



Glacial Ridge Winery, Inc. in Spicer Expands with Loan from the Southwest Initiative Foundation

SPICER, Minn. – Ronald and Kimberly Wothe recently received a loan from the Southwest Initiative Foundation’s (SWIF) Micro-Enterprise loan program for the expansion of their home winemaking center into a small farm winery, “Glacial Ridge Winery, Inc.” Their facility has been remodeled to serve as a winery, tasting room and gift shop.

The business will make and sell a variety of grape wines, apple wine and some seasonal specialty fruit wines, and home winemaking will continue to be a specialty service. An outdoor performance stage hosts live performers every Thursday night during the tourist months, making the winery an even more popular destination.

Glacial Ridge Winery, Inc. is located just north of Spicer on Highway 23, a well-known tourism area in the Willmar lakes region. It was formerly the Jimmy Applesed Orchard Co., with a retail apple store and pie making business. The apple orchard remains a part of the business. The winery will officially open for business on Thursday, August 16th.

Regular hours are Thursdays, noon to 8:30 p.m., and Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 6 p.m. A grand opening celebration is planned for September 21st- 23rd.

SWIF funding will be used to purchase winemaking vats and equipment, in partnership with United Prairie Bank, who provided the primary funding for the project. “We are so pleased to assist in the expansion of Glacial Ridge Winery, Inc.,” said Berny Berger, SWIF micro-enterprise program officer. “This unique business has great potential to thrive in a strong tourist area. Ron and Kimberly are well-prepared for this exciting endeavor.”

SWIF’s Micro-Enterprise Loan Program offers loans of up to \$35,000 for starting or expanding for-profit small businesses located within the 18 counties of southwest Minnesota that have a need for additional sources of funds. In addition, technical assistance is available from SWIF as needed for the length of the loan. The program receives funding assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration, as well as from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Otto Bremer Foundation.

THE SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION is a regional community foundation dedicated to advancing southwest Minnesota through leadership, relationship-building, program development and philanthropy. The Foundation has contributed over \$42 million to date through its grant and loan programs in southwest Minnesota. It has also helped over 400 businesses start or expand through its business finance programs, which has created or retained over 6,680 jobs. To learn more about the Foundation, visit www.swifoundation.org on the World Wide Web.

###