IGP Institute Continues Mission Through the Pandemic

The IGP Institute has continued its mission to provide education and outreach to the worldwide grain industry despite the facility shutdown necessitated by the public healthcare response to COVID-19.

IGP course managers have worked with our industry partners to adjust existing schedules and plan upcoming courses during the time away from the office. Currently, we are planning to reopen for classes, while making the necessary changes to meet university and public healthcare guidelines, beginning in August. This timeline could still be altered in the event of a surge in infection rates, or changes declared by the university.

Adapting to Changes

The national shutdown has caused additional issues with scheduling and refunds for courses which were canceled or moved. Cassidy Haines, Distance Education and IGP Registration Coordinator commented, “With the rescheduling of all on-site courses taking place before fall semester starts, it has been a busy time for registration. I’ve been informing participants of new dates for courses, new hotel information, and answering any questions or concerns they may have. Many companies are unsure what travel will look like in the upcoming year, so we have been issuing full refunds to individuals who are not able to attend the courses.”

Carlos Campabadal, Shawn Thiele, and Guy Allen have held multiple meetings by phone and video conferences with partner organizations including WISHH, USSEC, Kansas Department of Agriculture, GEAPS, IAOM, US Wheat, and USGC to reschedule courses affected by the shutdown, explore alternative delivery methods using technology, and plan future events.

Note: Due to the university shutdown to help prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the IGP Institute and the Department of Grain Science and Industry are operating remotely. Please visit our website at https://www.grains.k-state.edu/igp/ for updates and additional course information.
May Trainings and Activities

- Met with US Wheat Associates to discuss fall online milling training programs
- Participated with the Virtual Kansas Wheat Tour — May 18–21
- Worked with KS Wheat Commission on local community flour donations
- Met with WISHH, USSEC and KDA to explore new courses online, either on-demand, live or a combination of both options
- Met with GEAPS, USSEC, WISHH, and USGC to continue working on adapting currently scheduled on-site courses and activities to online delivery
- Online presentation on how to store the U.S. corn crop 2019/2020 in Latin America for USGC to 300 participants in five sessions
- Interviewed by High Plains Journal
- Webinar Presentation for US Grains Council International Staff: Disruptions to the Supply Chain — its Impact on the Grains Markets
- Participated in question and answer session with USGC international staff and regional managers