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Pride of the Prairie Fall Feast Features Local Foods

Summary: The University of Minnesota, Morris will host its annual Pride of the Prairie Farmers Market and Fall Feast on Tuesday, September 18. Held in conjunction with Morris’s 2012 Homecoming festivities, the events feature locally produced foods and are open to the public.

(September 13, 2012)-The Farmers Market, which will be held on the campus mall from 1-5 p.m., offers customers the chance to have a direct relationship with the farmers, growers, producers, and artisans of the items they purchase. Following the market, the Pride of the Prairie Fall Feast will be held in the Dining Hall beginning at 4:45 p.m. “Locally grown” musicians will perform throughout dinner, which features foods from the prairie and across Minnesota. The feast will allow students and community members to come together in celebration while sharing a meal with providers of the meal’s ingredients.

Created by Dining Services and Sodexo, the locally sourced menu includes carrot, snowpea, and cabbage salad, maple tarragon red beets, oven roasted garlic potatoes, basil and tomato penne, roasted top round beef with onion and mushroom sauce, lemon basil chicken breast, and U of M strawberries shortcake. Vegan and vegetarian menu options will be available.

The meal will showcase local foods by Minnesota farmers and food producers such as Bushel Boy, Dakota Growers Pasta Company, Forest Mushrooms, Kadejan Market, Pepin Heights Orchards, Pride of Main Street, Swany White Flour Mill, Thousand Hills Cattle Company, Morris Student Organic Garden, and University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center.

Events coordinated by Pride of the Prairie, one of the longest running local foods programs in Minnesota higher education, exhibit system-change efforts and capacity-building work needed for a sustainable local foods system. The initiative complements and reflects Morris’s goals of greater community partnerships and a reduced carbon footprint.

Tickets to the Pride of the Prairie Fall Feast—$12 for adults, $6 for children over five and students who live off campus—can be purchased in advance at the Student Center Information Desk or at the door. On-campus students may use their meal plans.

Dining Hall is located on East Second Street, across from the Regional Fitness Center. For more information, call 320-589-6013.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.