

Reflection 2: Jodi Boe

Greetings from Beijing!

After twenty-six hours of travel we have arrived in Beijing! Late on May fifteenth, our flight arrived and our journey began. On the morning of the sixteenth, we started off the day by touring the East and West campuses of China Agricultural University. Throughout the day we had the opportunity to interact and communicate with students studying at the university. Later that evening we had the chance to catch up with the delegation of students from South Dakota State University.

This morning we met up with representatives of the U.S. Grain Council and the U.S. Soybean Export Council. We gained insight on the importance of the trade relationships between China and the United States and how policy put in place directly affects both countries in a multitude of ways.

In the afternoon our group had the humbling experience of exploring the Beijing Olympic Park. We not only saw where the 2008 Olympics took place, but we got the chance to experience a variety of cultures. The cultural and communication barriers crumbled as we were asked to take pictures with people from around the world. We took so many pictures that by the time we left we felt like movie stars.

Soon after the park it was time to relax and rehydrate at "Dr. Tea's" tea house. We learned not only how to prepare tea but we also learned how to properly drink it.

We've experienced so much in the short time we have been here and we are looking forward to the rest of our journey. Tomorrow we get to tackle The Great Wall!

So far, this experience has opened my eyes to how real the demand for American agricultural products in China is. Needless to say, there are people everywhere in the capital city of the world's most populous country and each and everyone of these people need to be fed, clothed and supplied with fuel. American agriculture has a role in maintaining this and it will be our job to implement responsible policy that will benefit both countries; produce a safe, reliable food supply; and to be a leader of agricultural technology.

Sincerely,

Jodi Boe