

14th U.S.-Japan Partnership Program Big Success in Japan

A team of U.S. farmers and soybean industry leaders traveled to Japan for the 14th U.S.-Japan Partnership Program, an event that has become valuable in the effort to export more U.S. soybeans to Japan. Participants from the U. S. including USB Chairman Phil Bradshaw, ASA President Rob Joslin, ASA Vice President Randy Mann, USB Director Jim Legvold and USSEC Marketing Manager Christina Kollmeyer. The team was accompanied by JOPA Managing Director Komura, JOFIEA Secretary General Aramoto, Japan Country Director Brabant and Technical Feed Consultant Maekawa. The team visited J-Oil Mills Kobe Crushing Plant (largest in Japan), Japan's ancient capital Kyoto, and participated in the 14th Round Table Meeting in Tokyo to meet with Japan's top crushing industry and soybean traders as well as better understand customers needs in Japan.

As part of the Round Table, USB Director Legvold shared the latest new crop production situation; ASA Vice President Mann offered a global soybean supply and demand situation overview, and USSEC Marketing Manager Kollmeyer outlined the new USSEC. JOPA Secretary General Obara provided an in-depth presentation on the current market situation for vegetable oil and meal in Japan, emphasizing current adverse market conditions for Japanese crushers with a declining soybean crush due to weak oil demand while meal demand remains stable. The meeting was a large success with an excellent exchange of information, concerns, and possible areas of continued as well as future cooperation to strengthen the long and important U. S. and Japan partnership built on more than a half century of working together. The U. S. continues to be the number one soybean supplier for Japan, which is the 3rd largest market for U.S. soybean growers.



J-Oil Mills Kobe Plant visit



Round Table Meeting at Keidanren Kaikan



USB Chairman Phil Bradshaw talks with Mr. Akio Bannai, Executive Director, J-Oil Mills, Inc.



From left to right, Mr. Rob Joslin, ASA President, Mr. LaVerne Brabant, ASA-IM Japan Country Director, Mr. Randy Mann, ASA Vice President, Mr. Nobuhiko Tomishima, Vice President of JOFIEA