

# COUNTY'S AGRI-BUSINESS\$S CRITICAL TO ECONOMY

OK. We know we've been saying all along just how important agriculture is to the financial well being of Canyon County and its residents. Now you don't have to just take our word for it. Check out what economic researchers at the University of Idaho have to say in a new report.



## The Impacts of Irrigated Agriculture and the Economic Base of Canyon County

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*“The largest base industry is agribusiness which includes production agriculture, agricultural services, and food and fiber processing; and contributes 32% to base sales versus 22% for the gross measure. In contrast, the service sector (all categories) is the top contributor in terms of gross sales at 28% but it only contributes 4% to base sales.*

*The economic impacts of each acre of cultivated farm land are worth \$15,834 in base sales, \$3,379 in base wages, and 0.10 in base jobs. As land is transformed from agriculture to other uses, the economy in terms of base sales could decline at approximately \$16,000 per developed acre.*

*In sum, agribusinesses are the number one contributor to the base economy and any factors that enhance or hinder its performance has an effect in terms of sales, value added, wages paid and employment.”*

## The Report Details Why We Worry About The Loss of Ag Lands Due To Uncontrolled, Unmanaged Growth. It Should Be Mandatory Reading For Those in Canyon County Who are Involved in Land Use Decisions.

“If the new manufacturing facilities and housing tracts of its employees locate on irrigated farmland, then manufacturing growth and agribusinesses present an economic tradeoff. Every acre taken out of agricultural production will reduce aggregate economic sales in the county by \$15,834 per year. The benefits of new manufacturing jobs would have to be weighed against the cost of lost agriculture-related sales. ... (If) new manufacturing facilities and related employee housing tracts are located on non-irrigated farmland ... it is a “win-win” situation. The same line of reasoning would apply for the possible expansion of any other sectors such as services, construction or trade.”

### Here's Some Interesting and Important Findings From the Report

- ❖ The total number of farms in Canyon County is estimated at 1,275 with 169,862 harvestable acres. The average size farm is 133 harvestable acres which means the economic contribution of the average size farm is \$2,109,510 in base sales, \$450,187 in base wages, and 13.73 in base jobs.
- ❖ Population growth in Canyon County has been the second fastest in the state for decades (after Ada County). The county grew 40%, from 131,441 people in 2000 to 183,939 people in 2008.
- ❖ Canyon County is one of the state's largest agricultural counties but paradoxically it is a small county with only 590 square miles. About 84% of Canyon County's land is allocated to agriculture and 93.6% of the county's land is privately owned. In 2007, Canyon County was ranked 4th in the state in overall cash receipts from agriculture - \$520,489,000 - despite being ranked 17th out of 44 counties in terms of land area in farm acres.

**The facts make it absolutely clear. We cannot continue to recklessly squander Canyon County's farmland without jeopardizing its economic future or, even worse, the agricultural heritage and traditions that have defined the character and values of its people.**

You can read or download a copy of the full report at our website.  
[www.agriculturesfuture.org](http://www.agriculturesfuture.org)

Coalition  
for  
Agriculture's  
Future



The Coalition for Agriculture's Future is formed from 30 of the area's largest agri-businesses, financial institutions, ag-related associations and other companies and individuals with agricultural interests in Idaho. Visit our website to learn more about who we are and what we do to deal with the threats to Idaho's agricultural heritage, traditions and economy posed by irresponsible urban development of historic agricultural lands.