# Chinese grain group to discuss further U.S.-China trade

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng announced a high-level delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Cereals will visit the United States soon to continue discussions on grain trade cooperation begun when a U.S. grain team headed by Lyng visited China last month. Dates have not been set.

Lyng said the Chinese visit should provide the framework for further joint efforts that will be necessary to improve China's grain handling capacity and modernize its baking, milling, livestock and feed processing systems to boost grain use.

"Their interest in improving their grain use system is across-the-board," Lyng said. "It includes equipment, technical information and, what I think is most important, a desire to work closely with U.S. Industry and the U.S. government to achieve their goals.

"We were met with friendliness and sincere warmth at every stop and the Ministry of Cereals readily accepted our invitation for a reciprocal visit," he said. "I believe Vice Premier Yilin summed it up well when he said the USDA cooperation with the Ministry of Cereals was off to a good start and that this joint effort has his full support."

The Lyng team of government and private sector grain specialists traveled to China June 22-July 1 to assess technical needs and other needs for expansion of U.S. grain exports. En route from

China, Lyng paid courtesy calls on of grain this year, which is just about capacity for its handling returning to Washington last week.

Lyng said the China team met with Vice Premier Yao Yilin, held five sessions with the Ministry of Cereals, met with seven other government organizations, and visited storage, milling, baking, importing and retail facilities.

He said team members and their hosts identified three major constraints to expansion of China's grain imports. They are:

—port facilities and transportation capacity, which are likely to limit total grain imports from all sources to roughly 15 million tons a year.

—the state of the feed and livestock systems, which lack modern feed milling facilities and livestock production, processing and marketing expertise.

—the lack of a corn-processing industry, which limits demand for corn.

Lyng said he is recommending to Secretary Block that the problems of port and transportation facilities be addressed through the U.S.-China scientific exchange program and the U.S. Feed Grains Council and U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc.

The two grain groups are nonprofit organizations formed by U.S. producers and traders to work with USDA in foreign market development. Both were represented on the team to China, where both have technical assistance projects under way.

Lyng said China will import a total of about 14.5 to 15 million tons

of grain this year, which is just about capacity for its handling system. The U.S. will supply about 8 million tons, most of it wheat, which makes up tour-fifths or more of total Chinese grain imports.

"Long-term market expansion will depend first on increasing the capacity of Chinese port and transportation systems, and second on our ability to work with the Chinese to increase their use of wheat and feed grains," he said

Lyng said his suggestion that the programs of Wheat Associates and the Feed Grains Council in China are expanding rapidly enough to warrant the opening of offices there met a positive response from Ministry of Cereals officials.

He said there also is opportunity in the future for significant corn imports for industrial use, with the Ministry of Cereals determined to develop a corn processing industry to produce sweeteners, germ extraction and other food and industrial uses.

U.S. grain exports to China last year totaled about 7.8 million tons, including 6.1 million tons of wheat and 1.7 million of corn. Total U.S. agricultural exports to China in 1980 were \$2.2 billion, double the 1979 total.

The team was the third in six weeks sent by Secretary Block to countries with high import potential to discuss ways to expand U.S. grain exports with officials of government and the trade in host countries. The other teams visited Latin America and North Africa.

Besides Lyng, the U.S. China team members were E. Thurman Gaskill, chairman of the U.S. Feed Grains Council; Harrell Ridley, vice chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc.; Myron Laserson, Continental Grain Co., and LaVern Becker, FarMarCo, representing U.S. grain producers and exporters and USDA employees Robert Svec, David Culver and Charles Liu.

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