

Throughout the project, CCA participated with its west slope affiliates in increasing awareness of the importance of water quality. In addition, CCA and its west slope affiliates have identified best management practices to improve water quality along with the overall sustainability of ranching operations in Colorado.

The west slope affiliates played a vital role in the Water Quality Program. Several watersheds on the west slope of Colorado have benefited from implementing management practices to improve water quality, including landowners in the Upper Yampa, Lower Yampa, Elk River, McElmo Creek, Dolores River, Animas River, Umcompahgre River.

Pre-and-post meeting surveys show that beef producers are more aware of water quality issues and striving to take a proactive approach in addressing those issues. Beef producers are taking a strong interest in improving water quality because they recognize that water quality is a vital component to their productivity and profitability. Long term results of BMP implementation are expected to further increase awareness and commitment among beef producers to improving water quality.

“Producers need to be actively engaged in protecting water quality and guiding the decisions that will affect how we address water quality”.
-- T. Wright Dickinson
Beef Producer and CCA Water Steering Committee member

The CCA Water Quality program presented water quality seminars and lectures to over 45 affiliate meetings, representing roughly 2,500 beef producers and landowners in the state in the last year and half. So far, CCA has conducted over 50 ranch water quality assessments and each ranch has completed CCA’s water quality program. Through this program, ranchers and landowners are educated on proper water quality awareness and management. Together, these ranches manage roughly 350,000 acres in Colorado..