



Colorado Potato Administrative Committee
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PRESS RELEASE

COLORADO POTATOES LENDING A HAND

Monte Vista, CO: Our local growers and shippers continually support and supply our community food banks with fresh potatoes. We're proud of their constant assistance in ensuring there are always fresh potatoes available. Due to Covid-19 increasing community needs, CPAC, representing approximately 150 growers and 15 warehouses has also made monetary donations totaling \$5,000 to the following food banks, to assist with other needs: Monte Vista Food Bank, Saguache County Food Banks (2), and La Puente Food of the SLV.

The Monte Vista Food Bank serves all of Rio Grande County. They have had an influx of patrons. Jennifer Becker, Food Bank Director stated that they have served 225 people in last two months during this pandemic. She is grateful for the opportunity to stock their pantry with non-perishable items such as, peanut butter, cereal and canned goods. Jennifer thanked the local growers and shippers for their generous donations of fresh potatoes and their continued support.

Lyndsey Williams with La Puente Food Bank of the SLV said that their 15 food pantries served 3,541 individuals throughout the 6 counties in the SLV in the month of March, which is a 20% increase from last year. The La Puente Food Bank also has a Food Rescue Program; where they work closely with Wal-Mart, Loaf n' Jug, Little Caesar's, and Starbucks. Through this program they are able to take surplus perishable items and serve them to their consumers. They rescue roughly 100,000 lbs. of food through this program annually.

Saguache County is comprised of roughly 6,800 residents. Through the Saguache County Food Banks and their affiliated programs, they serve an average of 50-60 people per month, plus an average of 300 people through the distribution of commodities. They work closely with South Central Seniors, to deliver food to senior citizens.

The Colorado Potato Industry is honored to assist our neighbors during this time. We're pleased to be doing our part to support our wonderful community.