

The Nebraska Wheat Board will welcome a trade mission of 15 Chinese milling executives, grain dealers and government officials to Nebraska today (Thursday).

The visit to Nebraska is part of a trade mission arranged by U.S. Wheat Associates.

Participants represent target trading, milling and handling companies within China. U.S. Wheat Associates and COFCO hope to increase participants' knowledge of the U.S. wheat marketing system from farm to export point through a general overview of the system.

The trade team will receive information on harvest quality for various wheat classes; transportation and handling from local production to sub-terminal and export facilities; wheat grading and price discovery throughout the marketing chain. Chinese representatives will have an opportunity to convey their quality interests and needs to the local and foreign grain trade.

Some mills represented in the delegation have an interest to include Hard Red Winter wheat, one of the two classes of wheat grown in Nebraska, in their wheat purchases when the value of CIF prices are competitive with domestically available wheat in China.

Royce Schaneman, executive director of the Nebraska Wheat Board, and Zoe Olson, public information officer the group, will serve as guides during their stay in Nebraska.

While in Nebraska, the team will tour the Brent Robertson Farm in Elsie, Panhandle Research Station in Scottsbluff, Cullan Seed Farm and Farmers Coop Elevator in Hemingford, ConAgra Mills and Western Heritage Museum in Omaha, and meet with Nebraska wheat producers and Union Pacific representatives.

The team will depart from Omaha on Sept. 20 on route to Portland, OR.

A detailed itinerary is available by contacting the Nebraska Wheat Board office.

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.