

# SAVING AMERICA'S WORKING LANDS

A National Conference Hosted by American Farmland Trust

**DALLAS, TEXAS | APRIL 23-25, 2025**

## Session: Conservation Tax Credits: A Primer

### SPEAKERS



#### **Brendan Boepple**

Director of Conservation

Colorado Cattlemen Agricultural Land Trust

Brendan Boepple is the Director of Conservation at the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT), where he leads the organization's efforts to protect Colorado's working lands, water resources, and open spaces. In this role, Brendan oversees land conservation transactions, stewardship initiatives, and the development of innovative programs that support agricultural stewards. Brendan developed a deep connection to western landscapes and communities while directing Colorado College's State of the Rockies Project, where he supervised research and public outreach on natural resource and socioeconomic issues in the Mountain West. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Colorado College and a Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.



**Mike Strugar**

Director

Conservation Resource Center

Mr. Strugar is an attorney specializing in real estate law and land conservation techniques. He has a law degree, as well as a master's degree in Natural Resource Management, both from the University of Michigan. Mr. Strugar practiced real estate law for ten years as an associate, and later partner, at Holme Roberts & Owen, a national law firm. In 1993 he established the Conservation Resource Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping communities and governmental entities deal with matters involving land conservation. Working in Colorado, he established the nation's first functioning exchange for transferring Conservation Tax Credits. In 2002, he established a similar program for transferring Conservation Tax Credits in Virginia, and in 2008 established a third program in New Mexico. In 2011 he also began transferring credits in Georgia. Through these programs he has facilitated the transfer of over 1,500 credits valued at over \$200 million. He has served as an adjunct Professor of Law at University of Denver Law School, teaching courses in Land Conservation Law, and as an expert witness in cases involving conservation easement credits.



*Facilitator*

**Cris Coffin**

Senior Policy Advisor; Director, National Agricultural Land Network  
American Farmland Trust

Cris helps guide AFT's federal and state policy engagement. She also directs the National Agricultural Land Network, which supports state and local governments, land trusts,

agricultural service providers, planners, and conservation organizations and builds their capacity to advance farmland protection. From 2015 to 2018, Cris served as policy director for Land For Good, a New England-based organization with which AFT often collaborates. But before that, Cris served as AFT's New England director for fourteen years. She has held several positions in the U.S. Senate, including as professional staff on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and as chief of staff to Senator Herb Kohl. She has worked for Resources for the Future and the Vermont Department of Agriculture. Cris co-chairs the Massachusetts Food System Collaborative and serves on her town's Agriculture Commission. Cris farms part-time with her husband, running a small, pastured poultry operation in western Massachusetts. She is an alumna of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and holds a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University.