

Stewards of the Range

Environmental Stewardship Award Program regional winners announced.

Seven cattle operations from across the country were recognized as 2013 regional Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) winners during the 2013 Cattle Industry Summer Conference in Denver, Colo. The seven regional winners will compete for the national ESAP award, which will be announced during the 2014 Cattle Industry Annual Convention and Trade Show in Nashville, Tenn.

ESAP, now in its 23rd year, was created to recognize beef producers who make environmental stewardship a priority on their farms and ranches while they also improve production and profitability. The ESAP award is sponsored by Dow AgroSciences; the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA); and the National Cattlemen's Foundation.

The regional winners are Mountain Meadows Farm, Sudbury, Vt.; Kissimmee Park Properties, Saint Cloud, Fla.; Bittersweet Acres, Greenville, Iowa; Frank and Sims Price Ranch, Sterling City, Texas; Padlock Ranch Co., Ranchester, Wyo.; Kuloa Ranch, Kane'ohe,

Hawaii; and Gracie Creek Landowners Association, Burwell, Neb. Regional and national award winners have been commended for their commitment to protecting the environment and improving fish and wildlife habitats while operating profitable cattle operations. The common trait among all winners is the desire to leave the land in better shape for future generations, while also inspiring the next generation of land stewards.

"America's farmers and ranchers are passionate about their land, and it shows through conservation and environmental stewardship efforts," said NCBA President Scott George. "The cattle industry is continually improving upon our environmental sustainability, and these seven finalists set an example that we should all strive to achieve. We look forward to naming one of these seven great cattle operations as our 2014 national ESAP award winner in Nashville next year."

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Editor's Note: This release is from NCBA.



PHOTOS BY TROY SMITH

►The region 1 Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) winner was Mountain Meadows Farm, Sudbury, Vt. Pictured are (from left) Amiel Cooper, owner, and Brian Kemp, farm manager.



►The region 2 ESAP winner was Kissimmee Park Properties, Saint Cloud, Fla. Accepting for their family are (from left) J. Shane and Carol Platt.



►The region 3 ESAP winner was Bittersweet Acres, Greenville, Iowa, owned by (from left) Greg and Lola Wood and son Chris Wood. Also pictured is Beth Johnson.



►Left: The region 4 ESAP winner was Price Ranch, Sterling City, Texas. Pictured are (from left) Ginger and Frank Price, and Krista and Sims Price.



►Right: The region 5 ESAP winner was Padlock Ranch Co., Ranchester Wyo. Accepting are manager Wayne Fahsholtz (left) and wife Judi.



► **Left:** The region 6 ESAP winner is Kualoa Ranch, Kane'ohe, Hawaii. Accepting the award are Mr. & Mrs. John Morgan.

► **Right:** The region 7 ESAP winner is Gracie Creek Landowners Association, Burwell Neb., comprised of Switzer Ranch and Morgan Ranch. Accepting are (from left) Sarah Sortum, Bruce Switzer and Adam Switzer.

