

Lt. Governor Heidemann Leads Successful Trade Mission to Taiwan

(KLZA)-- Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman announced Friday that Lt. Gov. Lavon Heidemann and members of the Nebraska trade delegation to Asia signed agreements with Taiwanese grain and soybean trade officials for approximately \$400 million of Nebraska corn, soybeans and wheat to Taiwan. Lt. Gov. Heidemann is currently leading a Nebraska trade mission to Taiwan and Japan.

The letter of intent, signed by Lt. Gov. Heidemann and Agriculture Director Greg Ibach at a ceremony in Taipei, Taiwan, pledges sales valued at \$401 to \$472 million over a two-year period. Taiwanese parties to the agreement included representatives of the Taiwan Flour Mills Association, Taiwan Feed Industry Association, and the Taiwan Vegetable Oil Manufacturers Association.

While signed by industry officials and Nebraska government leaders, the agreement pledges the purchase of crops through negotiations between importers and private suppliers. The agreement is similar to agreements signed by Gov. Heineman on his 2007 trade mission and that signed by a state delegation led by Dir. Ibach in 2010. The 2007 and 2010 agreements each pledged around \$500 million in sales of Nebraska corn, soybeans and wheat. Dir. Ibach said those agreements have been fulfilled.

Taiwan is Nebraska's 13th largest export market with \$94 million in imports in 2012 but was the state's 10th largest agricultural export market that year.

The Lt. Governor and the Nebraska trade delegation will depart tomorrow for Tokyo, Japan, to participate in the annual Midwest U.S.-Japan Association Conference. This is the 12th foreign or reverse trade mission of the Governor's administration.

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