



## Media Contacts

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 19, 2008**

## **Homegrown Prosperity Bus Tour Coming To Oregon!**

### **Biodiesel bus promotes sustainable solutions and rural economic opportunities**

From August 20<sup>th</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup>, a four person crew, traveling in a converted school bus powered by biodiesel, will be visiting Northeastern Oregon to advance initiatives on renewable energy, sustainable biofuels, energy efficiency, jobs, and local foods. The *Homegrown Prosperity Renewable Energy Bus Tour* will grade biodiesel availability sites, promote good paying jobs and income for rural communities, as well as offer solutions to reduce greenhouse gases and pollution.

Besides using biodiesel instead of petrol diesel, the bus is equipped with solar panels to power a laptop computer and a TV, and there is a solar oven and other displays.

Oregon Rural Action members and the bus crew will discuss why it's important to educate the public about the changing energy future and the need for sustainable communities.

“Our use of oil, gas and coal is changing the climate, leading to drought, wildfires, and other problems for people around the world,” said Mary Fitzpatrick of Billings, former Northern Plains Resource Council chair and a member of the Montana Governor’s Advisory Task Force on Climate Change. “Our energy supplies are less reliable and more costly every day. Energy efficiency and homegrown, clean, renewable energy can reduce the pollution causing climate change while creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs and protecting our land, air and water.

“We call on public officials to pass laws and fund programs that reduce climate change and build healthy local economies by increasing energy efficiency and clean, renewable

energy. We call on everyone – government, business, and individuals – to make wise decision as consumers, stop energy waste, and reduce climate-changing pollution.”

In total, the *Homegrown Prosperity Renewable Energy Tour* will hold public events and activities in 40 counties in seven states over 12 weeks. The schedule of events for Northeastern Oregon is as follows:

- August 20<sup>th</sup>: Grant County Fair, 10am-8pm, John Day
- August 21<sup>st</sup>: Baker City Extension Office, 10am-noon, Biodiesel Demonstration  
Geiser-Pollman Park, 3pm-6pm, with community potluck to follow
- August 22<sup>nd</sup>: La Grande Community Garden, 11am-1pm
- August 23<sup>rd</sup>: Crossing the Blues Festival, 10am-5pm, downtown La Grande
- August 25<sup>th</sup>: Port of Umatilla, 10:30 am, tour and biofuel discussion
- August 26<sup>th</sup>: Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, 3pm-7pm
- August 27<sup>th</sup>: Weiser ID, Weiser High School, 12:30-2:30 pm
- August 28<sup>th</sup>: Ontario, OR, Tri-County United Fund breakfast, 9am

The *Homegrown Prosperity Bus Tour* is sponsored by Oregon Rural Action and the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC).

For more details, contact Liberty Merrill at Oregon Rural Action, by email at [liberty@oregonrural.org](mailto:liberty@oregonrural.org), or by phone at (541)910-8040. The website for the tour is at [www.homegrownprosperity.com](http://www.homegrownprosperity.com) or visit [www.oregonrural.org](http://www.oregonrural.org).

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