



STATE OF IDAHO



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The First Idaho Farm-to-School Statewide Conference to be Held in Boise

(Boise, ID) The Idaho State Department of Agriculture and the Idaho Department of Education will host a two-day statewide Farm-to-School conference July 23rd-24th at the Riverside Hotel in Boise. Farmers, school foodservice directors and staff, educators and others interested in working collaboratively to bring more local foods to school cafeterias, increase nutrition and agriculture literacy, and establish school gardens will come together to share, learn and plan.

Farm-to-School is a national program that strives to connect local food and agriculture with schools, students, and teachers through a variety of methods including teacher curriculum, serving local foods in school cafeterias, school gardens, and more. "Idaho is a leading state in this effort," said Leah Clark, manager of the Idaho Preferred program at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and Idaho lead for the National Farm-to-School Network. "We have schools across the state aggressively seeking local products for their cafeterias, many successful school gardens and producers interested in the market. This conference will provide a lot of great information to help more schools get involved in the Farm-to-School movement."

During the conference attendees will hear from a variety of speakers, including the keynote speaker, Chef Adam Simon, director of Fayette School District Foodservice in Arkansas. "My focus is to bring culinary training to the most dedicated group of nutrition professionals in the world," Simon said. "We want to get back to basics. We are not out here to start a revolution we are here for the evolution of child nutrition."

The Idaho Farm-to-School Conference will also cover topics including how to get local foods into the cafeteria, basics of building a school garden, planning a local food menu, how to sell to a school, agriculture education resources and more. The conference will end with a local farm tour and a field trip to several school gardens.

For more information on the Idaho Farm to School program visit
<http://idahopreferred.com/farm-to-school>

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