

INTERNATIONAL GRAINS

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Delegation from Iraq Grain Board visits IGP

Iraq is a grain market looking for U.S. wheat.

Steve Baccus, president of Kansas Farm Bureau, said that Iraq is "interested in purchasing all the white wheat we could raise in Kansas."

Within Iraq, the Grain Board is the only public company that purchases, prepares and processes wheat and rice for citizens.

Khaleel Assi Khadhum, director general of the Iraq Grain Board, said, "The production of American white wheat was two million (tons) last year. That quantity is considered limited as regards our needs."

Khadhum also said that 80 percent of Iraqis depend largely on bread products and,

as a result, Iraq is looking to import 3.4 million tons of wheat in 2005.

Currently, the Grain Board has signed U.S. contracts for 650,000 tons of wheat and 420,000 tons of rice.

"Perhaps, we will buy more...that depends on the quality and the price," Khadhum said.

Khadhum attended the annual Grain Purchasing Short Course at the International Grains Program Executive Conference Center April 18-29 along with five other members of the Iraq Grain Board.

"We have greatly benefited in learning about the production of U.S. crops from the field to the mill," Khadhum said.



Khaleel Assi Khadhum, director general of the Iraq Grain Board, visits with Lawrence Strouts on his farm near Wilsey, Kan.

IGP facilitates annual grain purchasing short course

Eleven participants from Iraq, Egypt, Panama, the Philippines and the U.S. attended the annual Grain Purchasing Short Course April 18-29 at the International Grains Program Executive Conference Center.

During the course, the group received instruction on subjects like the U.S. grain and marketing system, grain futures, purchasing strategies, genetically engineered crops, railroads, ocean freight financing and contracting and extrusion.

While in Manhattan, the group had the opportunity to tour the Kansas State University's grain science pilot plants and the American Institute of Baking.

Participants also visited



Estefania de Vera, the Philippines, examines products in the extrusion lab at BIVAP.

a wheat farm operated by Lawrence Strouts, Wilsey, Kan., and toured Cargill Inc.'s inland grain terminal elevator in Topeka, Kan., the Federal Grain Inspection Service Technical Center and the Kansas City Board of Trade.

"The short course was pertinent for the group to get acquainted or reacquainted with the international grain marketing system," Harvey Kiser, IGP senior agricultural economist, said.

"They had the opportunity to meet with grain industry traders to get the information they needed. I think it was an excellent opportunity for them to develop a network of persons in grain merchandising, ocean freight and commercial financing."

International Grains Program unveils BNSF display

BNSF Railway unveiled a new railroad system display April 27 at the International Grains Program Executive Conference Center.

The display features a model train that illustrates the transportation of grain from the field to the port.

The display case was designed by Cory Dehn of HTK Architects and the model railway system was built by Robert Stewart with help from Don Clagget of Don's Railroad Hobby Shop and members of the Manhattan Area Rail Joiners Club.

BNSF has 32,000 miles of track in 28 states and 2 provinces

and transports "enough wheat for bread to feed 900 million people," Matt Rose, chief executive officer of BNSF, said.

Virgil Smail, department head of



The BNSF railway display was unveiled on April 27, 2005 at the IGP Conference Center.

the Department of Grain Science and Industry at Kansas State University, said, "the strength of the American agricultural industry is not just in

acreage or modern technology... infrastructure is our strength in the world."

BNSF provided \$250,000 for the IGP Executive Conference Center.

Special short course teaches principles of wheat blending

Ten participants from Costa Rica, Mexico, El Salvador and Guatemala attended the Mexico/Central American Wheat Blending Short Course April 12-14 at the International Grains Program Executive Conference Center.

"Training mill executives on the importance of blending different wheat types to meet customer requirements adds value to all types of U.S. wheat – increasing their utilization for many different types of products," Mark Fowler, IGP flour milling specialist, said.

Fowler instructed the group on wheat types and uses, wheat needs and requirements, soft wheat versus hard wheat and conditioning and processing blended wheat.

Jose Luis Guterrez Bonilla, participant and quality manager of Grupo Altex in Mexico, said that he gained knowledge of how "to know the right way to blend with

U.S. wheat to optimize milling wheat, to know the advantage of using U.S. wheat – hard and soft."

The group also had the chance to practice milling at the grain science lab in Shellenberger Hall at Kansas State University.

Bonilla said, "Practicing milling was fun. We don't have a lot of time in the mill; we are always at our desks."

Additionally, participants had the chance to gain new knowledge about the different classes of U.S. wheat.

Evaristo Arce-Alvarez, participant and mill director of Grupo Altex, said, "It is very important that we understand new things and update our concepts to put into practice."

The IGP wheat blending short course aims to educate not only individuals, but also the companies they work for.

