



## Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council

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### Minnesota Benefits from \$6.6 Billion Purchase of U.S. Soybeans by China

*Minnesota Soybean Farmers Join Governor Dayton and State Agriculture Leaders in Hosting Chinese Trade Delegation*

Mankato, MN - Soybeans from Minnesota were on China's shopping list during the official state visit to the U.S. by China's president Hu Jintao this week. Coinciding with President Jintao's meetings with President Obama in Washington, D.C., a delegation consisting of representatives from China's 10 largest soybean crushers visited Minnesota Wednesday to discuss the state's largest agricultural export – soybeans.

Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner **Dave Frederickson** welcomed the delegation to St. Paul, where they met with **Governor Mark Dayton**, state legislators and leaders of farm organizations, including the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council and Minnesota Soybean Growers Association.

The Governor thanked the Chinese trade team for being the world's largest customer for U.S. soybeans. Following the Minnesota visit, the delegation went to Chicago where they signed agreements to purchase more than 423 million bushels of U.S. soybeans valued at \$6.68 billion.

Minnesota soybean farmer **Jim Call**, of Madison, traveled with the group as chairman of the United Soybean Board's International Marketing Committee. "It was very enjoyable to meet and visit with our important customers from China, and we are extremely grateful for the confidence in our soybeans that this week's purchase represents," Call said.

China imported over 825 million bushels of U.S. soybeans in the 2009-10 marketing year, valued at more than \$7 billion. Seventy million bushels came from Minnesota farms. "China is extremely important to Minnesota agriculture, especially soybean farmers. Look at a Minnesota soybean field and realize that every fourth row is purchased by China," said **Mike O'Leary**, a Dawson farmer, who chairs the International Marketing Committee for the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council.

As the largest importer of U.S. soybeans, China relies on shipments from the Gulf of Mexico via the Mississippi River and from ports in the Pacific Northwest. "Minnesota is fortunate in that we are able to supply our soybeans to China downriver to the Gulf and by rail to the Pacific Northwest," said **Joel Schreurs**, a Tyler farmer who represented the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association at the meeting with the Chinese customers.

**Kurt Krueger**, a Rothsay farmer who serves as President of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, presented gifts from soybean farmers to each of the delegates. "Meetings like this

are so important to international trade,” he said. “With 50 percent of our soybeans exported, it is crucial that farmers meet our international customers face-to-face as often as we can to build trust that we are a reliable supplier of products that meet their expectations.”

While in Minnesota, the representatives of China’s soybean industry visited CHS in Inver Grove Heights, which is the country’s third largest grain exporter, and the University of Minnesota, which has one of the nation’s largest soybean breeding and research programs.

The Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council is made up of an elected board of 15 soybean producers from across the state. The mission of the council is to invest soybean checkoff dollars in well- defined research, marketing, education and commercialization programs designed to increase demand and thereby improve the profitability of Minnesota’s soybean farmers.

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