IGP Institute Hosts USDA Cochran Fellows from North Africa

Nine participants traveled to the IGP Institute as part of the USDA Cochran U.S. Wheat Marketing and Promotion for Morocco and Tunisia course held October 9–23. The group included government and grain industry representatives from both countries who are involved in purchasing wheat or milling wheat flour for baked products.

IGP Institute Flour Milling and Grain Processing Curriculum Manager, Shawn Thiele says the goal of the course was to introduce potential foreign buyers of U.S. wheat to the entire wheat production system in the United States from the farm to final export.

Participants began the course with classroom lectures providing an overview of wheat classifications and U.S. grain production. They learned about wheat storage, the federal grain inspection process, commodity markets, and the grain export supply chain.

They visited a Kansas farm, the Kansas Wheat Commission research greenhouse facility to learn about wheat breeding, and also toured the wheat quality testing laboratory.

Additional field trips included tours of a Hostess commercial bakery in Emporia, Kansas, Ardent’s Galena Park, Texas flour mill, a Cargill grain elevator in Salina, Kansas, and finally the Cargill export terminal in Houston, Texas to view grain being loaded on vessels before leaving the United States for overseas destinations.
October Trainings and Activities

- Conducted the USDA Cochran U.S. Wheat Promotion for Morocco and Tunisia course: 9 participants
- Conducted AFIA 500 (virtual): 14 participants
- Presented Notes and Observations in International Commodity Markets. A weekly set of headline articles of events impacting the international grain and oilseed markets; distributed to faculty, key stakeholders, and an international audience, as well as being posted on the Ag Manager website. Learn more at https://www.grains.k-state.edu/igp/on-site-training/grain-marketing/
- Recap of the Weekly U.S. Grain and Oilseed Export Shipment and Sales. A weekly set of analysis and data recapping the recent and year to date export shipment and sales. Distributed internally to IGP and to key stakeholders, and an international audience, as well as being posted on the Ag Manager website.
- KSU Agriculture Today, with Samantha Bennet – Podcast: Prepared and presented the 20 minute podcast covering: “Highlights of Issues Facing the International Grain Trade” reflected in this month’s USDA WASDE International Trade Markets Report
- Traveled to Culiacan, Mexico to work with SuKarne on technical assistance on behalf of the USGC
- Met with USDA staff to discuss technical issues on temporary storage practices
- Conducted two technical webinar on wheat fumigation on behalf of U.S. Wheat for the Southeast Asia market
- Participated in GSI Annual Evaluation Committee
- Participated as search committee member for the IGP Education Manager interviews
- Met with the U.S. Sorghum Checkoff Program for updated on a market intelligence project
- Taught a lectures for ASM 325 of NDSU in Grain Quality and Sampling
- Met with Buhler North America in Manhattan, Kansas
- Met with Amber Wave and Summit Ag, Des Moines, Iowa
- Visited Ardent Mills in Galena Park, Texas
- Visited Cargill Export Elevator, Houston, Texas
- USGC and Kansas Corn Commission Pre-2022 Export Exchange Conference Procurement, Purchasing and Supply Chain Course
- Attended the USGC 2022 Export Exchange Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Guest presenter for AGEC 520 – Market Fundamentals and Futures/Options Trading
- Presented Market Outlook and Changing Supply Chains at KSU KibbleCon event in Manhattan, Kansas
- Hosted “Dine Around” event for evening meal
- Presented “Outlook and Issues for the Course Grains Markets” for Global Agritrends online meeting