

Farmers plant idea in Washington D.C.

WASHINGTON (AP) — When several North Dakota farmers asked a consulting firm to help them figure out how to make more money on their products, they got a simple answer: Open an upscale restaurant.

The farmers, members of the North Dakota Farmers Union, ran with the advice, and Wednesday they are in Washington opening what they hope is the first of many restaurants that feature their goods. The producers, many of whom have had trouble making ends meet, will now sell their fresh beef, vegetables and specialty crops directly to lawyers, lobbyists and tourists in the nation's capital for \$20 to \$30 an entree.

The unusual restaurant is called Agraria, nestled beside the Potomac River in the prime real estate of Georgetown's Washington Harbor. About 90 percent of the restaurant's investors are farmers from around the country, and the food comes from farms in 25 states. About a third of the food is expected to come from North Dakota, where the idea originated.

Robert Carlson, president of the

North Dakota farmers group and leader of the project, said his group had two objectives — to boost farmer profits and to educate, unobtrusively, about the lives of farmers and ranchers. He said they targeted Washington because it never goes out of business and it's home to people with a lot of disposable income.

"That's one consumer we wanted to reach and educate," Carlson said. "A lot of these people have been removed from the farm for several decades."

Carlson and the restaurant's managers say they know they can't just educate, they must entertain as well. One of the city's top design firms created a chic, sleek space that covers 14,000 square feet and is decorated in soft, neutral browns and greens to evoke life on the farm. It cost between \$2 million and \$4 million to develop, said project manager Tom Prescott.

The menu features beef from North Dakota, Montana and Texas, organic greens and chicken from Pennsylvania, and fish from Hawaii and Alaska. Edible flowers adorn

some dishes. Many of the wines are from small wineries that practice sustainable viticulture, and a martini cocktail features cranberry bog honey from growers in Cape Cod.

"We wanted to make sure there's a consistent theme, and we are looking out for where the stuff comes from," says Derek Brown, the restaurant's sommelier and manager.

Jeff LaFleur, director of the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association, which sells to the restaurant, said Agraria has great potential for all farmers.

"In many cases the farmers are just breaking even because there are so many middlemen," he said.

The managers say it's a major logistical challenge to organize delivery from the many farmers and ranchers that are distributing directly to the restaurant, and they must be flexible enough to change

the menu if certain ingredients don't arrive. But it pays off, Prescott says, because the food is so much fresher. "We've literally shaved days off the delivery time," he said.

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Community wide garage sale, Oakley, KS. Saturday, June 17, 8:00 a.m. Maps available at One Stop, Kabredlo's, Oakley Shurefine Foods and at each location. Quality items, approximately 40 locations. Phone 785-672-4862 for details. —6/5—6/16—

Corner Wheatridge and College Dr. Colby Episcopal Church. Saturday, June 10, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Sponsored by Episcopal youth group. Wide variety of donated items. —6/5—6/9—

Public Notice

REQUESTS FOR BIDS/INVITATION FOR BIDS (Newspaper Advertisement)

City of Colby, Colby, Kansas
AIP Project No.: 3-20-0012-07

AIRFIELD PAVEMENT AND CRACK REPAIR IMPROVEMENTS TO RUNWAY 17-35

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Colby, Colby, Kansas at the City Clerks Office, City of Colby, Kansas, 585 N. Franklin, Colby, Kansas 67701 until 2:30 p.m., Central Daylight Savings Time (CDST), on June 16, 2006 and then publicly opened and read aloud, for furnishing all labor, materials and equipment, and performing all work necessary to construct Airfield Pavement And Crack Repair Improvements To Runway 17-35.

Copies of the bid documents including project drawings and technical specifications are on file and may be inspected at the Airport Manager's (Mark Ostmyer) office at the Colby Municipal Airport, #5 Airport Plaza, Colby, Kansas 67701; at the Office of the City Manager, 585 N. Franklin, Colby, Kansas 67701 and at the Office of the Engineer, HWS Consulting Group Inc., 3226 Kimball Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66503-2157, (785-539-2202). A complete set of bid documents, not including referenced documents, may be obtained from the Engineer for a fee of \$50.00.

