Moving the Mission

As 2015 closes, it is exciting to reflect on another successful year at the IGP Institute. This year we conducted 59 courses, reaching 1,435 industry professionals from 49 countries. But that is the end of my IGP message.

Now it is time for me to say goodbye and thank you. Most of you know that I have resigned and I have accepted the position as president and CEO of Farmer Direct Foods, Inc. After 12 years serving the mission of enhancing the market preference of U.S. grains and oilseeds across the globe, I am focusing on enhancing market preference for stone ground, whole grain flour closer to home.

I want to say thank you to all the grain commissioners in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, Nebraska and several other states who have supported IGP and me for several years. Thank you to Brendan Donnelly and the late Jim McKenna of the U.S. Wheat Capetown office for encouraging me to serve as the IGP milling specialist.

Thank you to past department heads Virgil Smail, Richard Hahn and Dirk Maier for challenging what we accomplish at IGP, expecting more and providing the leadership and vision to enable us to reach new heights. I want to wish Gordon Smith the best of luck continuing to lead the IGP Institute in this pursuit of excellence and expanding the impact of IGP across the globe.

Thank you to my wife Courtney and daughters, Piper and Paige for tolerating the long hours and time away as I traveled to nearly every continent serving the mission of IGP and U.S. Wheat.

Thank you to all the faculty and industry experts who have shared their knowledge and expertise as speakers at IGP courses.

And finally, a heartfelt thank you to the IGP staff that has made everything possible. My most proud accomplishment during my tenure at IGP is the building of a strong team culture. No one accomplishes what we have accomplished at IGP alone. It takes a team. A team that respects the talents each person contributes. A team that works together without concern over who gets credit. But most of all, a team that truly cares for each other like a family.

I will miss everyone, but I leave knowing that the mission of IGP is in good, capable, talented hands.

Mark Fowler
IGP Institute Associate Director

Mark Fowler

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Rave Reviews

“Every day of this course was very interesting. I will leave here with a better understanding of the milling principles and the steps that the wheat has to go through before the final flour product. I really didn’t understand how complicated the process is and how it is very much a science, but it is also an art. It was pretty impressive to watch them work.”

— Jason Scott
Vice Chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates

Trainings and Activities

Courses and activities held in December.

- USSEC China Feed Manufacturing and Animal Nutrition
- Flour Milling for Wheat Commissioners and Staff

Where in the World

A monthly look at where we’ve been as we make our way around the globe promoting U.S. commodities and IGP Institute training opportunities.

- Participated as a speaker at the annual meeting of the Asociacion Mexicana de Productores de Alimentos (AMEPA) in Queretaro, Mexico.
- Traveled to Saint Louis, Missouri to participate in a USSEC meeting.

In the Spotlight

Brian O’Toole

- Participant in the Introduction to Flour Milling for Wheat Commissioners
- Chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates and North Dakota Wheat Commissioner

“There is no better way to find out about milling than to come ask Mark Fowler. I got hands-on experience in the mill. I got hands-on experience grinding wheat. It was very educational to me.”

As part of the USSEC China Feed Manufacturing and Animal Nutrition course, participants toured the K-State Dairy Farm.

IGP Institute Associate Director and Course Manager Mark Fowler describes the process of the hammer mill to participants of the Introduction to Flour Milling for Wheat Commissioners course.