



U.S. COMMERCIAL SERVICE / NORTH DAKOTA HOSTS SABIT DELEGATION FROM EURASIA, SHOWCASES AREA AGRICULTURE AND BUSINESS

17-Member U.S. Commerce Department Delegation Learns Local Farming Practices

The U.S. Commercial Service / North Dakota hosted a delegation of 17 mid- to senior level professionals from 7 countries in Eurasia through the U.S. Commerce Department's SABIT (Special American Business Internship Training) Agribusiness program from March 21 to March 25. The five days spent in Fargo were the first stop after a week spent in Washington D.C. during the three week program.

The SABIT delegation included 17 agribusiness professionals from the countries of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine. The delegation ranged from government officials to owners and directors of agricultural businesses interested in both crop and livestock production.

Over two full days of site visits and another full day of brief business presentations, the SABIT delegation met with 16 local businesses, farmers, North Dakota State University researchers and agricultural associations. These meetings were facilitated by U.S. Commercial Service / North Dakota and SABIT staff. Delegates had special interests in sugar beet, soybean and grain production, no-till practices, livestock, new equipment and technologies, and local farm associations, such as the ND Farm Bureau and the RRV Sugar Beet Growers Association. The delegation was able to hear from North Dakota State University researchers specializing in topics such as soybean production, commodities trading and beef cattle production.

SABIT delegation members were very impressed with the professionalism and sophistication of the businesspeople and professionals they met. Delegates in the program will take the knowledge they gained home and implement it in their own businesses practices. Through site visits and presentations, they were able to learn about new products and technology, and now know where to find these technologies in the future.



SABIT delegation members listen intently as farmer Craig Hertsgaard explains production practices at his farm



SABIT delegation members learned about grain storage at Superior Mfg.

The Special American Business Internship Training (SABIT) program builds partnerships and provides technical assistance by training Eurasian business leaders in U.S. business practices. SABIT programs are an opportunity for Eurasian business professionals to learn about U.S. business practices at the source and from professionals in their industry. SABIT also provides unique benefits to U.S. companies who receive experience training professionals in their field, are able to showcase their facilities and products, and build valuable relationships with foreign companies. The SABIT Agribusiness program was specially designed to train Eurasian agribusiness professionals in the agricultural practices used in the United States.



NDSU Agribusiness & Applied Economics Professors Frayne Olson, Tim Petry and Department Chair William Nganje discuss commodities and the NDSU commodity trading room

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