ARE you a single, buff, handsome, young male farmer looking to settle down with that special someone? How’d you like about 20 young fillies hovering about and vying for your attention? And … here’s the big bonus, they’ll come to your farm.

Reality television has propelled itself to a new level with “The Farmer Wants a Wife,” which is set to film this spring and likely will air in the fall on a major network not yet disclosed. The show’s producer, Fremantle Media North America, also produces “American Idol” for Fox, which just wrapped its fifth series.

I tell ya, all this ethanol buzz has launched farming into the “cool” arena — we’re breaking into reality showbiz! The series is a cross between Nicole Richie and Paris Hilton’s show “The Simple Life,” which plunges the rich brats into rural U.S.A. to do what “commoners” do, and “The Bachelor,” which hosts attractive, yet seemingly desparate, women who compete against one another to garner the affection of some stud with a ring. According to casting manager Michelle Dinardo, “The Farmer Wants a Wife” (the current working title) seeks to match a “spirited” bachelor farmer, who doesn’t have much time to meet women, with a handful of available ladies from all walks of life who dream of living a traditional, small-town lifestyle. “We’re really looking for that ‘salt-of-the-earth,’ type of guy,” Dinardo says. “We’re looking for the most eligible bachelor farmer in town.”

Requirements
Of course, they want him young, early 20s to mid-30s. He must be hard-working, fun-loving, family oriented and live on the farm — preferably a family-owned farm. He also must be willing to step in front of the camera and open up the farm to filming.

A nationwide search for this stallion began last fall. Casting for the women hasn’t started yet, but Dinardo says they’ll be looking for attractive young dames in the same age group, probably even younger. (Go figure, I’m out.) Most likely they will be city girls who want to spend time on the farm, but have little or no exposure to farm life and its demands.

OK, before this causes a reflex in the back of your throat, there could be some value in it. While Dinardo admits it’s entertainment, she says the show will not misrepresent farm life — that is they don’t intend to put a young maiden in stilettos behind a one-horse plow. “We want to debunk stereotypes and show what it’s really like on the farm these days; how technology has been incorporated,” she says. “Nobody really wants to watch a documentary on farming, but this creates a fun way of doing that. The show is not intended to make farmers look bad; in fact, the farmer is the hero.”

My guess is, and Dinardo agrees, the chosen farmer will not be one to eagerly step forward. So, Dinardo is calling on agricultural associations, and urging neighbors, cousins, friends and others to nominate a hunky, young farmer. The search continues through January and if you know someone who fits the bill, e-mail Dinardo, at farmercasting@gmail.com or use the show’s hot line at (877)-255-8009.

One thing is certain, manure is sure to be flying this fall.