

### **Day 1. Thursday, March 6th**

On March 6th we departed from the Bozeman Airport for Portland. We had to change planes in Seattle and from there were off to Portland. When we arrived in Portland our group visited the Wheat Marketing Center and spoke with a representative of U.S. Wheat Associates about current wheat production in the U.S. and possible areas for exports.

During our tour of the Wheat Marketing Center everyone was able to see different tests done on wheat to determine everything from protein content to gluten quality in the different wheat varieties. Some of the tests included the falling numbers test to analyze the amylase acid in wheat to determine baking quality, good baking qualities are wheat that has a falling number greater than 400. We also looked at a gas extraction machine used to analyze protein levels by extracting all gas from the wheat except hydrogen, which is correlated with protein and will in turn determine the protein content based on the amount of hydrogen left. Once we had completed the chemistry part of our tour we tested steam bread and watched the process of making noodles.

Our day was completed by touring the port facility across the river from the Wheat Marketing Center. At the facility a grain ship was being loaded and a barge was being emptied, showing us the day to day operations of the facility. Everyone was allowed to walk on the docks and examine the barge and ship up close to get a feel of how the port operated.

### **Day 2. Friday, March 7th**

On Friday we spent the day in route to Shanghai. We left the Portland Airport early in the morning to reach San Francisco by 9:15 a.m. After arriving in San Francisco we boarded our flight for Shanghai and reached China on Saturday evening.

### **Day 3. Saturday, March 8th**

This was a short day after arriving in Shanghai. We met with our tour guide Ken and he discussed with us some information about Shanghai on the way to the hotel. The rest of the evening was spent in the Hotel trying to acclimate ourselves to the smog.

### **Day 4. Sunday, March 9th**

This was our first official day in China. Our morning was free for us to do as we pleased. After eating breakfast most of the group was guided by Chengci to the Bund in downtown Shanghai. We took the morning to walk along the streets and see the shops that were open. Some of the shops included jewelry shops and a market that had some interesting local cuisine. After looking at the shops we went down to the river for a closer look and saw Pudong across the river before returning to the hotel for meetings.

At the hotel we met with Michael Lang from the U.S. Consulate, David Keifner, and a representative from CHS, Leo Liu. We discussed agriculture in China and the current conditions of the economy. The CHS representative filled us in on the current standings of CHS in China. The market in China is heavily dependent on soybeans and there is a possibility of more imports of U.S. wheat.

Following the meetings our group went and looked at local markets downtown. The markets were filled with everything that a consumer could want, ranging from meat to cereal grains. On our way back to the hotel we tried some sweet potatoes and checked out the price of real estate. An average apartment cost 700 Yuan per month (a little less than \$100 per month).

We finished the evening by eating at a local restaurant that served Sichuan food. We all found out that it was very spicy and that eel in fact does not taste too bad.

#### **Day 5. Monday, March, 10th**

We checked out of our hotel, the Galaxy and headed to the Port and Processing Facility. The facility was not yet completed but our tour showed us huge storage bins for bio-fuels and grain. It will be equipped with rail cars and other transportation methods including conveyer belts to move stored commodities around. The managers said that the final cost of the facility will be \$3,000,000.00

Before taking our bus trip to Hang Zhou we ate lunch at a restaurant on the river, tasting the local favorites. Our bus trip took about two and a half hours.

Once we arrived in Hang Zhou everyone checked in to their rooms and we went to supper. Our supper was on the West Lake at a famous local restaurant. During supper we were introduced to a couple of Chengci's friends.

The rest of the evening was spent doing what ever we wanted. Most people chose to go scout out the town and see what the night life was like.

#### **Day 6. Tuesday, March, 11th**

This was our final day in Hang Zhou. We toured the tea museum and a tea farm. The tea was not ready to be harvested. The manager said that the prime time to harvest tea would be in the first part of April. There will be about four harvests at the farm and they will employ 3,000 employees. Some of the fields were new and others were old growth of approximately 40 years. The land has been in production for over one thousand years. We wrapped up the morning by touring the tea museum and drinking tea at the local tea farm while learning about the process of making tea.

The afternoon was spent on a boat ride of the West Lake. We saw the skyline of the city and many of the Pagodas that were built in amongst the trees. The water was very clean. West Lake is circulated so it has new water in it almost every month. After our ride on the boat we headed for the train depot to travel to Beijing.

Our train accommodations were very nice. It was a modern train with all of the common amenities that one would expect. Our train ride was about 1,300 miles long and it took about 12 hours. We arrived in Beijing around 7:30 a.m.

#### **Day 7. Wednesday, March 12th**

On our first day in Beijing we were just tourists. Our group spent the day at The Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. There was a heavy police and military presence because the government was in session. We all were amazed by the number of people that tried to sell us things as we were walking. They sold all sorts of hats, books, and watches. The square was huge; our tour guide Penn said that it could hold thousands of people. The highlight of the day was our visit to The Forbidden City. As we entered we walked below the picture of Mao. The size of the city was huge, there were courts that we could tour and most of us took pictures of ourselves with Mao hats on. In the city we learned about the history and also were able to look into some of the rooms. There are over eight thousand rooms in the city. One set of rooms that we saw were filled with clocks. The highlight of the city was the imperial garden and the moat around the back of the city. It is amazing that the city was built solely by manpower.

### **Day 8. Thursday, March 13th**

Thursday was our last official day of business. The day was started out by a visit to the U.S. Embassy. At the Embassy we interacted with a panel of experts dealing with political, economic, animal, and plant topics related to China. We were given a brief overview of each personal area of expertise and then it was opened up for discussion. We all wished that we had more time to talk with them.

When we had finished at the embassy the group went to the Chinese Agriculture University. We were met by experts in the Economics and Plant breeding fields as well as students. To start things off we were given a lecture on the agriculture of China. China's government does subsidize its farmers through equipment, and crop subsidies. They also produce roughly 60 bu. of wheat per acre.

We rounded off the day at CAU by talking with plant breeders and touring their facility. We found that they were researching and breeding plants quite similar to the U.S. It was great to hear that they are interested in international studying with other universities to develop new varieties. The day was finished with a tour of the CAU museum. This museum showed the history of CAU and many of us thought that it would be a great idea if we had something like this in the College of Agriculture at Montana State.

### **Day 9. Friday, March 14th**

This was officially our last day in China. We went on a tour of the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs. It was unbelievable how high the Great Wall is. The group had its picture taken at the bottom. Many of us climbed the wall and took pictures from the top. The Ming Tombs were interesting. Only two of the tombs were open but we saw many artifacts that were unearthed. It was a great way to round out the trip.

### **Day 10. Saturday, March 15th**

We headed out for the U.S. Some people went straight from San Francisco to Bozeman. Others went to Denver and then Bozeman. Everyone made it home and it was a great trip.