



STATE OF IDAHO



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Idaho Celebrates Organic Week

Boise - June 18-24 has been declared as "Idaho Organic Week." In an effort to raise awareness of the availability of Idaho-grown organic products, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture encourages Idaho organic producers and farmers markets to plan special events and activities to make the most of this opportunity.

"Organic production is an important segment of Idaho agriculture that generates over \$70 million in sales, and I am glad we can recognize the significance of organic agriculture in Idaho," said Celia Gould, director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

Idaho has over 250 organic operations that provide a diverse selection, including vegetables, meats, milk and wine as well as non-food crops such as hay and barley.

The week-long celebration will kick off with a press event at Rice Family Farms in Meridian on Thursday, June 16th, at 1:30 p.m. Idaho Organic Week recognizes the importance of organic producers, processors, and distributors in Idaho. Idaho ranks in the top 10 in the nation for the production of several organic crops. Over the last several years, retail sales of organic foods have more than quintupled nationwide, increasing from \$3.6 billion in 1997 to \$21.1 billion in 2008.

Consumers can find Idaho organic products at farmers markets, some local retailers and restaurants, and the Idaho Preferred website at www.idahopreferred.com.

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