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**UM FARM TO COLLEGE PROGRAM
CELEBRATES \$1 MILLION BENCHMARK**

MISSOULA —

The University of Montana Farm to College Program has surpassed the \$1 million benchmark in purchases of local and regional foods.

To recognize this milestone, University Dining Services will host a daylong celebration Thursday, May 4, in the University Center. Attendees will include legislators, government officials, Montana food producers, local sustainability advocates, restaurateurs, students and University administrators.

The UM Farm to College Program strives to be a model for institutional local and regional food purchasing. The program supports local economies, preserves agricultural heritage and provides healthy, fresh, delicious food to the campus community.

Since its inception in 2003, the program has garnered considerable local and regional media attention, as well as features in the New York Times and TIME Magazine. One of the key educational components of the celebration will be the presentation of research results by Grow Montana, which received a research grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to examine the needs and challenges of Montana institutions, as well as the capacity of local producers to meet institutional demands. Other scheduled activities include a local foods panel discussion, local foods vendor fair and a Best Local Foods Cook-off.

The day's events will be followed by an evening program featuring a special Farm to College dinner in the University Center Commons dining room to honor

Montana food producers involved in the program. Admission is \$6.50 for the general public.

Other evening events begin at 4:30 p.m. and will include games and contests, such as a cake walk and food sculpture contest, and musical entertainment in the UC Ballroom by The Clintons and Jude Kastle. The concert begins at 7 p.m. General public concert tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at The Source. In addition, two free tickets are available with a Griz Card while supplies last.

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