



## Connecting the World's Best Specialty Grains Producers with the World's Best Customers

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# 2009 Midwest Specialty Grains Conference and Trade Show

## MSA's International Specialty Grains Conference Highlights

### Midwest Region Leadership in Supplying Quality IP Grain to World Markets

The sixth annual, 2009 Midwest Specialty Grains Conference and Trade Show will be held September 1-3, 2009 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota at the Sioux Falls Sheraton and Sioux Falls Convention Center. Hosted by the Midwest Shippers' Association (MSA), the Specialty Grain Conference and Trade Show brings together all facets of the identity preserved (IP) specialty grain industry at an international buyer/seller oriented trade show.

Foreign trade delegations and buyers attend each year, to meet with producers, processors and export traders of high quality specialty grains. Asian soy foods industry representatives often participate, arranged in partnership with groups like the American Soybean Association, U.S. Soybean Export Council. International visitors can combine the trade show with grain industry tours arranged in partnership with ASA, USSEC, U.S. Grains Council, U.S. Wheat Associates, and other trade promotion organizations. Foreign trade delegations are provided complimentary conference registration by the Midwest Shippers Association.

The 2008 conference drew a strong successful turnout of specialty grains producers, processors, suppliers, as well as national and international grain buyers and traders from Japan, China, Argentina and other countries. The conference has averaged around 250 to 300 attendees and participants from 10 to 15 countries and more than 20 states.

The specialty grains industry includes a wide range of food and feed grains that yield premium pricing, and require special handling and "identity preservation" to the end market. Examples include: non-GMO crops; food grade soybeans for tofu, natto, miso and soy milk; new "soft IP" low linolenic and high oleic soybeans; food grade blue corn and white corn; non-GMO corn and DDGs for feed uses; IP wheat varieties; peas, lentils and pulse crops; dry edible beans; organic crops; flax; and special varieties of traditional crops for domestic and international food suppliers.

"The identity preserved, specialty grain industry will be a cornerstone of agriculture in the future," said Bruce Abbe, executive director of the Midwest Shippers' Association. "It's not just the ever-growing export markets we see for special food grade grains, and ever-growing domestic demand for organic crops. There are a wide range of new, special trait bio-crops tailored for health benefits now in the pipeline that will require some level of identity preservation, special handling and will likely be grown under premium contract supply systems.

"Consumers worldwide are showing their preference for quality food. This is an event that lets you rub shoulders and do business with the leaders in the field."

People who should attend include: processors, traders and international buyers of specialty grains; seed companies and other suppliers; farmers interested in growing high-value specialty grains; certification agencies; shipping and logistics service companies; grain marketing services; railroad, trucking and ocean carrier freight companies; farm and commodity organizations; state and federal food and agriculture agencies.

**The main trade show and conference is planned for September 1-2 at the Sioux Falls Sheraton Hotel and Sioux Falls Convention Center in Sioux Falls, S.D. USA. Preliminary plans also include an optional IP specialty grains operation tour**

**to be offered on September 3, and a special tour of research field operations for visiting foreign delegations arriving in Minneapolis and traveling to Sioux Falls on August 31.**

Sioux Falls is a growing regional center for agriculture and the grain industry serving a multi-state area in the U.S. The Sioux Falls Sheraton Hotel and the adjacent Sioux Falls Convention Center together provide one of the best conference meeting sites in the region. Sioux Falls regional airport is served by Northwest, Delta, United and other airlines, with connections for international flights through Minneapolis, Chicago, Denver and other major U.S. cities.

Companies and individuals interested in attending, exhibiting, and sponsoring the 2009 conference and trade show can go to [www.grainconference.com](http://www.grainconference.com) to follow details about the event.

The Midwest Shippers' Association is a regional non-profit trade association serving the specialty grain and ag shipping industry in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin.

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