

AG WEEKLY

First Lady Lori Otter to Kick Off Farm-to-School Program at Local Elementary School

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BOISE - - To kick off the Farm-to-School Program in the Boise School District, First Lady Lori Otter will visit Morley Nelson Elementary School on Thursday, Sept. 2 and have lunch with students that will include several Idaho-grown products.

Farm-to-School is a broad term that is used to describe efforts to connect healthy local food and agriculture with schools and students. Its goal is to support healthy children, healthy schools, healthy farms and healthy communities. In Idaho, five school districts have been selected by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and Idaho State Department of Education to serve as pilot schools to implement Farm to School programs and help create best practices for other schools to follow who want to begin Farm to School efforts.

In the Boise district, the goal of the Farm-to-School Program is to provide all students at least one local food item per day during the month of September, which also is Idaho Preferred Month. The program will continue throughout the rest of the year, with a goal of providing students with at least one local food item per week. Every elementary school in the Boise School District offers access to a Healthful Choice Bar, where students can help themselves to a variety of vegetables, fruits and grain products. Secondary school students have numerous entrée options each day, and several options are made with local food items. All students have access to fresh fruits and vegetables each day, many of which are local.

This Farm-to-School Kickoff Luncheon also celebrates the beginning of Idaho Preferred Month, which Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter has officially declared as 30 days to be set aside to celebrate and honor Idaho's great bounty and agricultural industry. The lunch menu on Thursday will include a fish sandwich made with trout from Clear Springs Foods in Buhl, cantaloupe from Wissel Farms in Nampa, and cucumbers and zucchini squash from Buttermilk Farms in Weiser.

About Idaho Preferred

The Idaho Preferred 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 promotes the quality, diversity, and availability of the food and agriculture products we grow, raise and process in Idaho. For more information about Idaho Preferred or Idaho Preferred Month, visit www.idahopreferred.com, or contact Leah Clark at Lclark@agri.idaho.gov, or 208-332-8684.
