

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 5, 2015

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Idaho Public Health Schedules Meetings for Cottage Foods and Food Code Updates

(Southeastern Idaho) - The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Food Protection Program has been hosting a series of public meetings throughout Idaho in April and May to discuss two important issues: cottage foods and proposed Idaho Food Code updates.

Cottage foods are low-risk foods that are typically produced in a person's home and sold or given away directly to other people. The production of these foods is currently unregulated. The public meetings will help clarify the types of foods that are allowed to be unregulated. Community members also will have the opportunity to discuss whether the state Food Protection Program should promulgate rules specific to cottage food production.

The Idaho Food Code is the set of regulations that govern food safety standards in food establishments in Idaho. The current regulations were enacted in 2005 and are being updated. Proposed updates will be presented during the meetings, public comment will be taken, and timelines for implementing new rules will be provided.

All members of the public are encouraged to attend meetings in their area. Meetings are being held at multiple times each day to accommodate those interested in these topics. Each public meeting will be moderated by Patrick Guzzle, Idaho's Food Protection Program Manager for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The same general content will be presented in each of the meetings held throughout the state.

The schedule for the public meetings held in Southeastern Idaho is as follows:

Cottage Foods • May 11, 2015

Eastern Idaho Public Health
1250 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls
Meeting 1: 8:00 am – 11:00 am
Meeting 2: 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Meeting 3: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Food Code • May 12, 2015

Eastern Idaho Public Health
1250 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls
Meeting 1: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Meeting 2: 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Cottage Foods • May 13, 2015

Southeastern Idaho Public Health
1901 Alvin Ricken Drive, Pocatello
Assembly Rooms 1 & 2
Meeting 1: 8:00 am – 11:00 am
Meeting 2: 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Meeting 3: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Food Code • May 14, 2015

Southeastern Idaho Public Health
1901 Alvin Ricken Drive, Pocatello
Assembly Rooms 1 & 2
Meeting 1: 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Meeting 2: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

For more information about cottage foods, the Idaho Food Code, or the upcoming meetings in **Idaho Falls**, please contact Kellye Eager, Environmental Health Director, Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) at 208-533-3127 or Nathan Taylor, Environmental Health Supervisor, EIPH at 208-533-3128. To schedule an interview about the Idaho Falls meetings, please contact Mimi Taylor, Public Information Officer, EIPH at 208-533-3155 or 208-521-6722.

For more information about cottage foods, the Idaho Food Code, or the upcoming meetings in **Pocatello**, please contact Tracy McCulloch, Public Information Officer, Southeastern Idaho Public Health at 208-239-5250.

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