As his company transitions from manufacturing oversees to manufacturing in the United States, Christopher Berven, New Deal Deicing, has been tasked with learning about a new topic, manufacturing machinery.

“This is all new to me. I’ve seen diagrams and videos, but I haven’t dealt with these types of machines before,” said Berven.

He explains that his experience at the GEAPS/K-State Hands-On Training (HOT) course helped him understand maintenance of the screw conveyors, bucket elevators and other machines.

Berven’s company primarily manufactures and sells deicer to the airline industry, but is switching from manufacturing internationally to manufacturing locally. This means that Berven and his co-workers will be dealing with a brand-new concept.

“What stood out to me was the knowledge of the instructors. I liked hearing all of the real-life stories and how they implemented that knowledge onto the students,” says Berven.

Wishing you a happy holiday season from the faculty and staff of the IGP Institute. We had a great year in hosting 1,497 industry professionals representing 58 countries during the 82 on-site and distance trainings.

IGP Spotlight

Christopher Berven

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December Trainings and Activities

- Hosted the USDA Cochran U.S. Wheat Classification and Standards for Brazil course, Manhattan, Kansas.
- Held the GEAPS/K-State Hands-On Training (HOT), Manhattan, Kansas.
- Met with U.S. Wheat Associates Staff, Manhattan, Kansas.
- Attended Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) Training, Norton, Kansas.
- Met with Kansas Soybean Commission Board, Topeka, Kansas.
- Attended USSEC Board Meeting and International Marketing Dialogue, St. Louis, Missouri.

IGP Institute in Action

Participants of the GEAPS–KSU Hands-On Training course work on distributor maintenance in the Hal Ross Flour Mill.

Participants of the USDA Cochran U.S. Wheat Classification and Standards for Brazil course engage with an employee while visiting Cargill’s Westego grain export facility in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Technological Innovation

Thanks to our partners at the Kansas Soybean Commission, we were able to purchase new translation technology for the auditorium. In conjunction with Kansas Soybean, we’d like to extend a thank you to Cytek Media Systems for their part in installing the equipment.

In order to cater to the needs of our international participants, we offer translation of several of our courses. The new equipment will improve the communication system between the instructor and the participants.

Before the upgrade, some of the equipment was original to the building, while some hadn’t been updated since 2012. To benefit our participants, the decision was made to transition to a digital system to provide a better signal and capability.

“The new system will help our courses run smoothly and help our international participants who don’t speak English understand our instructors,” says Shawn Thiele, IGP Institute associate director and flour milling and grain processing curriculum manager. “It will benefit the IGP Institute, our partners, and the course participants greatly.”