



## RESOLUTION

No.: 99-50

### A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LOGAN COUNTY, COLORADO, ESTABLISHING A "RIGHT TO FARM AND RANCH" POLICY

WHEREAS, protecting agricultural operators from complaints about legal and non-negligent agricultural operations and activity by rural non farm residents is desirable; and

WHEREAS, educating the public and non-agricultural residents about the existence, validity, and importance of the County's agricultural operations and activities is desirable; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that establishing a Right to Farm and Ranch Policy pursuant to Colorado's Right to Farm law (C.R.S. 35-3.5-101, 102) is desirable; it is the declared policy of the State of Colorado to conserve, protect, and encourage the development and improvement of its agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products; and that the general assembly recognizes that when nonagricultural land uses extend into agricultural areas, agricultural operations are forced to cease operations and they discourage many others from making investments in farm improvements; and that it is the purpose of the Article to reduce the loss to the State of Colorado's agricultural resources by limiting the circumstances under which agricultural operations may be considered a nuisance; as long as it conforms with existing state regulations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. 35-3.5-102(1), an agricultural operation is not, nor shall it become, a public or private nuisance by any changed conditions in or about the locality of such operation after it has been in operation for more than one year, provided that it was not a nuisance at the time the operation began, and also provided that it is not a negligent operation and that a change in an operation or substantial increase in size of operation does not result in a private or public nuisance; and

WHEREAS, the Board pursuant to C.R.S. 29-20-104(1)(c), (e), (g) & (h) has the authority to plan for and regulate land use by preserving important areas, regulating land use from its impact on the community or surrounding areas, and planning for and regulating land use that provides planned and orderly land use and protection of the environment consistent with constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, examples of these conflicts include, but are not limited to: Livestock on highway and County roads; trespass by livestock; harassment of livestock and livestock losses due to free roaming dogs; fence construction and maintenance; chemical applications; maintenance of ditches across private property; storm water management; burning of ditches; complaints about noise, dust and odor; disposal of dead animals; weeds and pest control; and trespass; and

WHEREAS, the Board, will attempt and aspire to conserve, enhance and encourage ranching, farming and all manner of agricultural activities and operations within Logan County; minimize potential conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural users of land; integrate planning efforts to provide for retention of traditional and prime agricultural lands in agricultural production as well as a reasonable amount of land for residential and other development; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is an Open Range Fence Law State; and

WHEREAS, The County Commissioners and Planning Commission of Logan County advertised this Resolution and conducted public hearings concerning it, and fully considered its effect; and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Planning Commission determined that the Right to Farm



and Ranch Policy amending the Logan County Comprehensive Master Plan (C.R.S. 30-28-106) is desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable that the Board of County Commissioners provide a forum for resolution of disputes between agricultural operators and non-agricultural residents of Logan County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IS IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Logan County, Colorado, that:

A. It is the policy of Logan County to preserve, protect and encourage the development and improvement of agricultural land for food production and other agricultural products.

When non-agricultural land uses extend into agricultural areas, agricultural operations can become the subject of lawsuits. Therefore, agricultural operators are sometimes forced to cease or curtail their operations. Others are discouraged from making investments in agricultural improvements to the detriment of the economic viability of the County's agricultural industry as a whole. It is the purpose of this Resolution to reduce the loss of agricultural resources by limiting the circumstances under which agricultural operations may be deemed to constitute a nuisance.

B. Exhibit "A" Logan County Farm and Ranch Policy is adopted as an Amendment to the Logan County Comprehensive Master Plan.

C. Exhibit "B" Definitions and Limitations of Actions are adopted as an Appendix to the Farm and Ranch Policy to further clarify the policy.

D. Exhibit "C" Policy regarding Resolution of Disputes and Procedure for Complaints and Investigation, Public Health Nuisances, Resolution of Disputes, Real Estate Transfer Disclosure process for property is adopted.

E. The Board will conduct a public education and information campaign with the assistance of the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension/ Logan County. This campaign will support efforts to inform the public of the Right to Farm and Ranch Policy.

These efforts will include press releases and may include distribution of written information and presentations to community groups. At least one publication aimed at rural landowners that are not directly involved in agriculture will be developed within a year.

