

Learning how it is done in America

Written by Chris Lee



Five Indonesians were visitors of the Holyoke area last week while looking at different agricultural operations throughout the United States.

The Indonesian government has been developing its warehouse receipt system for three years, according to Mochammad Aswad Bandie, a representative of World Bank in Indonesia. Bandie traveled with the other four who represented the department of trade.

Their objective while in the United States is to learn how grain elevators and warehouses are run and try in order to implement the techniques in Indonesia.

Warehouse receipts were the main thing the group was learning about. Ned Bergman of the USDA in Kansas City said the focus was to teach them how the United States stores grain and issues receipts. He said it is a system the Indonesians would like to get implemented.

After a 23-hour total flight, the group arrived in Denver on Tuesday, Aug. 18. They then traveled to Holyoke to spend three days in the area learning about commodities trading and grain elevators.

Members of Jack's Bean Co. took the group to an area restaurant on their first night, where they had steaks and rocky mountain oysters. Henry Moore of Jack's Bean said they didn't tell them what they were eating until everything had been eaten.

While at Jack's Bean they were able to climb on the grain bins and tour the mill and operation along with learning the receipt system.

Bergman said the main crop in Indonesia is rice. They also raise some corn. The group was surprised to see the fields of corn, beans and wheat stubble here.

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Bandie noticed the big difference in size of the farms here in the United States. He said in Indonesia you see small farms of about two acres with a bunch of people working on them. He mentioned you don't see people on the farms here in the U.S.—just the land.

“They asked where all the people were,” Moore said.

They were also scheduled to visit Grainland Cooperative in Holyoke before heading back to Denver.

The group's next stop was Kansas City, Mo. before a six-hour drive north to Marcus, Iowa to spend time with the Sand Seed Company. After three days in Iowa the trip will wrap up in Kansas City, Mo. before heading back to Jakarta, Indonesia on Friday, Aug. 28.

The trip was paid for by the Indonesia state budget while World Bank paid for one participant, according to Bandie.

Along with Bandie were Durdja, Dharmayugo Hermansyah, Tomi Setiawan and Dorojatun Mayunirmala.