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Media Contact:
Scott Graf
Communications Director
208-332-6807
sgraf@sde.idaho.gov

Governor Little Proclaims October as Farm to School Month

(BOISE) – In an effort to highlight the important connection between schools and local agriculture, Governor Little has signed a proclamation declaring the month of October to be Farm to School Month in Idaho.

The Farm to School program links local food producers with schools and other organizations participating in child nutrition programs working to purchase and include locally grown fruits, vegetables, grains, meats and more. These relationships give students a chance to experience fresh, high-quality foods sourced directly from their communities. The program also features hands-on agricultural and nutritional education, school gardens, taste tests, farm field trips and integrating food-related education into classroom curriculum.

The proclamation seeks to raise the profile of the program, with an emphasis on how it enriches the connection communities have with local foods and food producers. It cites a variety of facts about Idaho’s robust agricultural industry, pointing out that the state leads the nation in the production of potatoes, barley, peppermint, sugar beets, onions and peas and sports over 24,000 farms and ranches, and produces more than 185 commercial agricultural products. Connecting students with these offerings means empowering schools and producers to build relationships.

“Farm to School means more for students than accessing healthy, local food options,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield. “This program means that Idaho can use its position as an agricultural powerhouse to create an unmatched educational opportunity for our students, allowing them to explore farming through the lens of Career Technical Education, STEM subjects, culinary learning and more.”

Learn more about the Idaho Department of Education’s administration of the Farm to School program on the department website [here](#).

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Attached: Governor Little’s Farm to School Month Proclamation