

There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.”

— [Aldo Leopold](#)

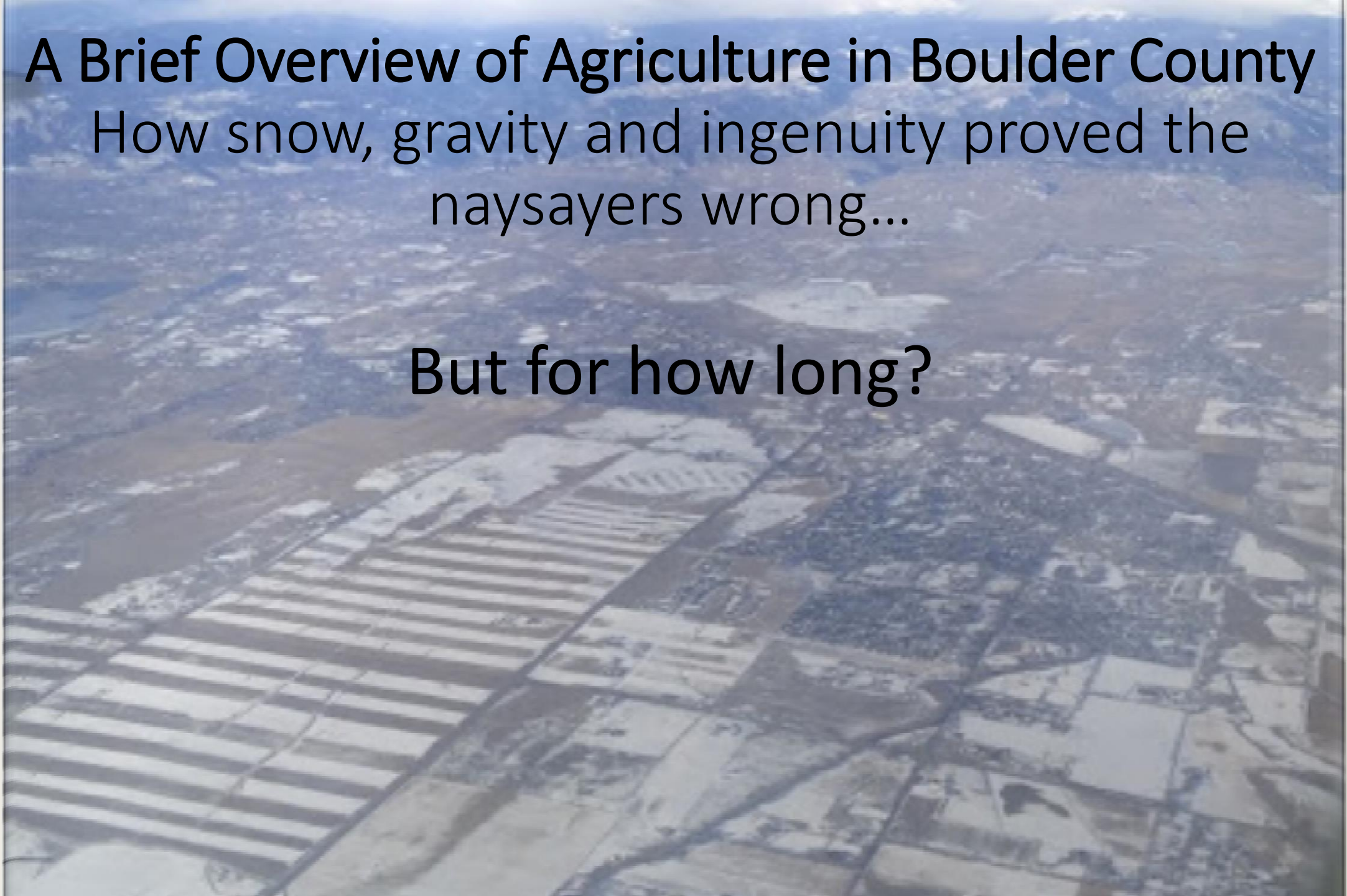
Farming looks mighty easy when
your plow is a pencil and you're a
thousand miles from the corn field.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

A Brief Overview of Agriculture in Boulder County

How snow, gravity and ingenuity proved the naysayers wrong...