"Showing these mill executives the value to their company of developing a lowest-cost blend



Martin Amable, Guatemala, hones his skills in a milling lab.

using the different types of U.S. wheat adds to the marketability of all classes of wheat grown in the United States," Fowler said.

Annual short course teaches flour milling skills

Two second-generation participants, Rodolfo José and Mariana Massignan attended the annual Flour Milling Short Course.

The Massignans' father attended the same IGP flour milling course in 1984. His children, now the director and quality manager of Molino Rosso, the family's flour mill in Brazil, attended the short course at the International Grains Program Executive Conference Center June 6-17.

"My father said it was the best course he had ever taken," Rodolfo Massignan said.

"Of course we had to make it," Mariana Massignan said.

In addition to the Massignans, the course also included three participants from Indonesia, New Zealand and the Philippines and nine participants from Taiwan.

The participants from Taiwan represented eight mills, which collectively process 60 percent of the wheat imported into the country. Taiwan imported a total of 1.4 million tons of U.S. wheat in 2004.

Participants received instruction on subjects like the U.S. grain grading system, flour functionality, energy conservation, integrated pest management and explosions, venting and suppression.

"The course is dynamite – packed with a lot of information," Gerardo Magadia, plant manager of Universal Robina Corporation in the Philippines, said.

"I asked as many questions and asked for as many materials as possible because I intend to share this with our people back home."

While in Manhattan, participants had the opportunity to participate in a bakery laboratory, a physical dough testing demonstration and a flour milling laboratory at Shellenberger Hall on the campus of Kansas State University.

They also toured K-State's pilot flour and feed mills and the American Institute of Baking and attended an explosion demonstration at the Bioprocessing & Industrial Value Added Program.

"It is always enjoyable to interact with the international millers and mill managers that attend our courses," Mark Fowler, IGP flour milling specialist, said.

"They bring a variety of different experiences, and I feel that I learn just as much as they do during the time we share together."



Mariana and Roldolfo Massignan check their dough in a bakery lab at Shellenberger Hall.



Stephen McIver, New Zealand, examines a sieve tray from an old sifter during a trip to Oxford, Kan.

During the course, participants also had the opportunity to tour the Federal Grain Inspection Service Technical Center, the Kansas City Board of Trade, Kice Industries in Wichita, Kan., and Research Products in Salina, Kan., as well as a durum mill, pasta factory and wheat farm.

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YOUNG WINS AWARD

Nicole Young was named the recipient of the 2005 Anderson Award for Outstanding Leadership by the K-State Alumni Association.

Young is the former student communications specialist at the International Grains Program.

The Anderson Awards program seeks to honor outstanding seniors and their contributions to Kansas State University.

Nominations are made by students and faculty and then narrowed down to one winner in each of four areas: leadership, service, academics and inspiration.

Kris Boone, interim department head of the Department of Communications, and John Howard, director of the International Grains Program, nominated Young for the award.

Young was recognized at Senior Send-Off on May 5 at the K-State Alumni Center.

IGP visitors and trips

•The Kansas Board of Regents met at the IGP Executive Conference Center April 19.

•The Kansas Wheat Commission had the Flour Power 5k Run on April 24, using IGP as the starting point for the race.

•Mark Fowler, IGP flour milling specialist, attended the International Association of Operative Millers conference in Nashville, Tenn., April 29-May 5.

•The USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service had a Food Aid Seminar at the IGP Executive Conference Center May 5-7, with 15 participants from the U.S., Thailand, Guatemala and Haiti.

•The Wheat Council met at the IGP Executive Conference Center May 5.

•Dr. Carl Reed, IGP grain storage technologist, traveled to Morocco with the U.S. Grains Council May 15-21.

•Dr. Brendan Donnelly, IGP wheat quality specialist, traveled to Egypt with U.S. Wheat Associates May 19-27.

•Thirty farmers and wives from New Zealand toured the IGP complex June 7 as part of a tour organized by Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh.

•The Kansas Department of Commerce's Regional Director for Greater China, April Wang, and the Department's International Trade Representative, Robert Queen, visited IGP June 6 to hear briefings on IGP activities and services. The Kansas Department of Commerce is currently considering opening an office in Beijing. Accompanying them was international business man Randy Liu, Rockville, MD. His company, Laurel International, has extensive trade contacts in China.

•John Howard, IGP director, traveled to London for the International Grains Council annual conference June 11-18. The conference focused on developments in the international animal feed industry and changes in the WTO Doha negotiations relating to the grain industry. Howard also attended the annual Flour Fortification Initiative in London June 16.

•A seven-member trade team from Nigeria met with members of U.S. Wheat Associates at the IGP Executive Conference Center June 15.

•A Japanese trade team met with members of the Kansas Wheat Commission at the IGP Executive Conference Center June 24.