Contractors bidding need not be pre-qualified but shall be qualified to do the work.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a bid guaranty in the amount of not less than five (5) percent of the total amount of the bid. The bid guaranty may be by certified check on a solvent bank or bid bond made payable to the City of Colby, Colby, Kansas.

Bids may be held by the City of Colby, Colby, Kansas for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of evaluating bids prior to award of contract.

Award of contract will be based on the lowest aggregate sum proposal (Total Base Bid) submitted from those bidders that are confirmed as being responsive and responsible. The right is reserved, as the City of Colby, Colby, Kansas may require, to reject any and all bids and to waive any or all irregularities, technicalities, informality or any information in the bids received.

This project is subject to the requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act, as amended. The Contractor is required to comply with wage and labor provisions and to pay minimum wages in accordance with the schedule of wage rates established by the United States Department of Labor. This project is subject to the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Participation. There is not a minimum participation goal for small business concerns owned and controlled by qualified disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE), but all Contractors are encouraged to utilize DBE firms.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish separate performance and payment bonds, each in an amount equal to 100% of the contract.

Award of contract is also subject to the following Federal provisions:

- 1) Executive Order 11246 and DOL Regulation 41 CFR PART 60 - Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Employment Opportunity.
- 2) DOL Regulation 29 CFR Part 5 - Davis Bacon Act.
- 3) DOT Regulation 49 CFR PART 29 - Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace.
- 4) DOT Regulation 49 CFR PART 30 - Denial of Public Works Contracts to Suppliers of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Contracts to Suppliers of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors (Foreign Trade Restriction).
- 5) TITLE 49 United States Code, CHAPTER 501 - Buy American Preferences.

By: The City of Colby, Colby, Kansas

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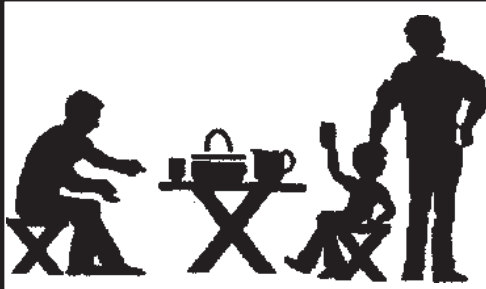
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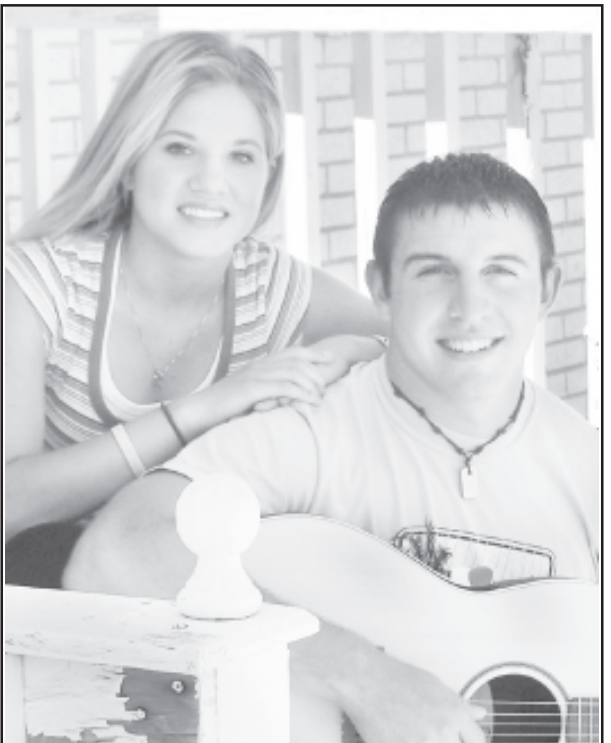
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