



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Proclamation

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ARAPAHOE COUNTY'S AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE AND CELEBRATING COLORADO'S 150TH AND AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARIES

WHEREAS, the land that is now Arapahoe County has been shaped for centuries by those who worked it, honored it, and drew life from it — beginning with the Indigenous peoples whose enduring knowledge and stewardship of this region form the foundation of its agricultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, when Colorado achieved statehood 150 years ago, agriculture was the backbone of its economy and identity, and the farms, ranches, and open lands of Arapahoe County were central to that story; and

WHEREAS, as the United States marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence, the values embedded in that founding — self-reliance, community, hard work, and care for the land — are values that Arapahoe County's agricultural community has embodied across generations; and

WHEREAS, the Arapahoe County Fair, now celebrating its 120th anniversary, has served since 1906 as a living expression of those values, bringing together families, producers, and neighbors to celebrate the county's rural traditions and agricultural way of life; and

WHEREAS, programs such as 4-H and the Arapahoe County CSU Extension Office continue to cultivate the next generation of agricultural leaders, instilling in young people the skills of responsibility, stewardship, public service, and lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, Arapahoe County today remains home to farmers, ranchers, educators, and partners whose work sustains local food systems, preserves open space, and strengthens the rural traditions that connect this community to its past; and

WHEREAS, the county continues to build formal agricultural partnerships such as our new open spaces grazing program that support working-land uses, long-term land stewardship, and the communities that depend on them; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Arapahoe County Fair offers a fitting occasion to honor this unbroken thread of agricultural heritage as Arapahoe County, Colorado, and the nation all mark milestone anniversaries together;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Arapahoe County, Colorado, that the year 2026 is recognized as a year of profound celebration — honoring the 120th Anniversary of the Arapahoe County Fair, the 150th Anniversary of the State of Colorado, and the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board of County Commissioners encourages all Arapahoe County residents to participate in the County Fair July 23 – 26, 2026, — to honor the agricultural legacy that has shaped this community, to celebrate the milestones that unite us as a county, a state, and a nation, and to carry those values forward with pride and purpose.

Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully

Commissioner Jessica Campbell

Commissioner Leslie Summey
Chair of the Board

Commissioner Jeff Baker
Chair Pro Tem

Commissioner Rhonda Fields