

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105

December 12, 2008

OKLAHOMA TRADE MISSION RETURNS FROM CUBA

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Oklahoma City—An Oklahoma agricultural trade team led by State Secretary of Agriculture, Terry Peach, returned from Cuba this week saying negotiations have begun for future wheat sales as well as other commodities.

“In addition to wheat, the Cubans wanted to explore possible sales of forest products and dairy cattle,” Peach said. “There are some logistical areas that need to be worked out but we’re confident that we will make a delivery of wheat sometime in the coming months.”

A sale to Cuba would involve about one million bushels of wheat.

Accompanying the agriculture secretary, trade team members included Mark Hodges, Oklahoma Wheat Commission Executive Director, Keith Kisling, Thomas McCreight, Robert McClendon, Joe Neal Hampton, Rep. Don Armes, Sen. Charles Wyrick and Kent Prickett.

Peach said the group was impressed with improvements the Cubans have made in terms of electrical power and mass transit since last visiting in 2006.

“The changes we saw were significant and positive,” he said. “After they had been hit by two major hurricanes earlier this year we weren’t sure what conditions we would find.”

He also said that Cuban officials believe trade between the U.S. and their country will become much easier after President Elect Obama takes office.

“Opening trade with Cuba would be extremely beneficial to all of Oklahoma agriculture,” Peach said. “They’re practically next door neighbors.”

A televised news feature of the trip will air on Oklahoma Horizon (OETA) on Sunday, December 21st at 3 p.m. Oklahoma Horizons will air the program many times during that week. A complete television schedule for the program is located at www.okhorizon.com.

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