

Wilson RG Ranch hosts CCALT BBQ

DEL NORTE — On Saturday, August 4th, the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) will hold their annual Sunset BBQ benefit at the Wilson Rio Grande Ranch near Del Norte. The barbecue is the annual fundraiser for CCALT. Proceeds will be used by the Land Trust to protect additional ranches in the area.

CCALT was formed in 1995 by the membership of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) to help Colorado's ranchers and farmers protect their agricultural lands and encourage continuing agricultural production. CCA was the first state livestock association in the nation to form a land trust.

In its 17-year history, CCALT has developed an excellent track record in successfully completing transactions. To date, CCALT has helped over 260 landowners statewide protect more than 394,000 acres.

The Land Trust has been very active in the San Luis Valley and has partnered with 22 ranching families covering more than 27,500 acres. CCALT's biggest effort protects 17 ranches along nearly 20 miles of Saguache Creek.

"We are very pleased to host the annual CCALT Sunset BBQ this year. It's our goal to preserve the beauty and wildness of our ranch as it is today for many generations to come. CCALT has been a great partner in helping us to make this possible," said Ginny Wilson.

The CCALT annual fundraiser is held at a different ranch across Colorado each summer. This is the first time that the Sunset BBQ has been held in Rio Grande County. In addition, CCALT is offering an optional and extraordinary fishing experience of a lifetime during the summer barbecue.

The Rio Grande Ranch Fishing Derby will take place at 8 a.m. at the Wilson Rio Grande Ranch, giving the participants the chance to fish on over two miles of private water on the Rio Grande River.

The event will also include cocktails, a silent and live auction and live entertainment. Auction items can also be purchased online in advance of the event at www.bidding-forgood.com/ccalt.

All proceeds will go to support the Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust. Ticket prices are \$150/person. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Alyssa Street at 303-225-8677 or by e-mail at Alyssa@ccalt.org. Visit the CCALT website at www.ccalt.org.

The Valley Courier
July 19, 2012