F. The Board will notify the owners of land within the County by the following means:

1. The Right to Farm and Ranch Policy and educational publications will be made available to landowners as often as is reasonable considering budget. At minimum a copy of the "Right to Farm and Ranch Policy and Notice" will be made available at the County Clerks Office when instruments effecting title to property are recorded.
2. Whenever a building permit is issued in unincorporated Logan County for a new structure or significant addition, with the exception of small agricultural buildings, the Planning Department, will provide the owner with the "Right to Farm and Ranch Policy."
3. Amendments to the Logan County Subdivision Regulations providing notification of this policy are made at the time of any subdivision or related land use approval. A plat note concerning the "Logan County Right to Farm and Ranch Policy" will appear on any plat or subdivision exemption plat outside municipalities growth areas and/or adjacent to existing agricultural operations.
4. The Logan County Treasurer will mail a copy of the "Right to Farm and Ranch Policy" with the 2000 tax bill.

G. This resolution will be effective regardless of whether disclosure was made in accordance with Sections D, E and F.

H. Should any provision, section, paragraph or subparagraph of this resolution and policy, be declared null and void, illegal, unconstitutional, or otherwise determined to be





637374 09/22/1999 11:10A B925 P430 RES  
3 of 9 R 0.00 D 0.00 N 0.00 Logan County CO

unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, it will not affect the validity, legality, or enforceability of any other portion of the text.

I. Except to the extent specifically provided herein, this resolution will not discharge, impair or release any contract, obligation, duty, liability or penalty whatever existing on the date of its enactment.

J. The Board will review this Resolution within one year to determine whether to continue the resolution as written, change it or repeal it. If it is not repealed, it will be reviewed within five years from the date this resolution is adopted.

ADOPTED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 1999.

LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Lyle Schumacher (Aye) (Nay)  
Lyle Schumacher, Chairman

Roy A. Wheeler (Aye) (Nay)  
Roy A. Wheeler

James R. La Force (Aye) (Nay)  
James R. La Force

I, Roberta J. Perry, County Clerk and Recorder in and for the County of Logan, State of Colorado, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Logan and State of Colorado, in regular session on Tuesday, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 1999.

Roberta J. Perry by: Jennifer Miller  
Clerk and Recorder Deputy

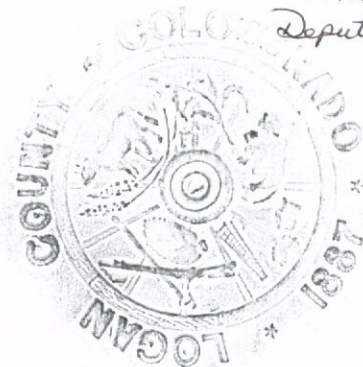




EXHIBIT "A"

LOGAN COUNTY RIGHT TO FARM AND RANCH POLICY/NOTICE

Logan County is one of the most productive agricultural counties in Colorado. Ranching, farming, animal feeding and a variety of agricultural activities are necessary to the county's vitality, economy, culture, landscape and lifestyle. Logan County recognizes agricultural operations as valuable, worthy of protection, and supports the right to farm and ranch in a manner consistent with generally accepted agricultural management practices.

Residents of property on or near agricultural land should be prepared to accept as normal the inconveniences of agricultural operations. These may include but are not limited to noise from tractors, equipment and aerial spraying sometimes at night or in the early morning; dust from animal pens, field work, harvesting, and gravel roads; odors from animal confinement operations, silage and manure; smoke from ditch burning; flies and mosquitoes; the use of fertilizers and pesticides, including aerial spraying; and movement of livestock and machinery on public roads. All normal and non-negligent agricultural operations may not be considered nuisances.

Public services in rural areas are not at the same level as urban or suburban settings. Road maintenance may be at a lower level. Mail delivery may not be as frequent because of distances. Utility services may be nonexistent or subject to longer periods of interruption. Law enforcement, fire protection and ambulance service will have considerably longer response times. Snow may not be removed from some county roads for several days after a major storm. The first priority for snow removal is that school bus routes are normally cleared first.

Children are exposed to different hazards in a rural setting than in urban areas. Farm and oil field equipment, ponds and irrigation ditches, electrical service to pumps and oil field operations, high speed traffic, livestock and territorial farm dogs may present real threats to children. Children's activities should be properly supervised for protection of children and livelihoods of farmers and ranchers. PARENTS OR OTHER GUARDIANS MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

All rural residents and property owners are encouraged to learn about their rights and responsibilities. These include obligations under State law regarding maintenance of fences and irrigation ditches, controlling weeds, keeping livestock and pets under control, using property in accordance with zoning, and other aspects of using and maintaining property. Under Colorado law and Logan Regulations, there may be provisions of which you are unaware. For example, because Colorado is a Fence Law State, owners of property may be required to fence livestock out in order to recover damages from trespassing livestock.

