



News Release

The Coalition For Agriculture's Future

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Coalition For Agriculture's Future To Scrutinize Fairgrounds Proposal

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The Coalition for Agriculture's Future will scrutinize the potential impact on agriculture resulting from a proposal to move the Canyon County Fair to a new 80-plus acre site next to the Ada County line, leaders of the Coalition announced today.

The fairgrounds issue came up on the CAF's radar following public questions being raised by other groups that expressed concern about the overall economic impact of moving the fair from its present location in Caldwell.

"The CAF Board of Directors will take a closer look at general details of the proposal and satellite imagery of the site at its meeting today. Certainly, it has the appearance of a large scale commercial enterprise that will be dropped into the middle of historic productive agricultural lands. That type of action always poses genuine concern for the Coalition because of its potential to impact agricultural issues in the area. So the Board decided at its meeting today to scrutinize the proposal in much finer detail," said Roger Batt, CAF Executive Director.

The CAF uses a variety of general development evaluation standards to evaluate a project's potential to impact availability of agricultural lands. These include the general nature of the area in which a project will be situated; if the project will result in incompatible and detrimental neighboring land uses; whether the project will be located where public infrastructure, services and facilities are available or where there clearly is a development pattern already established; and if the project contradicts the proven land use management principles of building out from present population centers. The possible financial impact on the economic well-being of both the Treasure Valley and the state is also evaluated.

The CAF will use the results of its review to determine whether to support or oppose the fairgrounds move. No deadline has been set for that to happen.

The Coalition for Agriculture's Future is formed from approximately 25 of the area's largest agribusinesses, financial institutions, Ag-related associations and other companies and individuals with agricultural interests in the Treasure Valley.

The Coalition believes 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. It is also concerned that historic agricultural heritage and traditions are being lost to urban development as concrete and asphalt replace land historically used to grow crops.

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