

**PROCLAMATION  
LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS DAY  
March 20, 2021**

**WHEREAS**, Colorado is one of the top agricultural states in the United States, exporting about \$2 billion in agricultural products each year, giving people around the world a taste of Colorado; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado agriculture is spread across 38,900 farms and ranches on nearly 32 million privately owned acres with over 1,000 farms and 267,977 privately-owned acres defined as agricultural by the La Plata County Assessor's Office; and

**WHEREAS**, our agricultural values are important to La Plata County and we call it out specifically in the introduction to the new Land Use Code's goals: to "protect and respect the county's most valued assets, such as its natural beauty and landscape, rural lands and viability of agricultural production;" and

**WHEREAS**, livestock producers in La Plata County are dedicated to the long-term sustainability of their ranching heritage and provide a valuable and appreciated commodity to our community; and

**WHEREAS**, in procuring local food, buyers know where their food was grown and can develop a friendly connection with the person who grew and raised it; and

**WHEREAS**, local producers ensure that our citizens receive high-quality, fresh products raised with a value of land stewardship and local community; and

**WHEREAS**, many La Plata County restaurants proudly serve locally-grown meat and produce; and

**WHEREAS**, in the midst of this global health pandemic caused by COVID-19, we are especially grateful for the local ranchers, farmers and agricultural workers whose work continues year-round to produce food for our communities, even while facing uncertainty about their markets; and

**WHEREAS**, during this challenging time, it is crucial that we continue to acknowledge and appreciate their year-round care and hard work that provides us with fresh food so close to home.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim March 20, 2021, as Local Food Producers Day and encourage our citizens, regardless of their diet preferences, to buy locally grown, raised and processed food and agricultural products throughout the year, in support of our local economy and local farmers, ranchers, greenhouses, manufacturers, processors and farmers' markets.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** in Durango, La Plata County, Colorado this 16th day of March, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO

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Marsha Porter-Norton, Chair

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Matt Salka, Vice Chair

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Clyde Church, Commissioner

ATTEST

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Clerk to the Board