Prior to 2013, China was not an importer of U.S. sorghum. However, due to Council sponsored technical and trade promotion programs over the years, China began to import U.S. sorghum in 2013 and quickly grew into the number one export destination for U.S. sorghum.

Since 2013, China has imported 41.2 MMT of U.S. sorghum. This accounts for 80% of all U.S. sorghum exports during that timeframe.

Due to China’s tariff rate quota (TRQ) limitations on corn imports, the private sector will buy U.S. sorghum as there is no TRQ on sorghum. Sometimes this leads to China paying a premium for U.S. sorghum.
STRENGTHS
China is a top importer of U.S. corn and sorghum. These products help supply the world’s largest swine, aquaculture and egg industries. China also has the second largest poultry industry and growing dairy and beef operations.

CHALLENGES
China is looking for reliable and stable grain and oilseed suppliers, and U.S. sorghum, along with corn, will have to continue to work with private and state trading entities in China to remain viable.

OPPORTUNITIES
China was once again the largest importer of U.S. coarse grains (corn and sorghum) in MY 2020/2021. China will continue to be a leading buyer of all major U.S. commodities.

KEY NUMBERS
- GIAF: 16,758,321 MT
- Corn: 9,038,561 MT
- Sorghum: 4,806,893 MT
- Ethanol: 72,258 GALLONS

Source: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service’s Global Agriculture Trade System report for marketing year Sept. 1, 2021, to Aug. 31, 2022, as of April 2022. Grains in all forms (GIAF) converts volumes of exported U.S. corn, sorghum, barley, DDGS, corn gluten feed/meal (CGFM), ethanol and meat products into corn equivalents.