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# 2015 Colorado Leopold Conservation Award recipient announced

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Posted: Tuesday, May 5, 2015 12:00 am

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The Flying Diamond Ranch, owned and managed by Scott and Jean Johnson, has been selected as the recipient of the 2015 Colorado Leopold Conservation Award.

Located near Kit Carson, Flying Diamond Ranch is a fifth generation, 25,000-acre cattle ranch. For over 100 years, the Johnsons' management philosophy has reflected a personal conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Guided by their principles of holistic management, they implemented a rotational grazing system that is supported by pipelines and fencing, which allows them to control the environmental impact of their herd.

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To lower production costs, the Johnsons pushed their calving season to May when natural forage supplies can better meet the nutritional needs of their herd.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Conservation Award recognizes private landowner achievement in voluntary conservation. It 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 \$10,000 award and a crystal depicting Aldo Leopold will be presented to the Johnsons at the Protein Producer Summit in Steamboat Springs on June 15.



"The Flying Diamond has done an impressive job of balancing resources with operational needs to create a sustainability show piece that should be an inspiration to us all," said Frank Daley, president of Colorado Cattlemen's Association.

"The Johnson family's commitment to consistently reviewing and improving their management strategies is representative of the broader commitment that Colorado's agricultural producers take on each and every day as resource stewards. Their longevity speaks loudly to their hard work, adaptability, dedication and passion. We are pleased to join the other partners in congratulating the Johnson family on being selected as the 2015 Leopold Conservation Award recipient and thanking them for their multi-generational commitment to agriculture and conservation," stated Erik Glenn, CCALT deputy director.

"Tri-State and its member electric cooperatives are proud to support the Leopold Conservation Award," said Mike McInnes, chief executive officer of Tri-State. "The award recipient's environmental stewardship reflects the strong conservation ethic of rural communities and their electric cooperatives."

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The Leopold Conservation Award recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. It inspires landowners through these examples and provides a visible forum where farmers, ranchers and other private landowners are recognized as conservation leaders. In his influential 1949 book, "A Sand County Almanac," Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage, which he called "an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity."

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 possible thanks to generous contributions from many organizations, including Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assoc., American AgCredit, The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, DuPont Pioneer, The Mosaic Company and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For application information, please visit [www.leopoldconservationaward.org](http://www.leopoldconservationaward.org).

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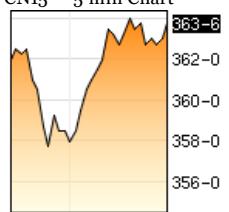
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Market Snapshot

### Market Snapshot

CN15 5-min Chart



Symbol	Last	Chg
» Corn	363-6	+4-6
Soybean	34.45s	-0.28
Oil	946-0	+10-6
Soybeans (Chicago)	513-0s	+2-2
KC Wheat	529-2s	-6-2
Minn Wheat	575-6	+12-6
Oats	251-6s	-1-0

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