South Dakota Farmers Observe Checkoff Dollars at Work

WAKONDA, SD - Fifteen South Dakota soybean farmers recently traveled to Washington state to find out exactly where their soybeans go after harvest and how their soybean checkoff investments expand international marketing opportunities. The program gave participants the opportunity to see firsthand how their soybeans are exported, an exciting sight for South Dakota farmers since two-thirds of the state's soybean crop is exported annually.

The fourth annual See for Yourself International Marketing Program was hosted by the South Dakota Soybean Research & Promotion Council (SDSRPC). Tour stops included the Tacoma Export Marketing Company (TEMCO); an aquaculture facility at a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) site; the Port of Grays Harbor; Ag Processing Inc. (AGP); and Imperium Renewables. Inc. On these visits, farmers examined the international marketing chain and saw the importance of Washington as a port for U.S. soybean exports.

TEMCO, a 50-50 joint venture between CHS and Cargill, boasts the only 1,000-ton cantilever roof in the world. At nearly one acre in size, the roof covers ships so TEMCO can load feed grains continually, avoiding



Submitted Photo

of Grays Harbor. The port is the gateway to China for American-grown soybeans and leads the U.S. in exports of American soybean meal. This facility hosts both AGP and Imperium Renewables, Inc. AGP is the largest cooperative soybean processing company in the world with 13 storage silos on site

and the capacity to store 2.8 million bushels at a time. More than 5.5 million acres of soybeans are annually purchased and processed by AGP.

Imperium Renewables, Inc. is the nation's largest BQ-9000 certified biodiesel refinery. Its facility is capable of producing up to 100 million gallons of biodiesel per year.

"After seeing our checkoff dollars at work, I believe it is the best investment I've ever made as a farmer," said Michael Huth, Wakonda soybean farmer.

The following South Dakota farmers participated in the program: Glenn Bueber of Tripp, Kip Erickson of Platte, Tyler Fischer of Gettysburg, Richard Horton of Hurley, Michael Huth of Wakonda, Corey Johannsen of Tolstoy, Jay Johnson of Geddes, Curtis Keiser of Alcester, Nick Lorang of Mt. Vernon, Curtis Myrum of Sisseton, Tim Pazour of Pukwana, Steven Swanhorst of Northville, David Swanson of Pukwana, Jerald Zubke of Milbank, and SDSRPC farmer-leader Bob Metz of

South Dakota soybean farmers interested in seeing these locations for themselves and learning more about how their soybean checkoff are encouraged to apply for next year's See for Yourself International Marketing Program. For more information on the program, please

contact the SDSRPC office at 605-333-9942 or

visit www.sdsoybean.org.

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1325

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1333

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rain delays typical of Washington's weather.

uaculture farms and research taking place to

incorporate more soy in fish diets. Aquacul-

ture is currently one of the fastest growing

On day three, the group visited the Port

markets for U.S. soybean meal.

Sales

At NOAA, farmers learned more about aq-

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