

Growth Badly Managed Is Ag Land Lost Forever



This weed-covered Canyon County rural residential development is just one of many examples of how valuable productive agriculture land can be wasted – lost forever – if we do not properly manage growth and development. The answer is a measured approach that balances development with the preservation of farmlands that are the life blood of our Ag economy.

Agriculture Land Is Important

- In one year, a single acre of farm land generates \$8,534 in sales, \$1,372 in wages, \$204 in indirect business taxes and 0.071 jobs. Every acre lost to agriculture for new residential development costs Canyon County's economy almost \$9,000 per year.¹
- Canyon County agriculture-related industries constitute 32.4% of sales and 23.6% of employment.¹ The agriculture economy is far more stable than other sectors which are at the mercy of boom and bust cycles.
- Canyon County government profits from agriculture land. For every \$1.00 it collects in revenues from agriculture land, it provides only \$0.62 in county services, a profit of \$0.38. However, for residential properties it provides \$1.43 in services for every \$1.00 of all revenues collected, a loss of \$0.43.²

The Coalition for Agriculture's Future believes better rural-urban growth management is crucial if we are to preserve our agriculture industry. There is no time to waste. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation says Canyon County lost 25 percent of its agricultural acreage to development in the five years from 1997 to 2002 and that trend has continued.

The Coalition is formed from more than two dozen of the area's largest agri-businesses, financial institutions, ag-related associations and other companies with agricultural interests in the Treasure Valley.

You can learn more about the issue and the Coalition by visiting our web site:
www.agriculturesfuture.org

1. *The Economy of Canyon County*, University of Idaho, 2002. 2. *Cost of Community Services*, University of Idaho 2000. Both references are available on the Coalition For Agriculture's Future web site: www.agriculturesfuture.org.