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AFIA and KSU Hold Advanced Pelleting Course

The International Grains Program, in partnership with the American Feed Industry Association, conducted an Advanced Pelleting course for industry professionals.

MANHATTAN, Kan. – The Department of Grain Science and Industry and the International Grains Program of Kansas State University, in partnership with the American Feed Industry Association conducted the AFIA-KSU Advanced Pelleting course. This three-day educational training was held at the IGP Conference Center and at the new KSU O.H. Kruse Feed Mill on Oct. 7-9, 2013.

The course focused on the important concepts needed to run an optimal and efficient pelleting system in a feed manufacturing business. The lectures covered all aspects of the pelleting process needed for participants to have an in-depth understanding. Among the topics covered were the importance of ingredients in the pelleting process, what affects pelleting operations, steam conditioning, pellet cooling and crumbling, maintenance, and evaluating pelleting production costs.

“This course was a great opportunity for the feed industry professionals to update their skills in the operation of manufacturing pelleted feeds” says Carlos Campabadal, course manager and IGP program specialist in feed manufacturing and grain storage.

Many participants enjoyed the chance to get to interact with others in the industry. Vicky Hammell, operations manager for Wallensten Feed and Supply, attended the course to gather new ideas for their mill.

“My favorite part was Fred Fairchild’s presentations on the feed mill,” Hammell says. “It was thought-provoking; he tried to get interaction from us and I found that quite interesting.”

Practical sessions took place at the O.H. Kruse Feed Mill in order for participants to fully understand issues related to running a successful pelleting operation in their mills. All key aspects in the pelleting system were demonstrated, including running a steam conditioning system, pellet cooling and crumbling, and pellet quality assessment.

One participant, Lucas Peterson, a leadership trainee for GNP Company, spends a majority of his job in the mill. The opportunity to see another mill work and run efficiently was his favorite part.

“I would love to send every one of my employees to this course,” Peterson says. “Anyone can run the automation, but it’s the troubleshooting and finding out what more can happen that really makes the difference.”

This is one example of the many partnership trainings offered through IGP. In addition to feed manufacturing and grain management, IGP offers trainings in the areas of flour milling and grain processing, and grain marketing and risk management. To learn more about IGP, visit the website at www.grains.ksu.edu/igp.

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