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FAPC-OSU faculty member plans travel to Tajikistan with Farmer-to-Farmer program

(Stillwater, Okla. – June 15, 2011) An Oklahoma State University's Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center faculty member will travel to Central Asia to participate in a volunteer assignment with the Farmer-to-Farmer program.

Dr. Tim Bowser, FAPC food process engineer and OSU biosystems and agricultural engineering associate professor, will travel to Tajikistan in July to provide assistance to residents of the country.

"I look forward helping to improve lives of farmers and agribusinesses in Tajikistan," Bowser said. "An opportunity such as this is second to none."

During the international assignment, Bowser will provide support to Oila Company, a small food processor located in the village of Dendiston in the Khatlon region of Tajikistan. Oila primarily cans fruit and vegetable products including jams, pickles and juices for sale locally and is the only processor in the region.

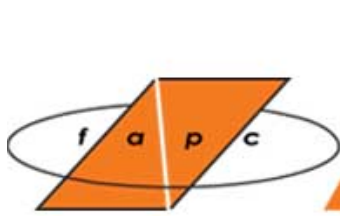
"My goal is to use knowledge gained through my profession and industry experience in the United States and introduce successful practices to residents of Tajikistan," he said.

Through an application process, Bowser was selected to participate in the Farmer-to-Farmer program by CNFA, a private, not-for-profit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C.

"CNFA's long-term projects seek to develop private farmer associations, cooperatives, private agribusiness, women's groups and other organizations that help farmer and agribusinesses increase their incomes and well-being," Bowser said. "CNFA employs a value chain approach to agricultural development, seeking to strengthen all links in the market chain, from input supply and production to post-harvest handling and value addition to marketing and sales."

Bowser will join a list of more than 1,300 volunteers in CNFA's Farmer-to-Farmer program since 1993. Funding for Bowser's assignment will be provided by the United States Agency for International Development.

Interested in volunteering or knowing more about CNFA's Farmer-to-Farmer program? Visit www.cnfa.org, email farmertofarmer@cnfa.org or call 1-888-872-2631.



Robert M. Kerr
Food & Agricultural Products Center

NEWS RELEASE

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