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get hip to the local

VORE-ACIOUS FOOD FANS

REJOICE IN OUR AREA'S BOUNTY By Suzi Steffen

What's the hottest new word this year? Tase? Mumblecore? Cougar?

Heck, no. Those are just the runners-up. Instead, The New Oxford American Dictionary folks picked *locavore* as the word to know. A locavore eats local food, and in the Willamette Valley, locavores are blessed with options. Some of these options might come from a bit more than 100 miles away, but they're not grown and packaged in Thailand, New Zealand or even Canada; they're from Oregon. And we homers *love* saying that when we prepare our holiday feasts and wrap our holiday gifts.

Of course, gift-givers might have grown their own berries and made jam with honey from the Saturday Market, but just in case, the Holiday Market offers up excellent jam in its first couple of weeks with **Byrd's Basket**, where jam and jelly-maker Marilyn Byrd serves up everything fruited and preserved from dreamy apricot to spicy jalapeño treats.

Fern's Edge Goat Dairy from Lowell also perks up the Holiday Market with luscious cheese from its herd of goats, who thrive with biodynamic farming tech-

niques under the watchful and hardworking eyes of proprietor Andhi Reyna. Mmmm, the pesto with pine nuts ... the herb garlic rolls ... the logs of plain cheese that would go remarkably well with Byrd's spicier offerings on that holiday table. So would the fromage blanc from **Alesea Acre Goat Cheese**, which, if you miss the cheese at the Holiday Market, you can pick up in the **Sweet Cheeks Winery** tasting room (along with some wine, of course).

For omega-3 lovers, a meal wouldn't be complete without a taste of the sea. The Coos Bay-based **Pisces Fishing Vessel** brings its zero bycatch, sustainable, line-caught and hand-canned products to the Holiday Market, where Sally or Daryl Bogardus can show you photos and regale you with the tales of their adventures on the seas. The Bogardus family offers gift packs of **Smoked Albacore**, **Smoked Wild Chinook Salmon** and **Albacore with Garlic and Jalapeño** for friends and family far away, and if you somehow miss them at the market, you can snag some cans from the Kiva, where they far outshine the other albacore tuna and salmon available.



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