

# DEPARTMENT TURF WARS DOUSE \$50M FIREFIGHTING PROGRAM

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# AN AG POLICY GIANT

Don Shawcroft leaves a legacy after decades with Farm Bureau



KATIE KLANN, THE GAZETTE

Don Shawcroft stands in front of his cattle Oct. 22 in Alamosa. Shawcroft retired as the president of the Colorado Farm Bureau and after 40 years of service to the organization.

**BY JOEY BUNCH**  
Colorado Politics

When Zippy Duvall's wife died in January, he was brought to his knees. For four decades, she was everything, mother to his four kids, a partner in his business.

Don Shawcroft was there to offer his shoulder to lean on and a heart that deeply cared.

"That's who Don is," said Duvall, the national president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Shawcroft is retiring this month as the president of the Colorado Farm Bureau and after 40 years of service to the organization, fighting his

own fight with cancer.

Answering the phone on a recent morning, Georgia cattleman Duvall said he had just been thinking about his Colorado friend during his daily Bible devotional. He was reading from the Book of Philippians, about Paul the Apostle's letter to his congregation in Philippi, as he faced execution for preaching the gospel.

"Philippians 4:13: 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,'" Duvall recited over the phone. "That's the perfect verse to describe Don — his faith, determination and wisdom and his ability to move on to bigger and better things.

"He always inspired me, because he depends on the Lord in all things to give him strength. When my wife died, Don showed me that strength and it got me through."

Shawcroft is stepping down this month as the leader of the influential state organization he's led for a decade. He has been a force for rural communities, and not just farms and ranches. He worked to maintain water in the San Luis Valley, to save the local hospital and offered encouraging words to others, while being an equally talented

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## LIVE & LEARN

The mistakes of 2020 will be repeated if they go unheeded. **Insights, Page 2**

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