



E Bar Ranch in Agate, Colorado

100+ Year Ranching Legacy Conserved in Eastern Colorado

KIOWA, Colo. (Dec. 21, 2020) - The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) is pleased to announce conservation of the 5,363 acre E Bar Ranch near Agate, Colorado. The conservation project was made possible with support from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), The Nature Conservancy, and E Bar Ranch landowners, David and Linda Ehmann.

"For nearly a decade, CCALT has dedicated time and resources to expanding our conservation efforts in Eastern Colorado, with the overall goal of protecting vital grassland prairie habitat and sustaining small rural communities," said Erik Glenn, CCALT executive director. "The E Bar Ranch conservation project builds on CCALT's Agate Prairie Conservation Legacy Program, which has already protected more than 43,965 acres in the region, and conserves another important family operation on Colorado's Eastern Plains."

In rural Colorado, good neighbors are as important to a community's success as the weather. David and Linda Ehmann and their families have been an integral part of the Elbert County and Kiowa communities for generations. The E Bar Ranch was first homesteaded by the Ehmann family in 1887. Today, the Ehmann family grows dryland wheat and corn on the property and grazes livestock. Beyond their ag operation, the Ehmann's have dedicated countless hours to mentoring local students and supporting local youth development programs like 4-H and FFA. The family also owned and operated Kiowa's only car dealership, Hoo Motors, for nearly 30 years. Like so much of CCALT's work in rural Colorado, passing the E Bar Ranch to the next generation will have lasting impacts on both the community and the landscape.

Conservation of the E Bar Ranch ensures that the property will remain in agricultural production and enables the Ehmann family to continue their various roles in this small, rural community. Protection of

the E Bar Ranch also ensures that the general public traveling through the region will forever benefit from unobstructed views of the Front Range, including Longs and Pikes Peaks.

From a wildlife perspective, the ranch is home to multiple species, including a variety of grassland birds and large game. “The E Bar Ranch was conserved for its native shortgrass prairie as a part of our focus on Grasslands of Special Significance,” said Clint Evans, NRCS state conservationist. “NRCS helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through our Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and, in the E Bar Ranch case, the easement component of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.”

“The Ehmann and Maul families have ranched and raised families in Elbert County for well over 100 years. It is important to Linda and I that we are able to ensure that ranching is a viable part of the county’s future. Conserving this ranch means we can rest easy knowing it will be productive well into the next generation,” said landowner, Dave Ehmann.

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About The Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust - [Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust \(CCALT\)](#) is a nonprofit land conservation organization whose mission is to “...conserve Colorado’s western heritage and working landscapes for the benefit of future generations.”

About Great Outdoors Colorado - Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state’s parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. GOCO’s independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created when voters approved a Constitutional Amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 5,300 projects in urban and rural areas in all 64 counties without any tax dollar support. Visit [GOCO.org](#) for more information.

About The Natural Resources Conservation Service - The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the primary federal agency that works with private landowners to help them conserve, maintain and improve their natural resources. The Agency emphasizes voluntary, science-based conservation; technical assistance; partnerships; incentive-based programs; and cooperative problem solving at the community level. Over the past 25 years, NRCS has worked with landowners to protect more than 4.4 million acres of wetlands and agricultural lands.

About The Nature Conservancy – The Nature Conservancy is a global environmental nonprofit working to create a world where people and nature can thrive. Founded at its grassroots in the United States in 1951, The Nature Conservancy has grown to become one of the most effective and wide-reaching environmental organizations in the world. Thanks to more than a million members and the dedicated efforts of a diverse staff and more than 400 scientists, The Nature Conservancy impacts conservation in 79 countries and territories across six continents.

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