

MORGAN COUNTY RIGHT TO FARM POLICY

Morgan County is one of the most productive agricultural counties in Colorado. Ranching, farming, animal feeding, and all agricultural activities and operations in Morgan County are integral and necessary elements of the continued vitality of the County's economy, culture, landscape, and lifestyle. Over 70% of the County's acreage is devoted to farming and raising livestock with over 700 farms. The agricultural products produced by those farms create millions of dollars of market value. Morgan County recognizes the importance of agricultural operations as necessary and worthy of recognition and protection and supports policies to maintain the high-quality rural character of the County.

Living in Morgan County requires residents to accept the effects of agriculture and rural living as part of daily life. Agricultural users of the land are not expected to change their long-established agricultural practices to accommodate the intrusions of residential activities into a rural area. These effects may include noise from tractors, equipment, and aerial spraying at any time; dust from animal pens, field work, harvesting, and use of gravel roads; odor from confinement animal feeding operations, silage and manure; smoke from ditch burning; flies and mosquitoes; the use of pesticides and fertilizers; and movement of livestock or machinery on public roads. Under Colorado law, these activities are not considered nuisances and are protected.

Residents must also accept that public services in rural areas are different than urban or suburban areas. Specifically, regular road maintenance may be less available and may be at a lower level. In certain circumstances, the standard for maintenance may be determined on whether the road is passable and usable and not whether the road surface is rough. County gravel roads, no matter how often they are maintained, will not provide the same kind of surface expected from a paved road and will not support travel at the recommended speed. Further, the County may permit certain road maintenance activities by agricultural producers or other industries to allow those commercial activities to continue when County resources are unavailable due to other road issues or events. The County considers these activities to be integral to the protection of agricultural operations in Morgan County.

In addition, in Morgan County, utility services may be nonexistent or subject to interruption; law enforcement, fire protection and ambulance service will have considerably longer response times; and snow may not be removed from County roads for several days after a major snowstorm. The County prioritizes snow removal as it deems necessary.

People are exposed to different hazards in a rural setting than they are in an urban or suburban area. Farms, ponds, irrigation ditches, electrical service to pumps and oil field equipment and operations, noxious weeds, livestock, and territorial animals may present real threats to people. It is necessary that all activities are supervised for both the protection of the people and protection of agricultural activities and owners may need to fence property to ensure a safe environment.

All County residents are encouraged to learn about their rights and responsibilities and to act as good neighbors and citizens of Morgan County. This includes but is not limited to obligations under Colorado State law, including but not limited to, the Colorado Fence and Right to Farm laws, and Morgan County Zoning Regulations regarding maintenance of fences, controlling weeds, and keeping animals under control. Residents are responsible for understanding and accepting the implications of living in a rural agricultural area.

Information regarding these topics may be obtained from the Morgan County Extension Office and Planning and Zoning Department.

RECEIPT AND STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I hereby certify that I have read and understood the Morgan County Right to Farm Policy. I further state that I am aware and acknowledge that the conditions of living in a rural area, primarily used for agricultural production, and that I understand these activities are protected under Colorado law and are not considered a nuisance.

Signature Date

Signature Date

Printed Name

Printed Name

Address

Address

Adopted by the Morgan County Board of County Commissioners by Resolution 2025 BCC 21