

Cattlemen to host barbecue at Hutchinson Ranch

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The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) will host its ninth annual Sunset BBQ at 5 p.m. Aug. 23 at the Hutchinson Ranch between Salida and Poncha Springs.

According to a press release, CCALT recently completed a project with the Hutchinson family, ensuring the ranch will remain a historical working ranch.

Proceeds from the barbecue will be used by the land trust to protect additional ranches in the Upper Arkansas Valley.

The Hutchinson Ranch was homesteaded in the 1860s by Joseph Hutchinson. The ranch has since been passed down through six generations, making it the oldest family-owned ranch in the Upper Arkansas Valley, the release stated.

The Hutchinson family committed to work to permanently protect the ranch with conservation easements.

"We are proud to host this year's CCALT Sunset BBQ and want to express thanks to all who helped us in the process," said Art Hutchinson.

The event will begin with a tour at the historical homestead, followed by cocktails, dinner, live entertainment from Salida's Phoebe and Harper Powell and an auction.

Bids for auction items can also be placed online in advance of the event at biddingforgood.com/ccalt.

The Sunset BBQ is hosted by landowners in different regions of the state every year. This is the first time it has been held in Chaffee County.

"The Hutchinson Ranch is the perfect location. This ranch serves as an example of what can be accomplished through conservation partnerships with nonprofits, local government agencies, landowners and their families," said Chris West, CCALT executive director.

Tickets for the event cost \$150 per person, and all proceeds will go toward CCALT's conservation efforts. For more information or to RSVP, visit ccalt.org or email Alyssa Street at alyssa@ccalt.org.

According to the release, CCALT was formed in 1995 by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association to help Colorado ranchers and farmers protect their agricultural lands and encourage continuing

agricultural production. The trust has worked with more than 270 ranching families statewide to protect more than 424,000 acres.