



***SOIL Boulder's 2022 Harvest Celebration Land Acknowledgement
graciously offered by Nick DiDomenico of Drylands Agroecology
Research and Elk Run Farm***

On behalf of Soil Boulder, I would like to begin by acknowledging that we are gathered this evening upon the ancestral homelands and unceded territory of the Ute and Shoshone Nations. That these lands were also traversed, stewarded, and cared for in the recent past by bands of the Arapaho and Cheyenne tribes, as well as Apache, Comanche, Kiowa, and other tribal nations. We acknowledge today that during western expansion of european settlers in the late 1800's and early 1900's, the violent and forceful relocation of these tribal nations to reservations where many still live today - Southern Ute Reservation in Ignacio, Colorado. Mountain Ute Reservation in Towaoc, Colorado. Eastern Shoshone Reservation in Wind River, Wyoming. Cheyenne/Arapaho, Apache, and Comanche Territories in Oklahoma, where a prevalence of poverty remains, and arguably worse conditions than most "third world countries", as some of us have seen with our own eyes.

We acknowledge today an apparent agenda for the intentional erasure of these cultures - their languages, cosmologies, stories, songs, ancestral food ways, and ceremonial traditions. Through massacres such as at Sand Creek, where hundreds of Arapahoe and Cheyenne perished, the relentless slaughter of the American Bison, decades of Indian boarding schools, commodity foods programs on the reservations, and other means.

Today, I express all of this with the belief that these acknowledgements are the first of many steps towards the repair and hopeful reintegration of these communities with our own, as we humbly admit that the place based knowledge, wisdom and stewardship of indigeneity may hold unique pieces to the complex puzzle of social, ecological, and economic challenges we currently face in our modern societies.

And what do these tribal nations represent? Unwavering dignity, care and respect for Mother Earth and all living creatures and forces, small and large. The embodiment of Gratitude for Life and Living.

May we choose together to walk forward with these teachings in the best way that we know how - to care for our lands so that we are able to care for each other.

And where are we today? Nestled in this beautiful, moist small valley below the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Many of the leaves have fallen, and whispers of the first winter storm whistle through the trees. We gather this evening in immense gratitude for the

season of warmth that is now behind us. For the bountiful harvest of vegetables, fruits, grains, and meats that many of us here were able to procure.

In that way I want to express deep gratitude for all of the stewards and caretakers of land that are gathered here this evening. Deep gratitude for all of the farmers and ranchers whose tireless work nourishes our community. Deep gratitude for the passionate community gathered here that fervently support this growing movement of community stewardship. I want to thank all the stewards of this parcel, Lone Hawk Farm. A big Thank You to all of the chefs, staff, volunteers, and supporters of this wonderful event.

Lastly, and certainly not least, I want to thank Soil Boulder - for the determined efforts of support and charity towards the local, organic, and regenerative agriculture spaces in Boulder County. For curating this celebration, and for welcoming us all here this evening.

My wish, my prayer this evening - that we may all enjoy every moment tonight - libations, nourishment, joy and laughter in fellowship, and that this good feeling could persist this fall and throughout the winter to come. That our families and friendships can strengthen every day, that our homes could be filled with warmth and love, and that our hearts could be filled with the tireless strength of the human spirit.

From My Homestead to Yours, From my Heart to yours. Thank you once again.

— Nick DiDomenico of [Drylands Agroecology Research](#) and [Elk Run Farm](#)