

## **AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE DRAFT STRATEGIES**

### ***Economic Development***

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1. Support farm and agricultural organizations in the county that provide assistance to local ranchers and growers.
2. Support education and assistance to the local agricultural community for value added production.
3. Work with the agricultural community to determine the best outreach and communication strategies for agricultural programs.
4. Develop a Buy Local La Plata marketing campaign that brands and promotes local agricultural products.
  - a. Develop cooperation between local agriculture producers and economic development organizations on local purchasing and product promotion.
  - b. Develop an education campaign to inform consumers about the significance of their purchasing choices on local farmers and businesses.
5. Research and assess potential of new crops, markets, and opportunities for local producers including carbon sequestration, medical marijuana, .....
6. Support the development of agricultural infrastructure, such as greenhouses and a distribution center, which supports and increases the capacity of local food supply.
7. Identify and remove regulatory barriers to value added production businesses and production on agricultural land.

### ***State and Federal Policy***

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8. Promote coordination amongst agricultural organizations to assess federal and state policy impacts on La Plata County agriculture.
9. Assess the need for a coordinating agency for farming interests regarding federal and state policy.
10. Ensure La Plata County Commissioners advocate for agricultural policy reforms at the state and federal level that benefit local producers.

#### ***County Tax Policy***

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11. Review La Plata County agricultural tax policy to determine possible tax reforms that would support agricultural viability.

#### ***Land Use Policy***

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12. Review La Plata County agricultural uses in current zoning and develop a list uses by right that support agricultural viability.
  - a. Allow for micro-bed and breakfasts/farm stays (1 to 2 rooms).
  - b. Farm stands
  - c. Temporary housing (5<sup>th</sup> wheel, bunk houses, dormitories)
13. Develop regulations that support the use of localized renewable energy in agricultural production including wind, solar, and micro-hydrological power.

14. Develop a small parcel land incentive as an alternative to 35 acres.

15. Develop an incentive for family clusters.

***Communication and Coordination***

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16. Develop a resource guide which summarizes existing agricultural organizations and programs available in La Plata County.

17. Designate a county planner or staff person in an organization responsible for promoting coordination across agricultural programs, organizations, and the County.