



**2019 Boulder County Fair**  
**Friday, August 2nd – Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**FREE Gate Admission FREE Parking**

### **Farm Roots Grow Deep in the Domenico Family**

150 years ago, a group of Boulder area farmers began talking about putting together an event that would celebrate the first ten years of settlement in what is now Boulder County. There was a vibrant economy taking shape around supplying food and supplies to both the hard rock mining communities in the mountains and the coal mines in the southeast county. Excitement was building over the near completion of the transcontinental railroad linking the eastern U.S. with the western frontier. The group gathered in Boulder and formed the Boulder County Agricultural Society in June, 1869 and started planning for the first county fair in Colorado. The event began with a four-day run in Boulder on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Meanwhile, Cindy Domenico's great-grandfather, Sam Domenico, was 20 years old at the time and getting more anxious to leave his homeland in Italy and immigrate to America. He made his way to Ellis Island in 1877 and gradually found work on the railroads near Como in the South Park area of CO. After working for 10 years and saving enough money, he sent for his wife, Carmina, and two children in Italy to join him. Within a couple of years, the family moved over the mountains and bought a 40-acre farm near Lafayette.

Cindy's grandfather, Angelo, was two years old when they moved to the Front Range and he grew up on the family farm in Lafayette. He married Lucy DiGiacomo, daughter of a coal miner, in 1911 and began farming with his dad. They soon expanded the property to 80 acres, kept a dairy herd and sold cheese to markets in Denver. They also grew alfalfa, wheat, barley, oats, corn and fruits and vegetables. But Angelo grew ill with a Typhoid Fever outbreak in 1916 and subsequently died 11 years later at 38 years of age.

Cindy's father, Joe, was only 10 years old when his father Angelo died. Joe's mother kept the livestock, leased out the land, and worked hard to keep the family farm together during the great Depression until Joe and his 4 sisters were old enough to take over. Joe married Helen Honey in 1950 and they added three

children to the Domenico family tree, Cindy, Joellen, and Robert. Joe was a lifelong resident of Boulder County and farmed his entire life on the family farm. Helen passed away in 1997 and Joe died in 2016 at 99 years of age.

Cindy and her two siblings have fond memories of being raised on the family multi-generation farm on Baseline Road in Lafayette. They grew up appreciating hard work, farming, proper stewardship of the land, care of animals both domestic and wild, strong communities, concern for others, the value of education, and connection to the natural environment.

The Domenico family has been involved with the Boulder County Fair since 1965. With the substantial encouragement and involvement of their mother, Cindy, Joellen and Robert all “bleed 4-H green”, having been involved in beef, dairy and home economic projects. Cindy and Joellen were members of the County 4-H Dairy Judging Team and 4-H Youth Council. Cindy was a member of the Home Economics Judging Team and was a delegate to a 4-H Citizenship Shortcourse in Washington D.C. Most recently Cindy was a leader for GIS (geographic information systems) projects and a shooting sports/archery instructor.

Cindy’s career has spanned 34 years with Boulder County in the Assessor’s Office and as County Commissioner. Cindy and her husband Ken Birgen still live a short distance from the family farm in Lafayette. Their daughter, Julia graduated from CU and is currently doing post-graduate work in Ireland.

Cindy and her family were nominated for this prestigious “County Fair Family of the Year” award by the longtime farming families of Boulder County. The Domenico family represents the optimism and hard work ethic the early farmers brought to Boulder County. They have many memories of planting, cultivating and harvesting crops, tending to cows and baby calves, playing with farm dogs and cats and living a great life on a small diversified farm in Boulder County.

The County Fair is an annual celebration started 150 years ago by local farmers, fruit growers, and stockmen. It honors the families who have settled here, lived their lives here, contributed to our communities here, and raised their families Through good times and hard times without losing hope for the future. May that optimism live on.