Coalition for Agriculture's Future

This 380-acre parcel of Ag Land Soon May Be Covered By Homes and Asphalt

How Did That Happen

2014 Annual Meeting

Chairman's Report

George Crookham, Chairman CAF

COALITION FOR AGRICULTURE'S FUTURE

Our Mission

To preserve and promote the agricultural heritage and traditions that have forged the values and character of Idaho's people and which have crafted the foundations of responsible stewardship of its natural resources.

COALITION FOR AGRICULTURE'S FUTURE

Our Objectives

- Actively monitor land use change applications and take positions against those that would result in unnecessary or unjustified loss of agricultural lands.
- Educate the public about the threats to Idaho's agricultural heritage, traditions and economy posed by irresponsible urban development of agricultural lands.
- Work closely with elected officials to identify and incorporate critical land management principles and practices essential to the preservation of Idaho agricultural and its economical contribution.
- Form cooperative partnerships with public and private organizations to work towards improved land use decisions that include an accurate and meaningful evaluation of the impact on agricultural land.

COALITION FOR AGRICULTURE'S FUTURE

WE ARE NOT!

- **Anti-Development**
  - We just feel development should be based on facts and solid best use principles, not just a relentless quest for “growth” at any cost.
- **Anti-Property Rights**
  - But, planning and zoning rules, County ordinances and Idaho land use statutes exist and for good reasons. We believe they help protect the greater good and should be followed.
- **Political in Nature**
  - Our only agenda is to try to make sure Idaho does not needlessly squander valuable farmland.

COALITION FOR AGRICULTURE'S FUTURE

2013 Major CAF Activities

- Provided written and in-person testimony at Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Commissioner hearings on land use changes that present the potential for loss of agricultural lands.
- Created and distributed educational information regarding the Coalition and its goals and objectives.
- Worked with local and Northwest media to develop news coverage of agricultural economic values and loss of Ag land issues.
- Initiated development of strategies to reverse misguided Ag land management characterizations such as “prime farmland,” and “unproductive farmland.”

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2013 Major CAF Activities

- Provided resources and financial support for the 2013 Treasure Valley Legislative Agriculture Tour to educate 62 Idaho legislators and local elected officials.
- Held series of in-person meetings with various county appointed and elected land use decision makers to provide insight about the economic and social role of agriculture and its relationship to the loss of agricultural lands.
- Submitted extensive proposed changes in land use planning and zoning ordinances for Canyon County.

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2013 Major CAF Activities

- Initiated a lawsuit in the District Court against Canyon County and its Board of Commissioners to halt the use of its improperly prepared Comprehensive Plan used in the decision making process for land use applications that would result in the potential loss of agricultural lands.

2013 Major CAF Activities

- Future land use planning map not properly compiled nor formally adopted as part of Canyon County comprehensive plan as required by Idaho law.
  - Comprehensive Plan approved without required map; one of several different maps approved after the fact and titled as the correct original version.
  - County admits that the map was created partially via unscientific "windshield survey."
  - Agricultural evaluation component required by Idaho law but not initially incorporated in comprehensive plan; when incorporated, was not used in the decision making process.
  - Tried repeatedly without success for 18 months to work with County officials to resolve issue informally before filing suit.

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Canyon County Lawsuit Information

Visit the CAF website to review the lawsuit, its supporting documents and a list of specific issues raised with the County.

WWW.agriculturesfuture.org

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2014 Strategies & Goals

- Move forward with Canyon County lawsuit.
- Continue to review and provide assistance to additional Southwest Idaho counties comprehensive plans and ordinances as they relate to the protection of Ag lands.
- Monitor land use proposals to identify and oppose projects needlessly harmful to farmland retention.

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2014 Strategies & Goals

- Identify and scrutinize expired residential conditional use permits to prevent reactivation and work for possible restored agricultural zoning.

- Use in-person briefings, meetings, and educational opportunities to educate decision makers as well as the public about land use management decision making strategies that result in loss of Ag lands.

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2014 Strategies & Goals

- Develop and conduct awareness projects to educate the general public about the nature and impacts on farming operations resulting from residential-agricultural conflicts.

- Conduct member recruitment efforts to achieve wider representation and, therefore, enhanced ability to exert influence and conduct education efforts.

2014 Strategies & Goals

To work as hard as we can to prevent this.

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