



## Ensuring Continued U.S. Soybean Exports to China

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), working closely with federal agencies that facilitate grain exports and affected grain industry stakeholder groups, has developed a comprehensive and practical plan for reducing the presence of weed seeds of quarantine concern to China in U.S. soybean shipments. The plan is a systems approach that includes a number of measures to be applied across the soybean supply chain and in China to effectively reduce plant pest risk.

### Implementing the Systems Approach

Participants across the U.S. grain supply chain and in China will be responsible for implementing the systems approach, beginning January 1, 2018.



#### On Farm

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), working with federal, state, and university experts, will develop specific recommendations based on weed seed control best practices. The recommendations will include production and harvesting measures designed to reduce weed seed contamination at the farm level. APHIS will provide these recommendations to U.S. soybean producers before the 2018 growing season begins.



#### At Export

USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) will sample China-bound soybean shipments and analyze foreign material to monitor for weed seeds in U.S. bulk and container shipments. When FGIS determines that a consignment exceeds 1 percent foreign material, APHIS will include an additional declaration on the phytosanitary certificate that says: "This consignment exceeds 1 percent foreign material." This action will allow all U.S. soybean exports to China to continue without interruption until the United States is able to fully implement the other parts of the systems approach during the 2018 crop year.



#### In China

China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) has agreed to expedite agricultural clearance of shipments with 1 percent or less foreign material. They will determine whether any phytosanitary measures including inspection, cleaning, treatment or other protective actions may be appropriate to mitigate pest risk in shipments with more than 1 percent foreign material. AQSIQ will not hold or unnecessarily delay incoming shipments based solely on the volume of foreign material.

USDA and AQSIQ will evaluate the effectiveness of the systems approach in December 2019, with a mid-point assessment in December 2018.

### Getting the Word Out

USDA will work with federal and state agencies that facilitate U.S. grain exports, Extension, and affected industry stakeholder groups to create broad awareness about the systems approach. Interested stakeholders may also subscribe to APHIS' Stakeholder Registry for the latest updates.