



COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

"Representing the interests of Colorado's beef industry since 1867"

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Finalists Named in Colorado Leopold Conservation Award® Program

Arvada, Colo. – (March 31, 2016) Finalists for the 2016 Leopold Conservation Award in Colorado have been announced. Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Conservation Award recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. It inspires other landowners through these examples and provides a visible forum where farmers, ranchers and other private landowners are recognized as conservation leaders.

The finalists for the 2016 award are:

The **Draper Ranch** - a cow/calf ranch owned and managed by Buddy and Jerry Draper in Wetmore.

The **Stacked Lazy 3 Ranch** – a cow/calf ranch and dryland wheat farm near Deer Trail, the Turecek family has ranched in the area since 1910.

The **Frasier Family** – several cattle ranches managed by the Frasier family on the eastern Colorado high plains near Woodrow.

"The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust is proud of the conservation accomplishments of the 2016 Leopold Conservation Award finalists," said Erik Glenn, Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust executive director. "The three finalists showcase an inspiring dedication and commitment to the land and are outstanding representatives of private working land conservation and the critical role it plays in ensuring that Colorado continues to be defined by its natural beauty and family ranching heritage."

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 Leopold Conservation Award is an excellent platform for us to recognize ranchers who continuously care for the land with a holistic approach," says Bob Patterson, president of Colorado Cattlemen's Association. "The conservation work done on these ranches wasn't done for platitudes and recognition; these landowners truly believe that caring for the environment is the right thing to do."

The 2016 winner, who will receive \$10,000 and a crystal depicting Aldo Leopold, will be announced in April. The award will be presented at the Colorado Cattlemen's Association's annual convention on June 13 in Colorado Springs.

"As a longtime supporter of the Leopold Conservation Award Program, American AgCredit is proud to take part in honoring those farmers and ranchers whose work includes conservation of the land and long-term commitment to stewardship," said Terry Lindley, chief marketing officer of American Ag Credit. "Each year these winners represent the best of those nominated as civic leaders preserving our natural resources. We congratulate the finalists of this prestigious award."

The Leopold Conservation 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. The award is possible due to generous contributions from many other organizations as well; including The Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, The Nature Conservancy, Michael Dowling, DuPont Pioneer, The Mosaic Company, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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ABOUT THE LEOPOLD CONSERVATION AWARD

The Leopold Conservation Award is a competitive award that recognizes landowner achievement in voluntary conservation. The award consists of a crystal award depicting Aldo Leopold and \$10,000. Sand County Foundation presents Leopold Conservation Awards in California, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

ABOUT SAND COUNTY FOUNDATION

Sand County Foundation is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to working with private landowners to advance the use of ethical and scientifically sound land management practices that benefit the environment. www.sandcounty.net

ABOUT COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is the state's only non-profit trade organization exclusively representing Colorado's beef producers. Founded in 1867, CCA is the nation's oldest state cattlemen's association. coloradocattle.org

ABOUT COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

Recognizing the need to help Colorado's ranching and farming families protect their agricultural lands, in the face of growing development and economic pressures, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association in 1995 formed the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT). To date, CCALT has partnered with hundreds of ranching families in the protection of more than 465,000 acres. ccalt.org

ABOUT TRI-STATE GENERATION & TRANSMISSION ASSOCIATION

Tri-State Generation & Transmission Assoc. is a wholesale electric power supplier owned by the 44 electric cooperatives and public power districts it serves. Tri-State also generates and transports electricity to its member systems across Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming. tristategt.org

ABOUT AMERICAN AGCREDIT

Founded in 1916, American AgCredit is part of the nationwide Farm Credit System, and is the nation's 6th largest Farm Credit cooperative. American AgCredit specializes in providing financial services to agricultural and rural customers throughout California, Nevada, Central Kansas, Northern Oklahoma, Central and Western Colorado, and Northern New Mexico –as well as to capital markets customers in 30 states. agloan.com