



Nebraska Wheat Board

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NEBRASKA WHEAT BOARD HOSTED TRIP TO PORTLAND Wheat Representatives Get Opportunity to Take a Closer Look at the Wheat Industry

The Nebraska Wheat Board hosted a wheat tour to Portland, Oregon, January 7-10, 2008. A group of fourteen including producers, grain elevator operators and other wheat industry representatives from various locations across Nebraska went on the trip. The Nebraska Wheat Board hosts the trip to give those involved in Nebraska's wheat industry an opportunity to learn about various aspects of wheat quality, wheat marketing and exporting.

When discussing the benefits of the trip, Shawn Sullivan, a Nebraska Wheat Grower Association Executive Board Member and trip participant said, "I think that anyone that is related to Ag would benefit from this trip. There is a lot that goes on farther north when preparing our grains to go to our customers overseas that the farmer doesn't realize. It was interesting to see the detailed work that has to go in. You wouldn't realize that the littlest problem that started at the farmer's field would have such an impact on the grade values even after being mixed up in many elevators before it is loaded for shipping."

On the trip, participants were able to see firsthand the logistics required to ship products during their tour of the Port of Portland. During a tour of Pasco, a company that prepares frozen bakery products and ships them to Japan, the group learned about the production of finished wheat products. The group also toured Columbia Grain International. There the group was given insight into grain specifications and inspections.



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While in Portland, the group had the opportunity to tour Shin Shin Noodle Factory. There the group learned about the role of wheat in Asian products. The participants also visited the Mandarin House where they were able to sample various Asian products and see a noodle making demonstration.

Participants spent time at the Wheat Marketing Center laboratories and saw firsthand the various tests conducted to ensure a quality wheat product. The group was taught about the impact of wheat and flour quality on finished products and the international demand for quality wheat products. The group was also educated on the foreign demand for hard white wheat products.

Participants made a stop at the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS). There they learned more about grading wheat for both visible and non-visible sprout damage, they discussed differentiating between clean and dirty wheat and they learned about FGIS grading factors, numbers and classes. Following the stop at the FGIS, the group had the opportunity to speak with John Oades, Vice President of U.S. Wheat Associates. Oades tied many of the trip's highlights together when he talked with the group about the marketing of U.S. wheat as a quality product.

The Nebraska Wheat Board is a member of the Wheat Marketing Center, an organization that helps U.S. wheat producers establish and strengthen international markets. The Wheat Marketing Center conducts seminars and workshops to show millers and bakers the various uses for the high-quality wheat produced in the United States. They also conduct quality testing for foreign buyers.



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The Nebraska Wheat Board administers the one and one quarter cent per bushel excise tax levied on wheat marketed in Nebraska. The Board invests the funds in programs of international and domestic market development and improvement, policy development, research, promotion and education.

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