



Wyss Farms Enterprises
www.wyssfarms.com

Newsletter by
Andy and Pat Wyss

WFE Travels to China—November 2007

Wyss Farms Enterprises had a very exciting 2007, highlighted by an exciting, opportunistic trip to China. On November 2, 2007, Pat, Don, Joe, and I (Andy) left O'Hare airport in Chicago with Yangling, China our destination. Our farming business had been invited to give a presentation at the 14th Annual Yangling Chinese Agricultural and High-Tech Fair, and the given topic was "operating a family farm business in the United States." Professor Penghui Dou, Ph.D., visiting Purdue University from Beijing, China, extended the official invitation to Wyss Farms Enterprises after hearing us present at Purdue last January.

What an experience! After several months of preparation, we were ready to go. After a 14-hour flight, our



WFE representatives pose with Director An Ning at Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair. *L to R: An Ning, Pat, Joe, Don, Andy Wyss*

group arrived in Yangling, and we were greeted by our gracious hosts, Zhang Xiaoming and Yanghua, acting as interpreter and guide. "Our family was well-received by all we met, and our experience was very warm and inviting," Pat expressed. The presentation

went very well, and an interview by the news media followed. In fact, the presentation at the conference was broadcast over the Internet simultaneously, giving family members at home a chance to see us in progress.

A farmer from Australia, Mark Branson, gave an interesting talk about his experience with technology, soil fertility, and plant nutrients. The other presenters were all from China, expressing an ambition by the Chinese agricultural community to improve and expand their capabilities and thus improve the quality of life for all their families involved in farming.

In conjunction with the conference, there was an agricultural exhibition and....

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Growing Season 2007

Thinking back to the spring of 2007, when the plants got their start, the weather simply cooperated with just the right amount of moisture. The soil stayed nice and loose, enabling the roots to reach deep into the soil to get moisture. As the season progressed, the plants developed a root system very ca-

pable of supplying the moisture they needed as they grew. In fact, when I pulled up some bean stalks this fall to inspect the roots, I found tap roots that had grown 12" or more! This served them well during the hot and dry days of last summer.

In the corn fields, there were

lessons to be learned. The BTRW "traited" corn was significantly better than the conventional corn, and I was pleased to have made the decision to use predominantly the seed with the new technology. I have attended meetings lately that have addressed this new type of seed corn. The growers in

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Special points of interest:

- *Members of Wyss Farms Enterprises travel to China*
- *Growing season 2007 highlighted*
- *Three new grandsons join the family*

Growing season, cont...

...the region are only allowed to plant 80% of the traited corn but are hoping that the ruling changes to at least 95% this year. It is a possibility in 2008 but is more likely in 2009.

There was a large demand for a new type of low linolenic soybean this year. This soybean produces cooking oil that is desired by restaurants now. The oil from these soybeans is low in trans fats, and therefore, much healthier for human consumption. WFE planted this new soybean with great success. The yields were average or above in all the fields where it was grown.



Our group stops for lunch at a local farming village. Volunteer university students served as our guides and interpreters.

Just in Time!

The pressure to be ready for our China trip and presentation required a very intense harvest season to assure that we would be ready on time. At one point we were using 3 semis to haul harvested corn to Central States Enterprises, covering a record number of acres with the combine in one day! With determination and the added help of a lot of seasonal labor working hard, WFE finished harvest on October 30, two days before our scheduled departure. Just in time to pack!

WFE Travels to China, cont.

...machinery show. We had a lot of fun touring the area, noting the smaller size of the tractors and combines. Most of the attention was given to implements that were similar to our U.S. heavy-duty garden tractors, most likely because the average Chinese farmer is only responsible for about half a hectare (1.2 acres) of land.

While traveling through the agricultural region surrounding the city of Yangling, we noticed a crop rotation of corn and wheat. The corn had been harvested and the wheat that was planted was at the same growing stage as our wheat at home. The crops looked good, and no available land space was wasted.

A local farmer hosted our family and accompanying guides for a delicious home-cooked lunch in the farming village. This entrepreneurial farmer owned his restaurant in addition to running his family farming business. He and his wife welcomed us on a tour of their modest and well-kept home.

Later, that same week, our

group traveled to Beijing, China to give another presentation to a group of agricultural students at the China Agricultural University. They were so interested, asking many thought provoking questions. Getting that kind of response was very rewarding and showed us their intense interest in the future of agriculture in China.

We also visited two businesses in Beijing, both involved in shipping and soybean processing. A local company, Bunge North America, opened two offices in China. We stopped by the office in Beijing to meet the staff, and they were so helpful in organizing more of our journey in this foreign land. The other office and plant we were invited to tour was the San He Hope Full Grain and Oil Group Company. This soybean processing plant operated with mostly all imported soybeans. Our meeting and later dinner with Mr. Wu Yu was very enjoyable and beneficial.

During our stay in China, we

also found time to tour historical places of interest. Very awe-inspiring was the Museum of Terra Cotta Warriors in the ancient city of Xi'an. While in Beijing, we hiked a portion of the massive expanse of the Great Wall, toured the Temple of Heaven where the emperors would pray for a good harvest, entered through the many gates of the Forbidden City, and walked the beautiful gardens of the Summer Palace. We also found some time to attend a Chinese Opera and a unique Kung Fu acrobatic show.

In retrospect, our trip to China in 2007 was originally business initiated, but more than that, it was an informative, learning experience for all of us. It was quite something to visit a country with such a rich and ancient history as China, quite a contrast to our relatively young nation. We benefited so much from our enjoyable meetings with new acquaintances in the agricultural field. More so than ever, it became apparent to me the global impact that farming has on the world.

Family News— Three New Grandsons!



Our new little grandsons, Alex, Cody, and Andrew Joseph III — Christmas 2007

Three new little grandsons joined our family this past year. Andrew Joseph Wyss III was born on August 27, 2007. Alexander Austin Persohn came into the world on September 30, 2007, and Cody Joseph Alberts made his debut on November 8, 2007.

There will be another addition

to our family next year. Our son, Joseph, proposed to Nancy Miller of Chicago, and they are to be married October 4, 2008. The two of them met while students at the University of Notre Dame. Excitement fills the air as we prepare for the next big family event.

“Looks like you have been blessed with Farmer Boys. Congratulations!”

Maury and Sharon Springer-Neighbors