



CROSSROADS

— 20TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE —

CCALT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Colorado, from one generation to the next

20
YEARS

The heart and soul of the American West originates on the land itself. Generations of accumulated

knowledge, values and beliefs are rooted in the lands that the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust helps to conserve. Preserving this heritage is important for everyone's future, but it is especially important to the families who trust us with their legacy.

In our 20th Anniversary year, it is tempting to look back at two decades of accomplishments—and indeed we should all take a moment to celebrate what we have been able to achieve together. But by any measure, this is a pivotal time for

Colorado. Dramatic changes are sweeping across the state, reshaping urban and rural areas alike. So as we look ahead to the coming decades, we wonder what is in store for future generations, and we believe CCALT's mission has never been more important.

Join us as we mark this 20th Anniversary milestone with profound gratitude and respect for the hundreds of families that have generously partnered with us to protect an essential piece of Colorado. These landscapes—this way of life—they may be timeless, but that does not guarantee they will exist forever. That duty is left to us. That is our work. And we thank you for your ongoing support.



“Conservation can accomplish its objectives only when it springs from an impelling conviction on the part of private landowners.”

— Aldo Leopold



MORE THAN

240

families have been served through CCALT's land conservation efforts.



CCALT is ranked **sixth** in the nation in total acres protected by statewide or regional land trusts.

450k

CCALT has worked to preserve nearly **450,000** acres in Colorado.

A PIVOTAL TIME FOR COLORADO

Throughout the past 20 years, the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) has been honored to work with more than 240 ranching families across Colorado.

Looking back at the last two decades, CCALT can celebrate numerous accomplishments, capped by the conservation of nearly 450,000 acres of working farms and ranches. With another two million people slated to move to Colorado in the coming years, our mission to safeguard the state's agricultural land and the families rooted there has become even more critical. We want future generations of our loved ones to know the Colorado—and the way of life—that is our mission to protect.

During the next 20 years and beyond, the Land Trust hopes to work with hundreds of additional landowners across the state. By continuing to conserve Colorado's land and waters, CCALT's goal is to ensure that these resources will provide us with the food, water and high quality of life that we are so fortunate to have here in Colorado. We have a lot of work to do, and we need your help!

The Board and staff of CCALT are excited to reveal a new Logo, website and special 20th Anniversary events throughout 2015. We invite you to join us as we celebrate this exciting new chapter for the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, and make a renewed commitment to shaping Colorado's future for the better!



CCALT is thrilled to announce our new Forever Colorado initiative. This multi-year effort will keep the Land Trust sustainable so it can continue to serve private landowners and the state's ever-growing population. Our goal is to raise \$5 million to protect the heritage that should remain the heart of Colorado—forever.

A WAY OF LIFE | STANKO RANCH

'14 Ranching has been a way of life in the Yampa Valley since the late 1800s. Mining and agriculture—especially cattle, hay, lettuce and strawberries—were the foundation of Routt County's economy well into the 20th century. In 1907, Peter Stanko Sr. purchased a 160 acre-tract in the Yampa Valley that grew to 750 acres.

► *The Stanko Family has made a living on their Yampa Valley ranch since 1907.*



James Stanko purchased the ranch from his father and mother, Peter Jr. and Natalie, upon their retirement and has been running the ranching operation with his wife, Joanne, since 1974. The Stankos received the Aldo Leopold Conservation Award in 2010 for the family's multi-generational commitment to conservation.



LASTING HERITAGE CENTENNIAL RANCH

'95 CCALT recorded its first easement in November of 1995 with Vince and Joan Kontny. The property was homesteaded in 1879 by James Nelson Smith and remained in the family for five generations. In 1988, the Colorado Historical Society awarded the ranch a Centennial Farm Certificate for more than a hundred years of single-family ownership, prompting the name change. Like so many that would follow, this easement was donated to conserve open space, agricultural productivity, wildlife habitat and natural beauty.

SHARED VALUES COLEMAN RANCH

'01 To keep their historic ranches agriculturally viable and in the family, a group of landowners from the Saguache Creek area approached CCALT in 1997. The fertile hay meadows and irrigated pastures along this 21-mile corridor are surrounded by 350,000 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Rio Grande National Forest, much of which is leased to ranchers in Saguache for summer pasture.

Since 2001, CCALT has raised millions from local, state and federal donors in order to complete 26 conservation easements totaling more than 16,000 acres. "The money helps," said Jim Coleman, "but this is about preserving open space and keeping it around for future generations."



► *Tim Coleman (left) and Jim Coleman (right). The Colemans were the first family in the Saguache area to place an easement on their ranch.*



CCALT SUNSET BBQ

SAVE *the* DATE

Join us for dinner, drinks and an auction on

JULY 11, 2015, 5-9 P.M.

at the Johnson/Hammond family's Elk Ranch just 17 miles west of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Tickets are \$150/person. Proceeds from the event will go toward the protection of Colorado's beautiful and productive agricultural lands.

To RSVP, or to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Alyssa Street at alyssa@ccalt.org.

Photo courtesy of John Fielder



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Visit us at www.ccalt.org to learn more or find additional information about the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust.

The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust protects Colorado's agricultural land, heritage and families for future generations by conserving working rural landscapes.