



# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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## **John Fielder's *Ranches of Colorado* Slide Show Comes to Steamboat Springs December 7**

John Fielder, renowned Colorado nature photographer, is bringing his recently released *Ranches of Colorado* slide show presentation to the Steamboat Springs Community Center. On Monday, December 7 doors will open at 7:00 pm with the slide show beginning at 7:30. Join John Fielder and experience his journey to some of the most beautiful ranches in Colorado.

The slide show will include over 250 of the project photographs and John will tell stories about his experiences working with these remarkable ranchers and exploring their ranches...all enhanced with the inspiring symphonic music of Aaron Copland. Both book and slide show will be used to rally support for ranchland conservation, and to raise funds for conservation efforts so that these lands can remain in ranching in perpetuity.

Tucked into every corner of the Colorado landscape are places where legends still live. The ranches of the West, and the ranchers who run them, embody what is true about America, and what we Americans want to be true: self sufficiency, determination, independence, competence, fearlessness, and an abiding reverence for the land that has blessed us with abundance and opportunity.

These ranches tell of a life that is fast disappearing. There is pressure to sell out to developers for ski areas and vacation homes and shopping centers. There are children who, legacy or not, no longer want to make a living from the land. As we watch the complex struggle of these ranchers to maintain a life that is slipping away, we also witness the inspiring way in which people are coming together to protect it.

In 2007 and 2008, John Fielder traveled to photograph 50 of Colorado's most beautiful multi-generational working cattle ranches, most already protected from development. The resulting book *Ranches of Colorado* will play a part in the protection of other ranches. The project is a partnership of Fielder, Colorado's pre-eminent outdoor photographer, and the Colorado land trust community including Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, Colorado Open Lands, and the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts. These organizations earn royalties from each copy of the book sold.

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This event is co-sponsored by the Colorado State University Extension Office and is free to the public. Proceeds from the event will go towards CCALT's conservation efforts in the area. Details on the slide show can be seen online at [www.ccalt.org](http://www.ccalt.org). Books and calendars will be on sale at the event, and John will be signing books before and after the slide show presentation.

### ***Ranches of Colorado***

*The book was released on October 5, 2009 and is 16" x 12" simulated leather cover with a barnwood-like inlay. It contains 232 pages with 375 photographs of 50 Colorado ranches. The essays were written by the late James Meadow based on interviews with 10 ranch families. The retail price of the book is \$95 and is available for purchase through all book and gift retailers. "Ranches of Colorado" is published by Westcliffe Publishers, a Big Earth Publishing company.*

### **Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT)**

*CCALT was formed by the membership of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association to help Colorado's ranchers and farmers protect their agricultural lands. It is a land trust of landowners, by landowners, and for landowners. CCALT is the only group to exclusively protect agricultural lands, which make up 85% of the private land in Colorado. To date, CCALT has protected over 335,000 acres in Colorado.*

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