



Colorado Cattlemen's  
Agricultural Land Trust



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### **CCALT Earns National Recognition**

Accreditation Awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

(Denver, CO) – The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, announced today that the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) has been awarded accredited status.

“Accredited land trusts meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever,” said Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. “The accreditation seal lets the public know that the accredited land trust has undergone an extensive, external review of the governance and management of its organization and the systems and policies it uses to protect land.”

“CCALT's accredited status demonstrates our commitment to permanent land conservation of Colorado's ranches and farms,” says Chris West, CCALT's Executive Director. “Our land trust is a stronger organization today having gone through the rigorous accreditation program.”

The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust was the first land trust in the nation to be formed by an organization of mainstream livestock producers. To date, CCALT has partnered with landowners in the protection of more than 320,000 acres. CCALT holds more land in conservation than any other organization in Colorado, preserving more than 200 family ranches and farms.

“Landowners are the reason why we are here, to preserve not only their lands, but their heritage and the lifeblood of our rural communities,” said Bill Fales, CCALT's Board President. “Our success is not possible without the devotion of the ranching families that we have the honor of working with every day.”

Land is America's most important and valuable resource. Conserving land helps ensure clean air and drinking water, food security, scenic landscapes and views, recreational places, and habitat for the diversity of life on earth. Across the country, local citizens and communities have come together to form land trusts to save the places they love. Community leaders in land trusts throughout the country have worked with willing landowners to save over 37 million acres of farms, forests, parks and places people care about. Strong, well-managed land trusts provide

local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical land resources, and safeguard the land through the generations.

CCALT was awarded accreditation this February along with other land trusts from across the country. CCALT was one of 14 land trusts awarded accreditation this February, bringing the total of accredited land trusts in the nation to 53. These land trusts join the inaugural group of 39 land trusts awarded accreditation at a special ceremony in September 2008. Accredited land trusts are able to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, based in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance established in 2006, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. The Alliance, of which CCALT is a member, is a national conservation group based in Washington, D.C. that works to save the places people love by strengthening conservation throughout America. More information on the accreditation program is available on the Commission's website, [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org). Please visit CCALT's website at [www.ccalt.org](http://www.ccalt.org).

“We are proud to display the accreditation seal. It is an honor to be one of the few accredited land trusts in the nation,” said Chris West.