

# Trailing of the Sheep Festival



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## “Savor American Lamb at Idaho’s Trailing of the Sheep Festival”

The best in American Lamb will be featured at various culinary events held during the annual [Trailing of the Sheep Festival](#), October 4-8, 2023, in the picturesque Wood River Valley of Idaho. Foodies will delight in the many special culinary lamb events, including the For the Love of Lamb Dine-Around, Cooking with Lamb Classes, Farm to Table dinners featuring local Idaho lamb, Lamb Fest at the Folklife Fair and lamb lunch at the Happy Trails Closing Party. These culinary events are a part of the internationally recognized Festival, which provides attendees the opportunity to experience a unique extended weekend of history and culture and a literal ‘taste’ of the American West.

Now celebrating its 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the Trailing of the Sheep Festival honors the 150+ year tradition of moving sheep (‘trailing’) from high mountain summer pastures down through the Valley to traditional winter grazing and lambing areas in the south. This annual migration is living history and the focus of a unique and authentic Festival that celebrates the people, arts, cultures, and traditions of sheep ranching in Idaho and the West. The five-day Festival includes nonstop activities in multiple venues - history, folk, and traditional arts, a Sheep Folklife Fair, lamb culinary offerings, a Wool Fest with classes and workshops, music, dance, storytelling, the National Qualifying Sheepdog Trials and, the always entertaining, Big Sheep Parade with 1,500 sheep hoofing it down Main Street in Ketchum.

### 2023 LAMB CULINARY EVENTS

- **Cooking with Lamb Classes** will feature great culinary techniques from six local chefs. Learn from the best how to prepare creative lamb dishes with a focus on the use of local natural foods. Wine and sides will be paired with each class dish for an extra special delight. Classes include Roasted Rack of Lamb, Fasah - Yemeni Lamb Stew, Spiced Lamb Top Sirloin, Japanese Lamb Meatballs, and Confit of Lamb. There is also a class on Cheese Making using cow’s and sheep’s milk.
- **Farm to Table Lamb Dinners** on October 3, 4 and 5 at Mountain Humane near Hailey will be prepared by local Chef Al McCord. The four-course dinners will feature local Idaho lamb from Darby Northcott’s 3/D Ranch on Tuesday, from Kathleen and Brian Bean’s Lava Lake Ranch on Wednesday and Diane, John, and Tom Peavey’s Flat Top Ranch on Thursday. The ranchers will attend the dinners to discuss sheep ranching in Idaho as well as answer questions. Seating is

limited, and tickets sell fast. These are unique opportunities to get to know Idaho through its hard-working farmers and ranchers and experience the incredible talents of a local chef.

- **For the Love of Lamb Dine-Around** will take place in association with top local restaurants and chefs in Ketchum on Friday, October 6. A variety of creative and tasty American Lamb ‘baaa-ites’ will be offered starting at 4:30 pm and will end when all the bites are gone (usually within an hour!) A \$25.00 “passport,” which can be purchased in advance online, gets you at least five bites. This fun evening out on the town is a popular Festival favorite.
- **A Lamb Fest** will take place on Saturday, October 7 during the Sheep Folklife Fair. Enjoy delicious and creative American Lamb dishes prepared by regional chefs and restaurants. Beverages are also available for purchase. Choose your favorite restaurant when you arrive at the Fair and purchase tickets on-site.
- **The Happy Trails Festival Closing Party** will be held on Sunday, October 8th, at the Ketchum Town Square. It is the perfect spot to gather from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm to enjoy delicious lamb prepared and served by the Wood River Sustainability Center and live music by Gary and Cindy Braun and The Pisten Bullys.

For information and detailed schedule of events, [www.trailingofthesheep.org](http://www.trailingofthesheep.org)

The 2023 Big Sheep Parade is sponsored by the City of Ketchum, with many other supporters and friends bringing the Festival to fruition.

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### **Accolades for the Trailing of the Sheep Festival**

The Trailing of the Sheep Festival has garnered some well-deserved accolades over the years, including being recognized as one of the **Top Ten Fall Festivals in the World** by *msn.com travel*, **Top 7 US Fall Festivals** by *National Geographic*, **Top Ten US Fall Festivals** by *smartertravel.com*, **Top Animal Festivals in the World** and **Top Ten Fall Festivals** by *USA Today*, **Top 7 Fun Fall Festivals** by *AARP*, **One of the Greatest Cultural Events in the West** by *Northwest Travel*, and recipient of the Society of American Travel Writer’s **Phoenix Award** for best in cultural tourism, and the **Idaho Governor’s Award for Cultural Heritage**.

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