Discussion Questions for ***Sweet Land***—week two (8 April)

Directions: If you missed class the week before spring break, you need to get the film on your own and watch it to participate in the conversation about it and to do well on the **quiz** (50 points!) which will include the film and how it relates to the story it is based on.

Whether you missed it or not, you will need to read the story “Gravestone Made of Wheat” and the other readings under “Required Readings” related to *Sweet Land*. All of this has been on the course site for 2 weeks now, so I hope this isn’t a surprise!

The Questions: The quiz and more in-depth in-class writing will be based on the questions below AND the 8 questions already posted about the film. Be ready to write on any of them, as well as answer simple factual questions about who is who and what happened (the quiz part).

1. Consider the article “English-only measure still divides Lino Lakes,” written 5 years after the film was released, and discuss how it illuminates the film. Remember that both the writer of the story and the writer of the screenplay are native Minnesotans.

2. Once you’ve read the story the film was based on, discuss some of the changes and how they affect the meaning of the story.

3. In his essay on the origins of the film, director Ali Salem said this about its themes: “The world really is a small place and, as we move around it and commingle, we have the ability to recognize our similarities, to go *beyond* tolerance toward acceptance, to redefine communities and humanity out of new combinations of people, sounds, stories and, of course, food.” Do you think this theme also comes through in the story “Gravestones Made of Wheat”? Why or why not? Discuss both the film and the story in your answer.