But for how long?



**I do not hesitate in giving the opinion,
that it is almost wholly unfit for
cultivation, and of course, uninhabitable
by a people depending upon agriculture
for their subsistence. [Edwin James](#)**







1858





















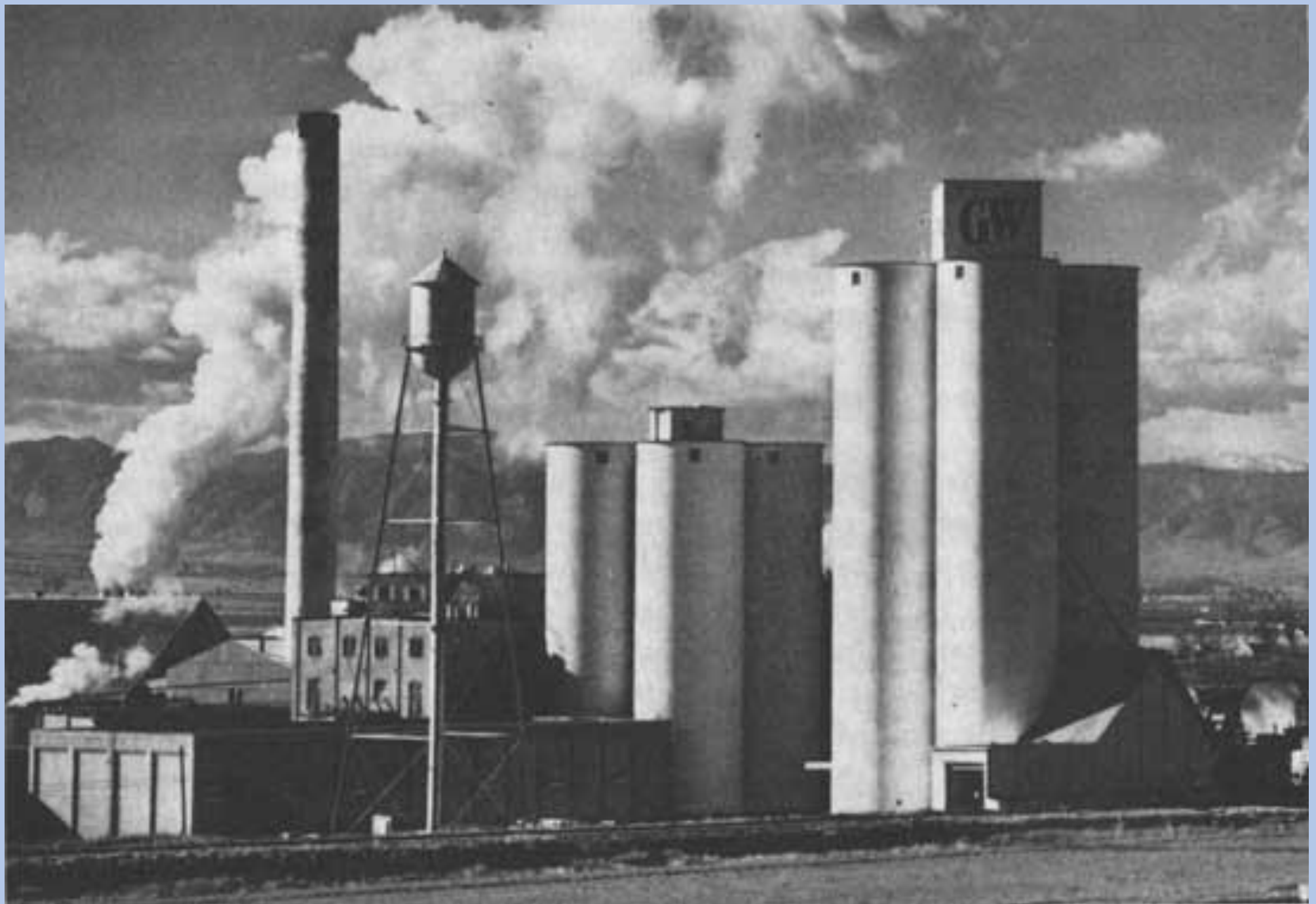


**Emerson Brooks Papers.
Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.**









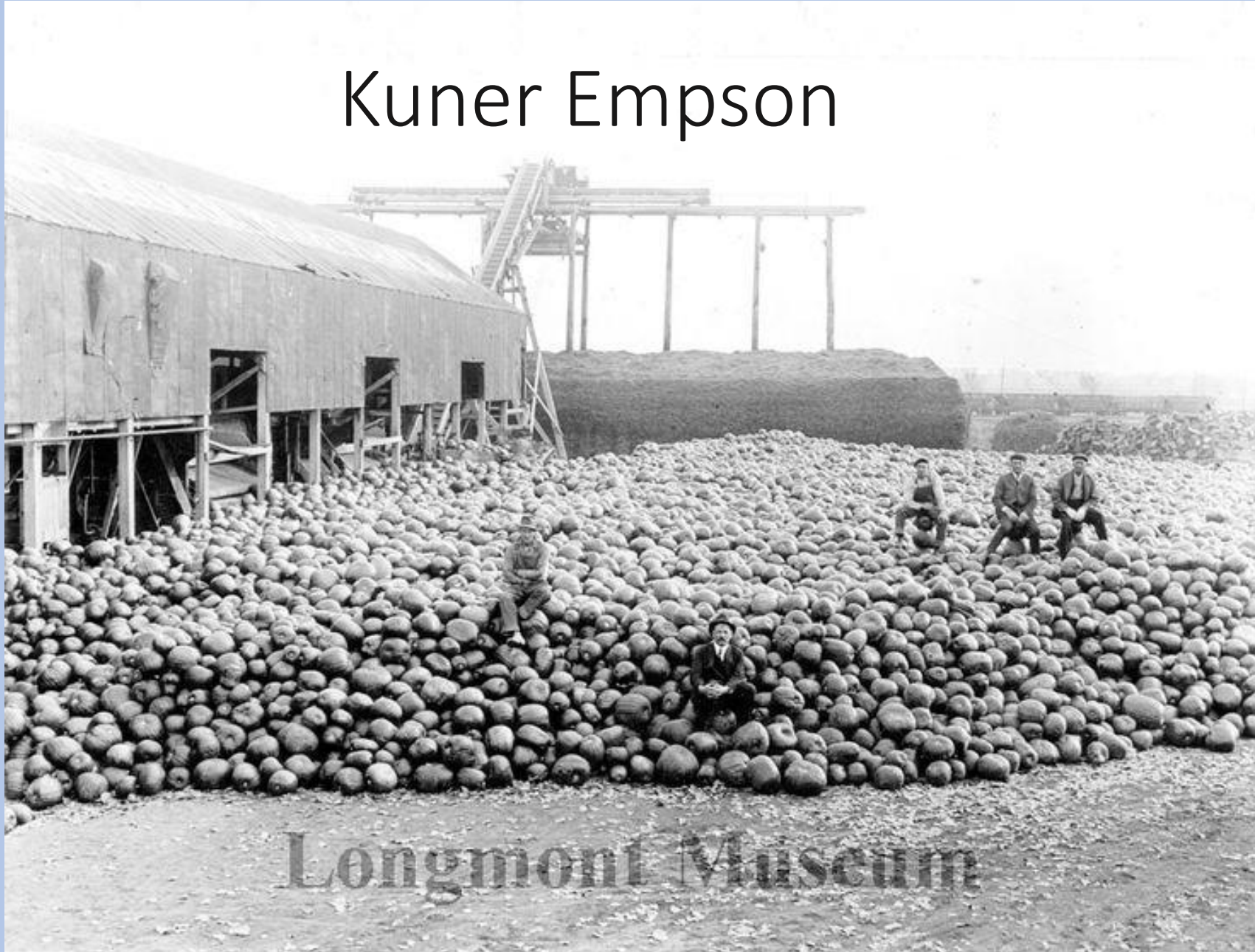




FROM DOWNING'S GALLERY, TOPEKA KANSAS.



Kuner Empson

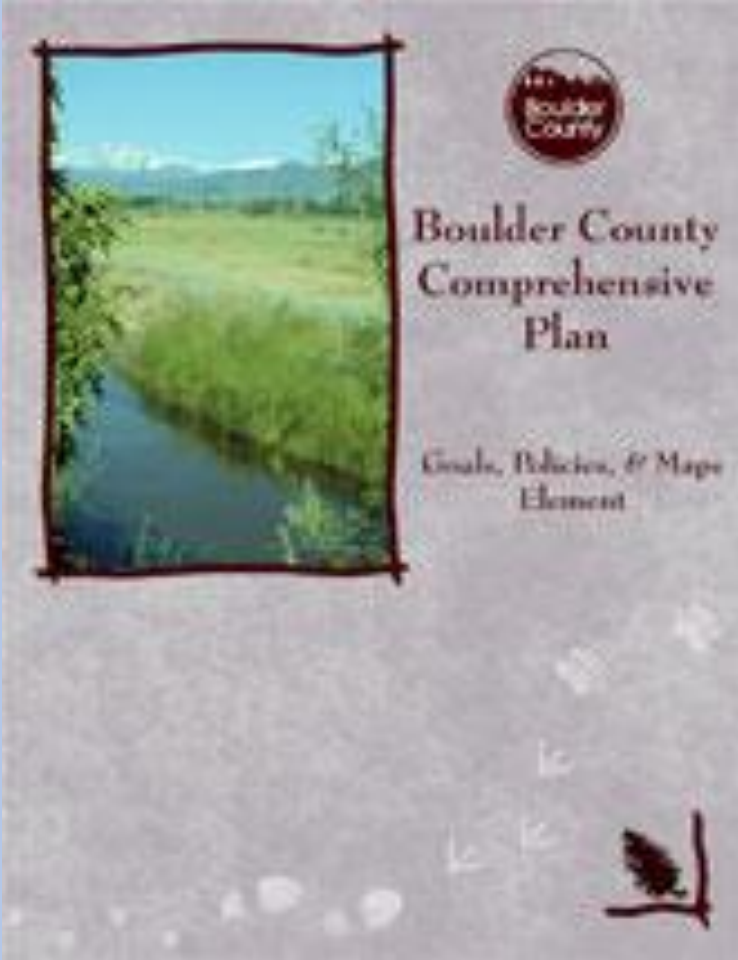


Longmont Museum



· COURT · HOUSE ·





1978 Boulder County Comprehensive Plan

- Agricultural Land is a nonrenewable resource. Once public and private decisions are made that result in the conversion of agricultural land and /or water to nonagricultural uses, this vital resource is almost always irretrievably lost.

Since 1978 18,000 acres of agricultural land has been annexed into Boulder County's municipalities.

Breakdown of BCPOS Ag Lands

**Total agricultural land owned
by Boulder County: 25,000 acres**

- Cropland: 16,000 acres**
 - Irrigated: 12,000 acres
 - Dryland: 4,000 acres
- Rangeland: 7,000 acres**
- Out of production: 2,000 acres**

A wide landscape view of a grassy field with a hill in the background under a blue sky with clouds. The foreground is filled with tall, dry grasses. In the middle ground, there is a large, flat-topped hill with sparse vegetation. To the right, a small building and some trees are visible on the hillside. In the distance, there are more hills and a utility pole. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds.

More Than Just Preserving Land and Providing Scenic Views

- **It is also about maintaining an agrarian way of life in Boulder County.**







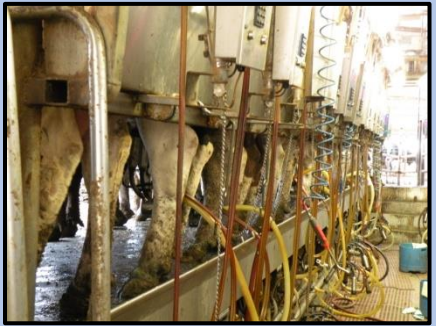








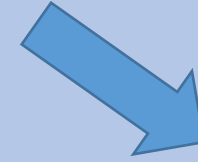
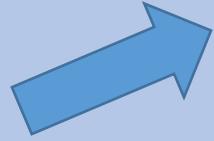
Local Corn Local Dairy Local Milk



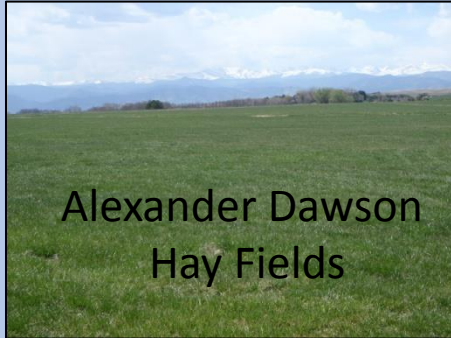
2 miles

5 miles to Longmont

Direct to Your Doorstep!

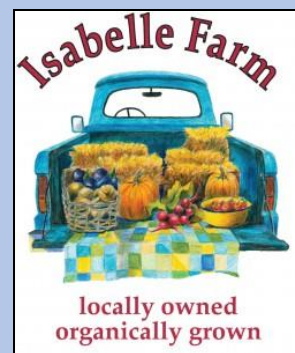


Local Wheat
Local Mill
Local Flour



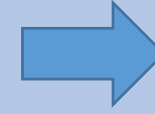
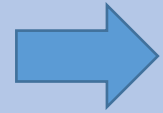
Cattle shipped to Evans, CO (40 miles)

Processed at locally owned meat packer- **Innovative Foods LLC** Evans, CO



Meat sold as part of Isabelle Farm's CSA, Lafayette, CO

Local Hay Local Cattle Local Meat



80 miles to Ft. Morgan



Photo Courtesy of Western Sugar



Photo Courtesy of Western Sugar



Find at your local grocery stores

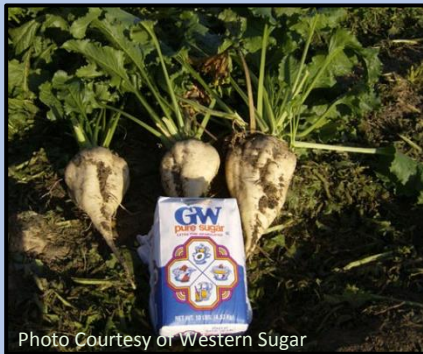


Photo Courtesy of Western Sugar

Local Farms Local Sugar Beets Local Sugar







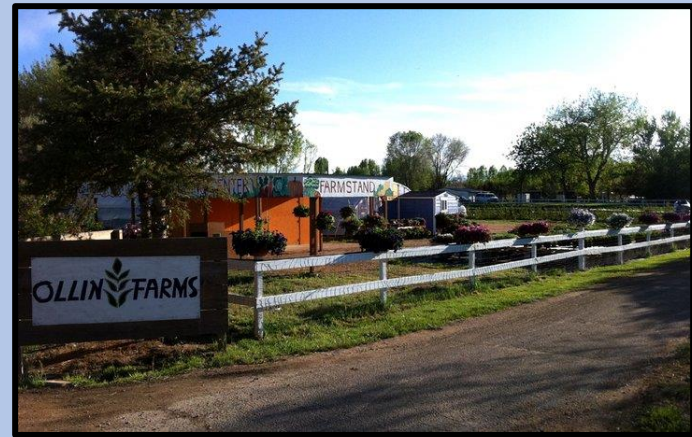
Farmers Markets



On Farm Dinners
(not on county open space)



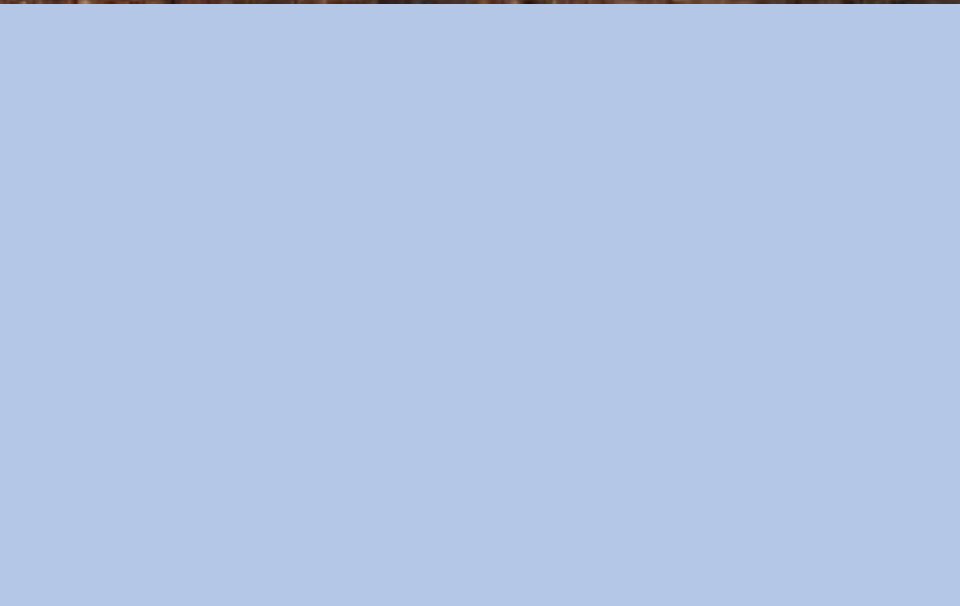
CSA
(Community Supported Agriculture)



Farm Stand
(not on county open space)













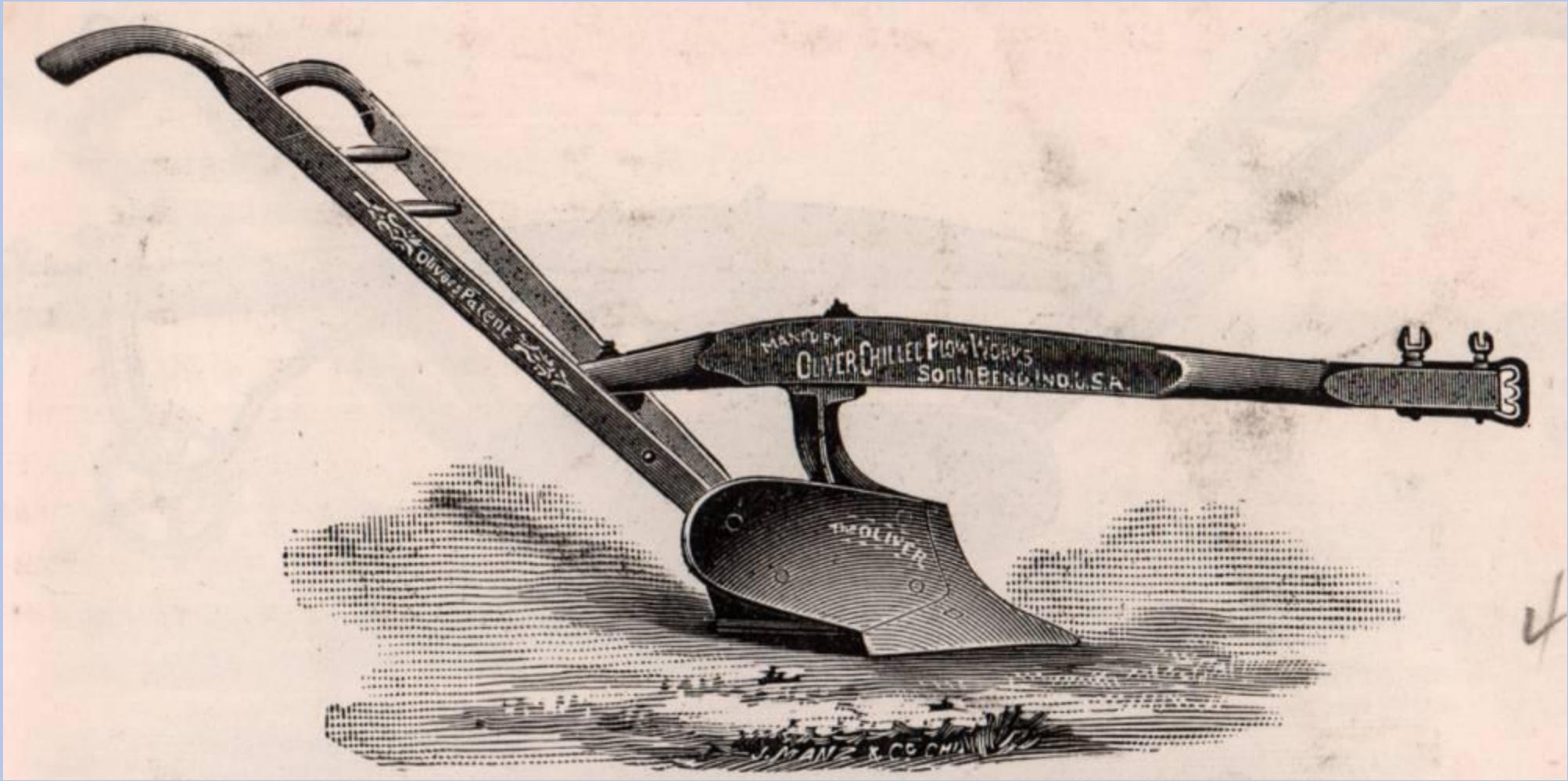


How Do We Maintain a Viable and Sustainable Agricultural Economy???

- Preserve our soil
- Preserve our water
- Preserve our air
- Preserve our farmers

Embrace Science and Technology











How Do We Maintain a Viable and Sustainable Agricultural Economy???

- Preserve and protect our native non-farm land
- Increase productivity on our existing farms
- Decrease inputs on farms
- Be ready for increased demand
 - 9 Billion by 2050
 - 11 billion before we stabilize
 - 70% increase in demand by 2050

Every man casts a shadow; not his body only, but his imperfectly mingled spirit. This is his grief. Let him turn which way he will, it falls opposite to the sun; short at noon, long at eve. Did you never see it?

[Henry David Thoreau](#)



One
Degree
ORGANIC FOODS

Use Science and Technology
to Reduce the Footprint of
Agriculture

The average amount of milk produced per cow increased from 5,314 pounds to 18,201 pounds per year (+242%), the average yield of corn rose from 39 bushels to 153 bushels per acre (+292%), and each farmer in 2000 produced on average 12 times as much farm output per hour worked as a farmer did in 1950.

Reducing Inputs by 25% or More

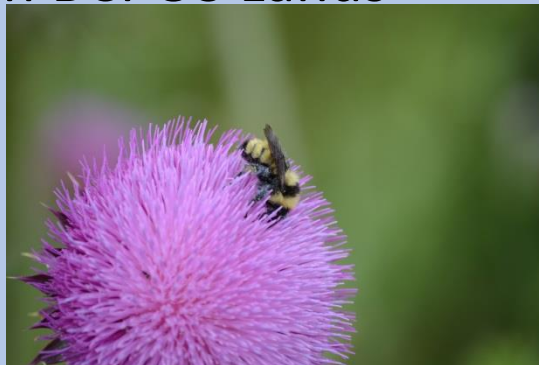
- Water
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Labor
- Land
- Fossil Fuel
- Carbon Footprint



From Reduce to Improve and Enhance

Pollinator Protection

- Colorado Pollinator Working Group
- Communication and Coordination with Bee Keepers
- Boulder Honey Bee Health
- Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement
- Volunteer Pollinator Monitoring
- Adopt an Acre
- Providing Apiary locations on BCPOS Lands



Pollinator Habitat Creation





How Do We Maintain a Viable and Sustainable Agricultural Economy???

- Combining the best aspects of all agricultural practices
- Use real metrics to measure success
- Support education and innovation
- Support the next generation of farmers

We shall never achieve harmony with land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations, the important thing is not to achieve but to strive.

[Aldo Leopold](#)