

INTERNATIONAL GRAINS

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Staff represents IGP at international & national meetings

WHEAT INDUSTRY CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

Brendan Donnelly, IGP director; Mark Fowler, IGP flour miller; and Harvey Kiser, IGP agricultural economist, attended the 2004 Wheat Industry Conference and Exposition in Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 23-28. Fowler attended the U.S. Wheat and National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) meetings preceding the conference. Approximately 80 people visited the IGP booth, including long time friends of IGP and many Kansas growers.

COMMODITY CLASSIC

John Howard, IGP program administrator, and Harvey Kiser, IGP agricultural economist, represented IGP at the Commodity Classic in Las Vegas. The convention and trade show on March 1-4 was an excellent opportunity to show farmers what IGP does for them through maintaining and enhancing international market development. Another purpose of the IGP booth is to let farmers from other states know that Kansas corn and soybean farmers support IGP and it benefits farmers nationwide. Approximately 250 attendees visited the IGP booth.

CARIBBEAN MILLERS ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Caribbean Millers Association (CMA) 8th annual general meeting took place in Guadeloupe February 24 - 25. Mark Fowler, flour miller, represented the International Grains Program and updated attendees on IGP activities and the new K-State Grain Science complex. While there, Fowler heard presentations from Mick Watts, CMA vice president and Patrick Gob, president of Guadeloupe Bakers' Association.

Ambassador Patrick Antoine, External Trade Negotiator, discussed updates of the ongoing negotiation of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA), which includes the Caricom

countries. Discussions with Ambassador Antoine focused on how the FTAA will affect competition amongst Caribbean flour mills.

A number of countries were represented at the conference, as well as organizations including U.S. Wheat Associates, Canadian Wheat Board, French Wheat Board, ALIM (Latin American Millers Association) and the National Association of British and Irish Millers (NABIM). Representatives from Canada, France and the U.S. gave wheat quality and crop reports.



John Howard (right) presented Mike Sullivan (left), Vice President of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association from Wallace, Neb., with an IGP silver laser pointer/writing pen at the Commodity Classic.

IGP flour miller visits Egyptian technology center and flour mills

Mark Fowler, IGP flour miller, visited the Egypt Milling Technology Center (EMTC) in Cairo February 27-March 4. During his visit, Fowler reviewed the Center's facilities and curriculum and spoke with management about possible improvements for the school. The EMTC is managed by the Holding Company for Food Industries and contains classrooms, laboratories, a 15 ton per day pilot mill and accommodations for 44 students. The school offers courses in milling (basic, intermediate and advanced) and

in mill maintenance ranging from three weeks to five months and hosts participants from many Arab countries in addition to Egypt. EMTC is the only school to conduct milling courses in Arabic.

Working with U.S. Wheat, Fowler continued his stay in Egypt and visited four Egyptian Milling Companies that use U.S. wheat from March 6-8, 2004. These mills included Al-Safa Flour Mills, Egyptian Flour Mills, Flour Land Company and Al-Asseel Flour Mills

Company. At each mill, Fowler met with management and reviewed certain aspects of the company's milling processes.

Fowler also visited with the vice chairman of the Egyptian Millers Society, Helmy Naiel, about the current crisis facing the private sector of the Egyptian milling industry. Seven of nine milling companies in 6th of October City are completely shut down and millers are having a difficult time competing with the subsidized flour that is being sold on the black market.

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McFall visits flour mills and conducts Hard White wheat seminar in Taiwan

IGP participated in U.S. Wheat's market development activities when Kendall McFall, Department of Grain Science and Industry flour miller and instructor, traveled to Taiwan March 15-19, to provide in plant consultations to selected flour milling companies and to conduct a one day seminar for interested Taiwan millers.

"This trip was extremely important in light of the recent purchase of Hard White wheat by the Taiwanese millers," McFall said. "We were able to show our appreciation for the Taiwanese purchase of Hard White while contributing to their understanding of how to best utilize this new class of wheat."

The in plant consultations were conducted for companies who purchased the U.S. Hard White wheat: Tai I Flour Mill, Lien Hwa Flour Mill, Thai Ho Flour Mill and Uni-President Enterprises Flour Mill. McFall met with staff and management at each mill to discuss milling characteristics of Hard White wheat.

The Hard White wheat milling seminar was held at the Formosa Flour Mill in Taichung on March 17 in conjunction with CGPRDI (China Grain Products Research and Development Institute) who gave a review of Hard White quality. The seminar was attended by 60 to 70 Taiwanese millers and mill quality control people. McFall presented on Hard White Wheat Milling Characteristics, Tempering Considerations, Mill Flow Considerations, and Purification Fundamentals and participated in a question and answer session at the end of the seminar.

South African Trade Team visits IGP

A five member South African trade team traveled to Kansas March 14-18. The trade team was hosted by U.S. Wheat and Kansas Wheat Commission. One of the visitors, Peter Jackson of Tiger Foods, recently purchased more than 20,000 tons of U.S. Hard White wheat. This was the first shipment of its kind into South Africa. Jackson and the other team members traveled to western Kansas to get a first-hand look at wheat farming.

While in Manhattan, the group had dinner with John Howard, IGP program administrator; Harvey Kiser, IGP agricultural economist; and Mark Fowler, IGP flour miller. Fowler also traveled with the group to other Kansas stops including Hays, Ness City and Kansas City.