



The Home Ranch – Clark, Colo.

Conservation Legacy Lives On in the Protection of “Home Ranch”

Clark, Colo. (December 29, 2020) – The well-known Home Ranch near Clark, Colo. Has been officially conserved in perpetuity. The [Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust \(CCALT\)](#) was thrilled to partner with the McFarlane family, new landowners of Home Ranch, to conserve the 400 acre property. Successful completion of the project means that a key component of this cherished Routt County landscape will remain undeveloped and in agricultural production for years to come.

The Home Ranch sits in the Upper Elk River Valley just north of Steamboat Springs. The valley as a whole has long been a focus for conservation organizations due its vibrant habitat, scenic beauty, and pristine natural resources; as well as its proximity to recreation and the growing resort community of Steamboat Springs. Steve Stranahan, the previous owner of Home Ranch, was a critical driver for conservation efforts in the region during his lifetime. As the landowner of multiple properties in the Elk River Valley, Steve was one of the first people to consider conservation easements as a viable tool for farming and ranching. While Home Ranch wasn’t conserved in Steve’s lifetime, he had long considered adding the property to his family’s nearly 2,000 acre conservation legacy.

In 2019, following Steve’s death, the Home Ranch was sold to the McFarlane family. The McFarlanes have willingly and robustly embraced Stranahan’s conservation ethic. The new owners are not only committed to keeping Home Ranch’s conservation values alive, but to ensuring that the landscape remains open to the community. If you’re familiar with Home Ranch’s ripe produce stand or home cooked dining experiences, don’t fret, the McFarlane’s plan to keep those traditions alive! These customs as well as new ones will be the primary focus for the McFarlane family now that the ranch has been officially conserved.

Like so much of CCALT’s work, the protection of Home Ranch benefits far more than just the McFarlane family. The project will add to the rich legacy of conservation in the valley, ensure that a property central to the Clark community will remain accessible to residents and visitors alike, and enable the wildlife which

also utilizes this land to continue to do so. All of that is good news for Clark, and good news for all of Colorado.

“The Upper Elk River Valley and the Home Ranch are a testament to the benefits of patience, long term planning, and collaborative partnerships with landowning families. In 25 years, more than 17,500 acres of rangeland has been conserved in the valley. Properties like the Home Ranch provide more than just food and fiber: they support the local economy, provide fishing and hunting opportunities, and provide the pastoral landscapes we all enjoy. Each of these attributes is critical to both the ecosystem and the economy of northern Routt County,” said Megan Knott, CCALT director of stewardship. “CCALT is grateful to the McFarlanes for their partnership, and to all of the families who have partnered with us in the Upper Elk River Valley to ensure that the rich natural resources of this region are available for future generations of Coloradans.”

“We are proud to be partners with CCALT in this important work and continue what the Stranahans started,” added new landowner, Scott McFarlane.

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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.”

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