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Group works to introduce Minnesota and North Dakota Barley to Chinese maltsters and brewers

In an effort to introduce Chinese maltsters and brewers to Minnesota and North Dakota grown six-rowed malting barley, a group of experts from North Dakota State University (NDSU), industry and barley producer organizations are traveling to China to present information on malting processes at workshops titled "U.S. Barley Seminars". Presentations at these seminars, which will be held in Beijing and Shanghai, will include technical considerations and malting performance of U.S. six-rowed varieties, industry experiences with U.S. six-rowed barley and information on U.S. barley production practices. The group will also tour the Qing Dao Brewery in Qing Dao and research facilities at Jiangnan University in Wuxi.

The seminars have been organized by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and are supported by federal grant funding. Partnering with the MDA in this project are the Minnesota and Barley Research and Promotion Council, the North Dakota Barley Council, the Institute of Barley and Malt Sciences at NDSU and Jiangnan University.

In 2009 a similar group spent time with Chinese brewers who requested more technical information on U.S. malting processes. After that trip barley samples from Minnesota and North Dakota were sent to China for micro-brewing trials.