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Mayville, ND Soybean Producer Visits Philippines & Indonesia

FARGO, ND – In an effort to learn more about international market demands for soybeans overseas, the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) sponsored Mayville, ND soybean producer Brent Kohls to travel to the Philippines and Indonesia November 28 through December 7, 2011 as part of a multiple-state U.S. soy delegation. Kohls is currently the vice president of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association.

“It’s incredible how much our world is changing, including soybean markets internationally,” said Brent Kohls. “Missions like this give us as U.S. soybean farmers an opportunity to learn about our international customers by meeting the people of the Philippines and Indonesia face-to-face. The more we learn about our customers and their future potential, the better we will be able to serve their food needs as they seek a lifestyle in which we have become accustomed to take for granted.”

While in the Philippines and Indonesia, Kohls had the opportunity to visit feed mills, an international container terminal, tofu and tempeh production warehouses, along with meeting many international soybean buyers and feed millers.

“International buyers prefer U.S. soybeans due to our quality, consistency, color, and appearance for food consumption,” explained Kohls. “In Indonesia, the population consumes our number two soybeans grown right here in the Midwest. And during our visit in the Philippines, a Filipino company purchased two vessels of U.S. soybean meal for January and February totaling nearly 90,000 metric tons. U.S. farmer-leaders and marketers have built strong relationships with Philippine Feed Buyers over time. All U.S. agricultural products are reaping the benefits as quality U.S. product is the preferred choice for international buyers. I want to thank the North Dakota Soybean Council for their sponsorship of my trip. I appreciate their continued effort and support of international soybean marketing, which is truly paying dividends to North Dakota and U.S. soybean farmers.”

North Dakota soybean farmers across the state are represented on the North Dakota Soybean Council Board, which oversees a grass roots promotion, research and marketing program funded by soybean checkoff dollars. The Council’s mission is to invest and leverage North Dakota soy checkoff resources to provide a high quality competitive product in a global marketplace. The North Dakota Soybean Council policies are established by a board consisting of eight soybean growers. The Council is organized by North Dakota State law.

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