

Country Director Expects China to Increase Soybean Imports

China Country Director Phil Laney said in an interview with Bloomberg *Businessweek* that China's import of soybeans may gain at least 6 percent next year. Laney pointed out that total imports of 1.8 billion bushels might be conservative. China's soybean imports are expected to be 1.7 billion bushels this year, according to Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) estimates. Last year, China imported 686 million bushels of U.S. soybeans. Already, with more than two months remaining in USSEC's marketing year, China has purchased nearly 800 million bushels of U.S. soybeans. USSEC has developed a strong international marketing program in China, whose population is enjoying better incomes and diets. Their diet has more meat and protein based on the raising of animals using soybeans in feed, Laney explained. Soybeans were the top U.S. export to China in 2009, with the value of shipments jumping 26 percent to \$9.21 billion, according to International Trade Commission.



The activities of the U.S. Soybean Export Council to expand international markets for U.S. soybeans and soy products are made possible by producer checkoff dollars invested by the United Soybean Board and various State Soybean Councils, support from cooperating industry, and through the American Soybean Association's investment of cost-share funding provided by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.