

Rancher's Contract Update  
Submitted by Brian Stratuliak

To the dismay of the Sunset Prairie Livestock Association, we were made aware during our April meeting that the funding of the Rancher's Contract with the Ministry of FLNRORD was canceled. The SPLA sent letters to the Ministries of FLNRORD, Environment, & Agriculture, the ALC, our local MLAs, and the corresponding Liberal critics to voice our displeasure with their decision. We also contacted, and got support from, the Peace River Regional Cattlemen's Association, BCCA, South Peace Stockmen's Association and other individuals in trying to reverse the government's decision. The SPLA would like to thank the PRRD Invasive Plant Monitoring Committee for writing a letter to help reinstate our funding.

On June 10, I received an email from Darlene Dresser of FLNRORD informing us that they were proceeding with our contract, with a slight increase in our funding. We were then able to continue our work this summer with controlling invasive weeds in our pasture. This program has been a huge success, and we are treating less acres of invasive weeds every year.

The government funded portion of the Rancher's Contract is to spray high priority invasive weeds on crown grazing land. The SPLA also sprays Canada Thistle on the crown grazing land, but with the labor at their own expense. This year the government paid for surveying, spraying &/or hand pulling of weeds on 8 sites, all Scentless Chamomile. They sprayed .04 ha (.09 acre) with Clearview, and hand pulled 2 sites (40 plants). The SPLA sprayed 2 sites for Canada Thistle with an area of 46.1178 ha (113.9596 acres) and the chemicals used were Clearview, Milestone and Grazon XC.