



The Optimist Club of Treynor, IA
 Iowa District, Zone 3, Club Number 40-109
 Iowa District Governor: Dave Mason
 International Pres: Jean Claude "J.C." St-Onge

NEWSLETTER

www.treynoroptimist.org

Treynor Optimist Club President:
 Bill Vorthmann



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Iowa Opportunities in China



Josh Lammert, a member of I-LEAD, spoke to the Treynor Optimist Club on March 15, 2014. I-LEAD is a two year leadership development program sponsored by the Iowa Corn Growers Association.

Josh and the other members of I-LEAD took a trip to China to promote Iowa grain and meat exports. The US Grains Council set up the meetings in China and the US Meat Export Federation set up tours. The trip was December 8-18 2013.

Josh said that China gets a lot of media attention for Iowa corn exports, but they only buy 13% of Iowa corn exports. Japan buys 37% of the corn exported from Iowa.

One of the problems in selling beef and pork to China is that the people there eat mostly fresh meat. Most people do not have freezers or refrigerators. Our meat has to be frozen to ship that far.

Even though China is highly populated, 49% of the people live in rural areas. They typically farm 1-5 acres. Their grain volume is about 60% of U.S. yields. The rural income is less than \$100/month in U.S. currency. The Government owns the farm land and gives farmers a 30 year lease. The older generation remains on the farms and the younger generation is migrating to urban areas.

Josh said that China uses few large trucks, so most grain is transported by motorized bicycles. Since grain production is in the Northern part of the country and is utilized in the Southern part, it is cheaper and

Calendar

Mar 26 – Can kennel sorting for JOOI, 3:30 p.m.

Birthdays

Mar 2 – Ward Chambers

Mar 11 – Kenneth Graham (recognized)

Mar 20 – Jon Jacobsen

Speakers

Mar 22 –

Anniversaries

Mar 8 – Keith & Georgia Denton (recognized)

Prayers

Mar 22 – Dennis White

Mar 29 – Judy Gutttau

Apr 5 – Gary Funkhouser

faster to import grain than to use domestic grain. For example, buying grain from China producers takes about two months longer for delivery than importing it from the United States, due to their inefficient transportation system. Even imported grain is unloaded from barges, bagged, moved to the final destination, unbagged and pelleted, the rebagged for sale.

The delegation also went to China to promote Iowa beef. Currently China does not import beef. Instead, Hong Kong, a China protectorate, imports beef, some of which ends up on the black market in China.

Josh said that they were promoting Iowa grain and beef products, instead of U.S. products. It is termed the Iowa Advantage, providing consistent and safe products.

More information about their China trip is available at: <http://www.iowacornstalk.com/2013/12>

Meeting Minutes

Bill Vorthmann opened the meeting on March 15 and Bob Abbott gave the opening prayer. Gary Funkhouser, Keith Denton, and Bill Vorthmann contributed jokes.

Seven people contributed to the Youth Fund in recognition of the Boys Basketball team getting third place at State. Chuck Nielsen also contributed in recognition of Iowa State University men's basketball win.

Gary Funkhouser and Bill Vorthmann helped the JOOI club with the can kennel. They had 16½ bags of cans and 9½ bags of plastic. The JOOI club will have their district meeting next Saturday and Sunday in Des Moines.

The Pops Concert was postponed because of the State basketball tournament. It will be Monday, March 17, with a meal sponsored by the Music Boosters. The dinner will be 5:30-6:45 p.m. and cost \$8. There is also a blood drive at the school Monday 8:00-2:00 and the Quiz Bowl will be this week.

Josh Lammert, the club speaker this week, won the 50/50 drawing. Tim Greiner won the attendance drawing, but did not collect. There were 16 members and 2 guests at the meeting.

Apr 12 – Ken Graham

Apr 19 – Gary Gutttau

Apr 26 – Dale Willenborg

May 3 – Mick Gutttau

May 10 – Dee Gutttau

May 17 – Richard Vorthmann

May 24 – Chuck Nielson

May 31 –

Jun 7 – Dee Gutttau

Jun 14 – Ken Graham

Jun 21 – Dennis White

Jun 28 – Dale Willenborg

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If a turtle doesn't have a shell is he homeless or naked?

If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him he has a right to remain silent?

What was the best thing before sliced bread?