



# Coalition for Agriculture's Future

## We Invite All Idahoans To Join In Our Efforts To Preserve and Protect Idaho's Agricultural Heritage and Traditions

Our Coalition is dedicated to the belief that agriculture has forged the values and character of Idaho's people and crafted the foundations of responsible stewardship of its natural resources. We firmly believe that the continued loss of rural agricultural lands to urban development has begun to severely limit the ability of Idaho's agricultural industry to produce the sustainable volume of crops required to meet the food needs of the world. We also are concerned that Idaho's agricultural heritage and traditions are being lost to urban development as concrete and asphalt replace land historically used to grow crops.

In the past two decades Idaho has experienced enormous urban, commercial and industrial developmental pressures on its traditional agricultural lands. Since 1975 Idaho has lost more than 4.1 million acres of agriculture land and about 3,000 family farms to residential, commercial and industrial development. In southwestern Idaho, for example, from 1997 to 2002 Canyon County lost **25 percent** of its agricultural acreage and Ada County lost **7 percent** to development, according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

The Coalition has three main strategies:

- To safeguard Idaho's agricultural heritage and traditions by forming cooperative partnerships with public and private organizations;
- To educate the public about the threats to its agricultural heritage, traditions and economy posed by irresponsible urban development of historic agricultural lands; and
- To work closely with elected officials to help them better identify and incorporate critical land management principles and practices essential to the preservation of Idaho's agricultural lands, heritage and traditions and its economical contribution.

**To learn more about the Coalition visit our website: [www.agriculturesfuture.org](http://www.agriculturesfuture.org).**

### Members of the Coalition

*Atlas Products Inc ~ Caldwell Economic Development Council ~ Canyon County Farm Bureau ~ Crookham Company ~ Dairyland Seed Company ~ Del Monte Foods ~ Dorsing Seeds ~ Greenleaf Farms ~ Harris Moran Seed Company ~ Idaho Crop Improvement Association ~ Idaho Seed Analysts Association ~ Intermountain Community Bank ~ J.R. Simplot Company ~ Nevill Enterprises, Inc. ~ Nunhems USA, Inc. ~ NW Farm Credit Services ~ Pacific Seed Association ~ Pat Takasugi ~ Pioneer Hi-Bred International ~ Seminis Vegetable Seeds ~ Summit Seed Coatings ~ Syngenta ~ The Hartwell Corporation ~ Wild West Seeds ~ Zions Bank*