



Tidbits for Travel Writers

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Story idea:

America's breadbasket also fills its own pantry. Many of the crops grown in the Red River Valley stay right here, helping deliciously distinctive fare at area restaurants, bakeries and candy stores.

Angle: Feature a variety of local produce that is processed into local products: for example, area farmers plant more than 146,000 acres of potatoes each year, which produce about 260 100-lb. bags of spuds per acre. They are not only purchased by restaurants, but are also used to create a famous local favorite - the chocolate-covered potato chip, affectionately known as "chippers". The chips begin as Red River Valley potatoes, are processed, and then delivered to Widman's Candy Store in Grand Forks where they are dipped in chocolate. You can also get chocolate-covered, locally grown sunflower seeds and toasted soybeans. Other locally grown items that find their way to local tables include sugar, flour, wheat, flax, durum, navy beans, pinto beans, honey, chicken, buffalo, beef and lamb.

Timing: Anytime.