



Stacked Lazy 3 Ranch named winner of Leopold Conservation Award

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The Stacked Lazy 3 Ranch, owned and managed by Keven and Sandi Turecek, has been selected as the recipient of the 2016 Colorado Leopold Conservation Award.

In 1949, renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold published a book entitled "A Sand County Almanac;" he called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage, which he called "an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity." The Leopold Conservation Award is given in his honor and recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. The award aims to inspire landowners and provide a visible forum where farmers, ranchers and other private landowners are recognized as conservation leaders. "The conservation work done on this ranch was done because it was the right thing to do," said Sandi Turecek. "We weren't looking for recognition, so it's an honor to be recognized for the past 30 years of taking care of our land."

Located near Deer Trail, Colorado, the Stacked Lazy 3 Ranch is a diversified enterprise with a commercial cow calf herd, as well as dry-land crops. The Tureceks have worked diligently to convert hundreds of acres of marginal farm ground back to native grass pastures. They have installed over 50,000 feet of terraces, repaired riparian areas and planted thousands of trees into shelter belts, as well as repairing old and building new retention dams. As a way to prevent erosion and retain the limited soil moisture, the family converted their operation to no-till crops many years ago. They also manage their cow herd with conservation in mind. "Our cows are Angus cross and size is a determining factor," said Keven. "We select for a slightly smaller framed female, which can maintain a good body score and still raise a good calf with limited resources."

The Tureceks will receive their award at the Colorado Cattlemen's Association annual convention in Colorado Springs on June 13. As the winner, they will receive a crystal trophy depicting Aldo Leopold, and a \$10,000 cash award. "It's always an honor to recognize one of our members for their many years of labor and dedication," says Bob Patterson, president of Colorado Cattlemen's Association. "The Leopold Conservation Award provides a platform for us to show our appreciation for the voluntary conservation work done by members of our industry."

"The Turecek family represents the very best of production agriculture.



Stacked Lazy 3 Ranch

The Turecek family of the Stacked Lazy 3 Ranch were named the 2016 recipients of the Leopold Conservation Award. Pictured from left to right: Tyler, Paige, Travis, Sandi and Keven Turecek. (Photo courtesy of CCA.)



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They are outstanding stewards of the land, passionate advocates for conservation and genuinely good people,” said Erik Glenn, Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust executive director. “Their love for the land and their family is evident in every decision that they make and that results in outstanding management decisions that produce one of the most well run farming and ranching operations in Colorado.”

“Tri-State and its member electric cooperatives and public power districts are proud to support the Leopold Conservation Award,” said Mike McInnes, chief executive officer of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association. “The award’s recognition of environmental stewardship in protecting of our rural landscapes reflects the strong conservation ethic of rural communities and their electric cooperatives.”

The prestigious award is presented annually by Sand County Foundation, the Colorado Cattlemen’s Association, the Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and American AgCredit. Award applicants are judged based on their demonstration of improved resource conditions, innovation, long-term commitment to stewardship, sustained economic viability, community and civic leadership, and multiple use benefits.

The award is made possible through the generous contributions from many organizations, including: Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assoc., American AgCredit, The Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, The Nature Conservancy, Michael Dowling, DuPont Pioneer, The Mosaic Company and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For application information, please visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org.

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