The goal is to act as good neighbors and citizens. Information about the topics described in this policy may be obtained from the Logan County Cooperative Extension Office, the Planning and Zoning Department and the Board of County Commissioners.



## Real Estate Transfer Disclosure.

Upon any transfer of real property by any means, the transferor shall provide the purchaser or lessee a statement specifically advising the purchaser or lessee of the existence of this Right to Farm which shall be in substantially the form set forth in Real Estate Transfer Statement attached.

Voluntary Process - The voluntary process consists of providing the real estate transfer disclosure statement to buyer of agricultural property at real estate closings held at title company offices, banks, attorney offices, real estate offices, or the County Clerk's Office.

The Planning Director and County Commissioners will work with the above named groups and other appropriate entities through presentations and meetings to have real estate agents provide the seller's information statement to buyers of agricultural property.

### REAL ESTATE TRANSFER DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT CONCERNS THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF LOGAN, STATE OF COLORADO, DESCRIBED AS

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THIS STATEMENT IS A DISCLOSURE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE LOGAN COUNTY RIGHT TO FARM RESOLUTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LOGAN COUNTY RIGHT TO FARM RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_.

### SELLER'S INFORMATION

THE FOLLOWING ARE REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE SELLER AND ARE NOT THE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE AGENT(S), IF ANY. THIS INFORMATION IS A DISCLOSURE AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE PART OF ANY CONTRACT BETWEEN BUYER AND SELLER.

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637374 09/22/1999 11:10A B925 P430 RES  
6 of 9 R 0.00 D 0.00 N 0.00 Logan County CO

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The goal is to act as good neighbors and citizens. Information about the topics described in this policy may be obtained from the Logan County Cooperative Extension Office, the Planning and Zoning Department and the Board of County Commissioners.

If you have any questions concerning this policy or the Reconciliation Committee, please contact the Logan County Planning Department for further information.

Seller \_\_\_\_\_  
Seller \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

I/WE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF A COPY OF THIS STATEMENT

Buyer \_\_\_\_\_  
Buyer \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

**IF YOU DESIRE LEGAL ADVICE, CONSULT YOUR ATTORNEY**



## EXHIBIT "B"

### APPENDIX

**"Agricultural Land"** means all real property within the boundaries of Logan County that is: (1) carried on the tax rolls as agricultural OR (2) all other land that has been used as an agricultural operation continuously for one (1) year.

**"Agricultural Operation"** includes, but is not limited to, the cultivation and tillage of the soil; composting; production, harvesting and processing of agricultural crops; viticulture, raising poultry and game birds; production of eggs; production of milk and dairy products; production of livestock, including pasturage; production of bees and their products; production of fish; production of fruit, vegetables and other horticultural crops; production of aquatic plants; aquaculture; production of timber and any commercial agricultural procedure performed as incident to in conjunction with such operations, including preparing for market, delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for transportation to market; and usage of land in furtherance of educational and social goals, such as 4-H, FFA, and the like.

**"Generally Accepted Agricultural Practices"** means those methods used in connection with agricultural operations which do not violate applicable federal, state or local laws or public health safety and welfare and which are generally accepted agricultural practices in the agriculture industry. Generally Accepted Agricultural Practices includes practices which are recognized as best management practices and those methods which are authorized by various governmental agencies, bureaus, and departments, such as the Logan County Extension Office of Colorado State University, the Colorado and Logan County Farm Bureaus, the Logan County Farmers Union, and the like. If no generally accepted agricultural practice exists or there is no method authorized by those agencies mentioned herein which governs a practice, the practice is presumed to be a generally accepted agricultural practice.

**"Limitation of Actions"** A private action may not be sustained with respect to an agricultural operation conducted on agricultural land on the grounds that the agricultural operation interferes or has interfered with the use or enjoyment of property, whether public or private, if the agricultural operation was, at the time the interference is alleged to arise, conducted substantially in accordance with the generally accepted agricultural practices.

**"Nuisance"** An agricultural operation which is not being conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural management practices, and which, as a result, injures, damages, hurts, inconveniences, or disturbs another in the free use, possession, or enjoyment of their property, or makes its ordinary use or occupation physically uncomfortable.

