



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Kobilan Ranch Conserved with Young Producers in Mind**



Photo: Courtesy of CCALT Staff and Parks Family

Four miles northwest of Calhan, Colorado, the life and legacy of Delmar Kobilan has been conserved through a unique partnership between two of the state's preeminent agricultural organizations. The 320-acre Kobilan Ranch has been owned and managed as an agricultural operation by the Kobilan Family for over a century. With the completion of a conservation easement to be held by the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) and the transfer of the property to the Colorado FFA Foundation, the ranch will support the next generation of Calhan's agricultural producers and be maintained as open space in perpetuity.

Delmar Kobilan passed away in 2017, but his vision for the future was specified in his will, emphasizing that the Kobilan Ranch always be a working ranch. CCALT, the Kobilan Estate, and the Colorado FFA Foundation have worked diligently to conserve the property in line with Delmar's intentions. The Colorado FFA Foundation will take ownership of the property and intends to utilize the ranch for agricultural education, with potential leasing opportunities for new and beginning ranchers.

The Kobilan Ranch Easement builds on a relationship between CCALT and the Colorado FFA Foundation to advance agricultural education and offer land access opportunities for new and beginning agricultural producers. There is limited existing conservation of private lands in northeast El Paso County and this project highlights the immense opportunity for private land conservation in the predominately agricultural, yet quickly growing rural residential community surrounding Calhan.



“Conservation easements offer a powerful tool to secure agricultural lands for future generations and support rural communities,” stated Brendan Boepple, CCALT’s Director of Additive Conservation, “and this collaboration with the FFA Foundation builds on this by fostering the next generation of farmers and ranchers.”

“We are honored and humbled that the Estate of Delmar Kobilan has entrusted us with this piece of land and the responsibility of carrying out Mr. Kobilan’s wishes. We will take every step to steward this piece of land properly and look forward to not only offering educational and entrepreneurial opportunities for young people interested in agriculture but also sharing the land responsibly with the Calhan Community,” states Don Thorn, Executive Director of the Colorado FFA Foundation.

The Kobilan Ranch possesses many conservation values, notably impressive views of Pikes Peak, productive agricultural land and ecologically significant riparian habitat along Big Sandy Creek.

Ann Parks, personal representative of the Estate noted that what Delmar had hoped was that “this place be taken care of.” Ann’s son Ron shared that Delmar “wanted the ranch to be a ranch forever, and this is the closest way we can honor his wishes.”

The Estate of Delmar Kobilan, driven to accomplish Delmar’s vision, have utilized a new term in their conservation easement limiting future sales of the property to its agricultural value. This Future Agricultural Value covenant ensures the availability of farm and ranchland in Colorado for those entering or currently engaged in agriculture. Producers are able to acquire land at a price that is tied to the property’s agricultural income rather than development or investment potential. This fosters agricultural production and ownership, protects the agricultural infrastructure of small agricultural communities, and facilitates generational transfer of these lands to support agricultural livelihoods.

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***About The Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust***

*The 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 The Colorado FFA Foundation***

*The Colorado FFA Foundation supports agricultural education in Colorado. Since 1983, the Colorado FFA Foundation has provided a support system for the Colorado FFA Association and its members. In 1989, the Foundation was incorporated as a non-profit entity and began actively seeking resources to support Colorado Team Ag Ed and its members by funding leadership development, personal growth and career success activities, events and scholarships.*