## China seen as a growing market for U.S. grains and soybeans

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. grain sales to China this year could top 8 million metric tons, up significantly from earlier expectations and slightly above 1980, according to Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng who is heading a joint governmentindustry grain team in China.

Lyng also said longer term prospects for U.S. grain sales to China are promising.

His remarks came at a press conference following a week of meetings with leading Chinese government and industry officials.

Lyng said U.S. grain exports to China totaled about 7.8 million tons in 1960, including 6.1 million tons of wheat and 1.7 million of corn. Total U.S. agricultural exports to China more than doubled in 1980 to \$2.2 billion, which represented 50 percent of all U.S. exports to China that year.

"Another good performance is

seen for 1981," Lyng said. China's Vice Premier Yao Yılın, chairman of the State Planning Commission, told Lyng his country will continue to rely on grain imports over the next few years to allow for faster development of light industry, more efficient adjustment of agricultural production and an increased standard of living.

However, Lyng said China's imports probably will be limited to about 15 million tons over the next few years, based on his discussions with Chinese officials.

Lyng's team is in China to try to develop specific plans for expanding use of U.S. grains, improving trade servicing, and determining the likely level of Chinese purchases from the United States over the next few years.

"The Chinese have expressed great interest in improving and expanding the number of uses they

have for their grain," Lyng said. the Chinese build. The bakery, The U.S. grain industry—scheduled to open in the fall of 1981, represented on the team by E. Thurman Gaskill, chairman of the U.S. Feed Grains Council, and Harrell Ridley, vice chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc.-is responding by helping the Chinese fund more uses for noodles, flour, feed and corn. These two farmerdirected organizations work closely with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service in market development projects abroad.

The U.S. wheat industry has plans to build a pilot noodle plant and a pilot flour mill in China in an effort to promote larger sales of U.S. wheat, Lyng said. U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc., will pursue the possible construction of these new plants with the Chinese.

Lyng toured the construction site of the demonstration bakery which the U.S. wheat industry is helping

scheduled to open in the fall of 1981. will be used both for bread production and for training Chinese bakers in modern baking techniques. U.S. Wheat Associates will also open an office in Hong Kong to help expand sales to China, Lyng said.

Lyng also announced several

upcoming exchanges of policy and technical personnel between the United States and China. A high level team of Chinese policymakers will visit the United States in 1981, and up to three technical exchanges have also been set between now and early in 1982, Lyng



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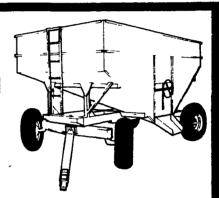
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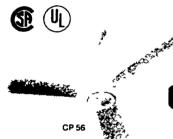
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