The USDA is asking CCAs to help U.S. growers reduce weed seeds in U.S. soybean exports and comply with China’s import requirements. This is necessary to maintain the uninterrupted flow of U.S. soybeans to China—a $12 billion export market.

“To protect and grow this vital market—not only in China, but around the world—we need everyone along the supply chain to take action and adopt specific best practices—or what we call a systems approach. That’s why we’re asking Certified Crop Advisers to help producers strengthen their integrated weed management programs based on the recommended best practices outlined in the systems approach” says Osama El-Lissy, Deputy Administrator for USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

The systems approach (www.aphis.usda.gov/soybean-systems-approach) is a series of farm-to-export best practices for reducing foreign material, including weed seeds in soybean exports to China. This is necessary to maintain the uninterrupted flow of U.S. soybeans to China—a $12 billion export market.

For more information, go to www.aphis.usda.gov/soybean-systems-approach

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seeds, in soybeans. APHIS worked with U.S. industry
groups, other USDA agencies, and academia to develop
the systems approach.

"With the planting season underway, we are focused
first on getting information to growers," El-Lissy says.
"U.S. producers are some of the best in the world. But we
still need to make sure they have all the tools they need to
effectively control weeds during the growing season and
minimize weed seeds in harvested soybeans."

The key takeaway for producers and their advisers is
to design short- and long-term weed management plans
tailored to their region and the types of weeds present
in their area. APHIS also recommends using a mix of
chemical, mechanical, and cultural controls and regularly
varying weed management practices. This will not only
help eliminate weeds, but also minimize the development
of herbicide resistance and discourage buildup of any one
weed type.

"Soybeans are critical to the U.S. economy, and by
working together to systematically reduce weed seeds in
U.S. soybeans, we will ensure we remain competitive in
the global marketplace," El-Lissy says.

For more information on the systems approach and to
download a copy of the on-farm checklist of recommend-
ed weed management practices, go to www.aphis.usda.
gov/soybean-systems-approach.

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**The Systems Approach for U.S. Soybean Exports**

Participants from farm to export can help reduce weed seed content and maintain and enhance the value of U.S. soybeans.

**On the Farm:** Producers who may be experiencing difficulty controlling weeds or who wish to strengthen their integrated weed management program may want to work with Extension or their local Certified Crop Adviser to develop a tailored approach based on the recommendations below.

**At Grain Elevators:** Grain elevator operators may implement certain practices to lower weed seed and foreign material content during storage, transportation, and at the point of export based on the recommendations below.

**At Export:** USDA is working closely with China’s General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) to ensure uninterrupted trade in U.S. soybeans.

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For more information, go to www.aphis.usda.gov/soybean-systems-approach