown, change colour or loose their needles. Many environmental conditions such as winter desiccation, salt, frost, drought, flood, soil deficiency and many others environmental factors are the cause of needle and leaf discoloration and not necessarily insect or diseases.

Winter damage and its severity can look different depending on the tree species. Cedar leaf scales fade from green to light tan or reddish-brown while needle tips of spruce and pine turn brown. Winter damage may occur on different part of trees and affect a just few branches, at the treetop, on one side or even the entire tree. The tree could lose most of its needles and die.

**Winter desiccation** is caused when water leaves the tree needles faster than it is taken up. During winter, coniferous needles still lose a miniscule amount of moisture into the air.

**Sunscald** is when winter temperature fluctuations cause injury by damaging the bark of hardwood trees. It rarely kills the tree, but the damaged bark then becomes an entry point for insects and disease.

**Cold temperature damage** is when high fluctuations in temperatures during the winter months causes this damage. In Alberta we experience a temperatures shift from - 40 C to 10 C relatively quickly.



Pictures: Winter damage on white spruce and cedar

## Tips to minimize winter damage:

- Water evergreens in the fall.
- Also water in the early in the spring once the ground thaws.
- Use mulching to keep moisture around trees. Wood chips or other mulch – five to 12 cm thick – will keep moisture longer in the roots.
- Use hardy plant varieties specific for the horticultural zones of your area.
- Do not plant trees and shrubs near buildings or other reflective structures.
- Consider fertilizing trees following harsh winter conditions, but stop using nitrogen or any other fertilizers after June.
- Do not wrap evergreens with burlap or plastic. Warm and sunny winter days will increase the internal temperature. This high temperature may damage warmed tissue when severe cold follows. Plants wrapped this way may also break dormancy.

Want to learn more? Attend the Handhills Shelterbelt Workshop, March 17!



# Upcoming Events

Feb 14	<a href="#">Your Path to Farm Transition: Unlock your inner CEO: Leading a successful farm transition, virtual</a>
Feb 15	<a href="#">Growing Farm Safety webinar series: Agricultural Fitness for Duty- Impairment in the Workplace Basics, virtual</a>
Feb 15	<a href="#">BCRC Webinar: Record Keeping, Part Two: Setting Bulls Up for Success</a>
Feb 15	<a href="#">Feed Your Future Virtual Career Fair</a>
Feb 16	CARA's Grazing Club, Consort, call CARA at 664-3777 to register
Feb 16	<a href="#">Alberta Beef- Producer Meeting, virtual</a>
Feb 21	ASB Crop Event, Acadia Valley Hall, call CARA at 664-3777 to register
Feb 28	CARA's Grazing Club, Pollockville, call CARA at 664-3777 to register
Mar 2	Ladies Calving Clinic, Delia Community Centre, 4-8PM, Registration Coming Soon!
Mar 6	<a href="#">Open Farm Days Training for Host Farms: Booking your farm event, virtual</a>
Mar 8	<a href="#">Growing Farm Safety: ATV-UTC Safety for Women</a>
Mar 13	<a href="#">Open Farm Fays Training for Host Farms: Exploring Social Media Trends</a>
Mar 14	CARA's Grazing Club, Hanna, call CARA at 664-3777 to register
Mar 14	<a href="#">Your Path to Farm Transition: Review, Revisit, Repeat: Keeping your farm transition plan alive, virtual</a>
Mar 17	CARA Shelterbelt Workshop, Handhills Clubhouse, TBA Call 664-3777 to register
Mar 21	CARA's Grazing Club, Pollockville, call CARA at 664-3777 to register
Mar 21	<a href="#">Growing Farm Safety: Farm Safety &amp; Sustainability, virtual</a>
Mar 22	<a href="#">BCRC Webinar: Record Keeping Part 3: Keeping production data to improve the whole supply chain</a>
Mar 22	Management Alternatives for Soil Health, Oyen Legion Hall, call CARA at 6664-3777 to register
Mar 23	<a href="#">Pesticide Applicator Workshop, virtual</a>
Mar 28	CARA's Grazing Club, Consort, call CARA at 664-3777 to register

**YOUR LOCAL AG FIELDMAN IS  
HERE TO HELP WITH YOUR AG  
QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS**