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## **Amendments to Land Development Code support agritourism**

*County Commissioners vote to revise code to address farming, ranching and rodeo*

**LITTLETON, CO** --- The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners voted Nov. 22 to amend the Land Development Code in order to better address farming, ranching and rodeo events. The changes in the code will support growing agritourism on the eastern side of the County, allowing farms and ranches to have small events year-round.

“We support our agricultural community, which is an important part of our County’s heritage,” says Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, who represents District 3, which includes portions of the City of Aurora and all of eastern Arapahoe County. “These changes will make it easier for farms and ranches to teach others about their operations and grow agritourism in the County.”

The changes will amend the definition of activities currently defined as *Seasonal Farming or Ranching Events* to clarify what is permitted as a use within a zone district without the additional requirement of a Temporary Use Permit and remove *Seasonal* from the term *Farming or Ranching Events*. These changes will support many agricultural activities and events consistent with the daily operation of farms, ranches and agricultural businesses year-round without additional regulation or requirements.

Additionally, changes will better distinguish between ranching and farming events and rodeos which will reduce negative impacts that result from unregulated rodeo activities. Practice and group trainings for individual rodeo events may be conducted as farming or ranching events as long as user fees, dues or admissions are not charged. Rodeos will be allowed to continue where permitted, through the public review and approval process as Special Exception Uses.

For more information and to review the Land Development Code, visit <http://arapahoegov.com/index.aspx?nid=620> or call 720-874-6650.

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