637374 09/22/1999 11:10A B925 P430 RES  
7 of 9 R 0.00 D 0.00 N 0.00 Logan County CO



## EXHIBIT "C"

### DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES and REAL ESTATE TRANSFER DISCLOSURE

Notwithstanding any provision of this section, no action alleging that an agricultural operation has interfered with the reasonable use or enjoyment of real property or personal well-being shall be maintained if the plaintiff has not sought and obtained a final judgment of the agricultural reconciliation committee, as defined below.

#### **Resolution of Disputes and Procedure for Complaints and Investigation**

##### **A. Nuisances which affect public health.**

(1) **Complaints.** A person may complain to the Northeast Colorado Health Department to declare that a nuisance, which affects public health, exists.

(2) **Investigations.** The health officer may investigate all complaints of a nuisance received against any agricultural operations. When a previous complaint involving the same condition resulted in a determination by the health officer that a nuisance condition did not exist, the health officer may investigate the complaint but the health office may also determine to not investigate such complaint. Similarly, if any particular individual or group of individuals has lodged spurious complaints, the health officer may investigate such a complaint, or may determine not to investigate such a complaint. The Northeast Colorado Health Department may initiate any investigation without citizen complaint.

(3) **Declaration of Nuisance.** If the health officer determines that a nuisance exists, the health department may declare the existence of a nuisance. In determining whether nuisance conditions exist in connection with an agricultural operation, the health officer shall apply the criteria provided in state law and in the Right to Farm & Ranch Resolution. Further, the health officer may consider the professional opinion of the Logan County Extension Office of Colorado State University, or other qualified experts in the relevant field, in determining whether the agricultural operation being investigated is conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural management practices.

**B. Nuisances Not Involving Public Health.** The alleged nuisance must be described in a signed, written complaint to the Board of County Commissioners. This must be accompanied by a \$100 retainer. If the ruling by the Dispute Resolution Board is favorable to the complainer, the \$100 is returned. The Mediation Panel will provide the conditions and remedies to both parties.

**C. Resolution of Disputes Regarding Agricultural Operations.** The Agricultural Conflict Resolution Program is a forum for the resolution of conflicts between or among landowners and/or residents regarding agricultural activities, operations, or practices occurring within Logan County.





1.(a) Mediation Panel. A Mediation Panel shall be appointed for the purpose of hearing grievances regarding agricultural conflicts between Logan County landowners or residents and making recommendation for the resolution of such conflicts. The panel shall be made up of three (3) residents of Logan County, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners shall appoint members on a case-by-case basis. Priority in the appointment shall be given to individuals with mediation, arbitration, other dispute resolution skills and a particular expertise in the area of the complaint; however, experience in ranching or farming shall be mandatory for at least two members of the panel.

(b) Members of the panel shall receive no compensation, but may receive reasonable expenses incurred in the carrying out of their duties, and the County shall make reasonable staff time and other in-kind resources available to the panel, as needed. If the Mediation Panel feels a paid expert in an area that County resources do not cover would be beneficial to their deliberations one or both of the parties will pay for the cost, if they agree.

2. Procedures and Rules. The initial Mediation Panel shall draft and recommend rules or procedures for the hearing of grievances by the panel. Once drafted, the rules or procedures shall be presented to the Board for approval and adoption. Amendments to the rules and procedures shall be made in the same manner. The rules or procedure recommended by the panel and adopted by the Board shall conform in the minimum to the following:

(a) Hearing of grievances shall be informal and appearances before the panel shall be by the parties themselves without representation by an attorney; a party may be represented by counsel to receive general advice on how to proceed or whether to accept a resolution recommended by the panel, but such counsel may not make an appearance, in person, in writing, or otherwise, before the panel;

(b) Hearing of grievances is mandatory and acceptance of any recommendation of the panel shall be voluntary; and the results are not binding on either party, unless the parties by mutual written agreement agree that they shall be bound by the decision of the Mediation Panel.

(c) All proceedings shall be confidential and no panel member or other county staff shall disclose any information discovered or made known in the course of any grievance proceeding, absent consent by the parties.

(d) Notwithstanding subparagraph (c) above, the final recommendation of the panel may be presented as evidence by any interested party to any Court authorized to hear such matter, if said matter is pursued through litigation after the panel's final recommendation has been made.

(e) Resolution of the complaint shall take place not more than 60 days from the date it is filed.

