



STATE OF IDAHO



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANNOUNCES AG DAY EVENT
DEPARTMENT TO SELL LUNCHES AT CAPITOL ANNEX FOR
"WHAT A FARMER MAKES"

(Boise) - The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) announced today that it will celebrate national Ag Day on the lawn of the Capitol Annex, 514 W. Jefferson Street, on **Friday March 20, 2009 from 12:00-1:00 p.m.**

To reflect the work and dedication of agriculture here in Idaho, ISDA will be selling lunches to the public at farm gate prices, or the price of food minus the costs of processing, marketing, and retailing. This cost reflects the amount paid directly to farmers and ranchers for their products. Each lunch will include Idaho products and contain a roast beef sandwich, potato chips, string cheese, an apple and milk. The "farm gate" price for each lunch sold on Friday will be 65 cents which will enable consumers to "eat lunch on what a farmer makes."

Agriculture is not immune to the hardships that face every industry in the current economic climate, and the sale of food at farm gate prices is a particularly poignant way to illustrate how agriculture provides an invaluable and affordable way of life. American farmers currently take home 13 cents of every \$1 spent on food costs, and Americans spend the lowest percentage of their annual income on food compared to any other people in the world.

Ag Day is an opportunity for ISDA to honor Idaho's farmers, ranchers, and those who work alongside them. It also marks an occasion to showcase the efficiency and productivity of agriculture to the public. In preparation for the event, Agriculture Director Celia Gould said, "Ag Day is a chance for us to salute the hard-working men and women of Idaho who produce a secure, superior, and independent food supply that feeds not only the state but also the nation."

Representatives from ISDA, local Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters, and leaders from agricultural industry groups will sell lunches Friday. Proceeds from sales will be donated to the Meridian FFA Chapter.

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