

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

P&R Packing, LLC.~ P&R is a year-round onion packing facility. They pack their own onions grown on property from early September to late March. From April to September they serve as a re-packer of onions for the Russet Potato Exchange. During the year they pack red, white and yellow onions for a variety of buyers including but not limited to ALDI, Sav-A-lot, Green Giant, Fresh Farm and SuperValu stores to name a few. This facility also carries the highest American Institute of Baking (AIB) rating that a business can achieve, SUPERIOR!

Hancock Agricultural Research Station~

The most common phrase heard from visitors to the Hancock Agricultural Research Station is "I didn't know that." In today's world people are so removed from the growing and processing of produce they have no idea what goes into it. After this stop, you will never look at a potato chip, grandma's cranberry bread or cheese the same again!



Russet Potato Exchange~ Russet Potato Exchange (RPE) is Wisconsin's largest fresh potato packer/ shipper and the Midwest's largest vertically integrated potato supplier. RPE has one of the most advanced potato packing operations in the nation. They serve all sectors of the potato market from restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores, to warehouse club stores by selling bulk potatoes, bag potatoes and valued added potatoes like Biggins™ Singles Easy to Steam potato line. They are one of only two potato packers in the U.S. for the Disney Garden™ produce brand. You will be amazed at how much attention they give each potato to bring you the best products from their fields to your plate.

LUNCH

Heartland Farms Inc.~ Heartland Farms is a 14,000 acre Potato and Vegetable farm in Central Wisconsin that has its roots going back to 1863. Heartland is the largest potato grower in Wisconsin as well as the largest potato supplier to Frito-Lay in the United States. Heartland Farms believes in using the latest technology (such as low pressure irrigation systems) to minimize their environmental impact.

Opening Night Reception~ Hosted at the Sleep Inn & Suites, attendees will enjoy complimentary locally produced appetizers, beer, wine and soda.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

Glacial Lake Cranberries~ A working cranberry marsh during the harvest season is truly a remarkable sight to see. Just picture ruby red cranberries floating on sapphire blue water surrounded by the brilliant colors of a Wisconsin Autumn. Your hosts at Glacial Lake Cranberries are owner Mary Brazeau

Brown and her husband Philip Brown, who will take you on an up close and personal tour of their cranberry growing operation. You won't want to miss this unique opportunity.

Wisconsin Dairy State Cheese~ Wisconsin's rich dairy heritage is on display at this family-owned and operated retail sales store and production facility. View master cheese makers from two observation windows, browse the store of over 100 varieties of Wisconsin cheeses and enjoy your favorite flavor of homemade ice cream.

LUNCH

Central Sands Dairy~ This 3,800 milking cow dairy is located in the central sands, potato growing region of Wisconsin. Central Sands Dairy partners with Wysocki Produce Farms who grows the dairy forages, corn silage and alfalfa haylage in rotation with potatoes. Wysocki Produce Farms use the nutrients from the cows' manure, after being processed through an anaerobic digester to replace much of the commercial fertilizers previously used in their crop production. Methane produced during manure processing is converted into "green" electricity. The Dairy uses about half the electricity generated and the balance is sold to the local power company. You'll be amazed at this state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly operation.

Optional Evening Excursion~ Altenburg's Country Gardens, LLC~ This optional excursion will include an evening hayride. You'll travel through a forest, pumpkin patch and corn maze. The Altenburg Family has been farming in Central Wisconsin since 1890. Today they entertain families at their strawberry and pumpkin farm. Altenburg's is also home of the Presidential Pumpkin Poll, displayed on an antique manure spreader.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2008

Gardner Cold Storage~ This facility can store over 30% of the state's cranberry crop. They receive berries for several commercial processors who package them into hundreds of private label and store brands. Gardner's also makes cranberry juice concentrate.

Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.~ Home of Craisins™ and Ocean Spray cranberry juice concentrate! This new environmentally-friendly plant in Wisconsin Rapids is going through expansion and upon completion, will be the largest production plant of cranberries in the world. To maximize their contribution to the environment, Ocean Spray fuels the entire operation with methane gas captured from the nearby Cranberry Creek landfill and piped over to the processing plant.

Prices Include:

- ◆ Breakfast Tuesday and Wednesday
- ◆ Lunch Monday and Tuesday
- ◆ Opening night reception
- ◆ Ground transportation
- ◆ Evening excursion
- ◆ Local step on guide during the entire 2 1/2 day tour

Schedule and tour stops are subject to change.

