

NEWS RELEASE: For Immediate Distribution

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## Celebrate Idaho's Bounty of Local Foods on the Locavore Express

BOISE – (Sept. 9, 2010) – To wrap up September as Idaho Preferred Month, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture is inviting the community to climb aboard the Thunder Mountain Line when it turns into the Locavore Express on September 26. Passengers will sip Idaho wine and savor appetizers made with Idaho food products as they enjoy a scenic train ride along the Payette River. A gourmet feast comprised of Idaho food products in Banks is the ride's final destination.



The 15-mile trip departs at noon from Horseshoe Bend and will return by 4 p.m. Tickets cost \$40 per person and can be purchased at [Thunder Mountain Line](#) or call 1-877-IDA-RAIL (432-7245). This is the second Locavore Express event for this year's Idaho Preferred Month festivities. Based on attendance at the first event, the second is

likely to sell out, so interested participants are advised to get their tickets early.

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter has declared the entire month of September as Idaho Preferred Month<sup>®</sup>; 30 days dedicated to recognize Idaho's bountiful food products and the local purveyors who grow or process them.



Co-sponsored by the Idaho Department of Agriculture's [Idaho Preferred](#)<sup>®</sup> program and [Sysco](#) of Idaho, the Locavore Express aims to give locals and tourists alike a chance to explore Idaho's scenic countryside while savoring the state's culinary culture like a true locavore.

"Locavore is a term used to describe someone who eats and drinks foods and beverages that have been grown, raised or produced within 100 miles of their home," said Leah Clark, a trade specialist for the Idaho Department of Agriculture and manager of Idaho Preferred<sup>®</sup>. "We wanted to give people a chance to become Idaho locavores in a unique Idaho setting. The Locavore Express accomplishes that in a fun way."

After enjoying a scenic ride from Horseshoe Bend, Locavore Express passengers will disembark at Banks to enjoy an all-Idaho gourmet meal featuring Idaho meats and fish, a variety of tasty cheeses, fresh fruits and vegetables, breads and fine desserts. Idaho Department of Agriculture officials, local chefs, farmers, ranchers, winemakers and specialty food producers will join Locavore Express passengers for their meal.

### **About Idaho Preferred<sup>®</sup>**

The Idaho Preferred<sup>®</sup> program is designed to identify and promote food and agriculture products from the Gem State. Under the direction of the Idaho Department of Agriculture, Idaho Preferred<sup>®</sup> promotes the quality, diversity, and availability of the food and agriculture products we grow, raise or process in Idaho. For more information about Idaho Preferred<sup>®</sup> or Idaho Preferred Month<sup>®</sup>, visit [www.idahopreferred.com](http://www.idahopreferred.com), or contact Leah Clark at [Leah.clark@agri.idaho.gov](mailto:Leah.clark@agri.idaho.gov), or 208-332-8684.

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