

# Governor's Trade Mission Underway



## *Hugo Well-Represented*

***By Deb Barnes***

Governor Tim Pawlenty and over 100 Minnesotans are in China this week to promote trade relations with Minnesota.

Did you know that the soybean originally came from China? Written records from almost 3,000 B.C. indicate it was already cultivated for its medicinal properties. The Chinese invented pasta, too.

The Chinese people are enjoying Minnesota products these days, as well. General Mills has developed seaweed-flavored Bugles® – that crunchy snack kids love to eat off their fingers – for distribution in China. Pillsbury's Häagen-Dazs® ice cream, SPAM by Hormel, and ConAgra's ActII® microwave popcorn are all making inroads in Chinese markets.

Three members of Governor Pawlenty's November 2005 trade mission to China are well-connected to Hugo.

John Schwieters and Joel Schwieters, Hugo business owners, and Ann Miron, FFA President at Forest Lake High School, are accompanying the governor on the trip. They left with the delegation on Friday, November 11 and will return Saturday, November 19.

The delegation includes more than 36 people in the food and agricultural-related business sector. The Schwieters brothers, already world travelers, will help represent Minnesota's manufacturing and building trades.

As part of the trade mission program, a web site has been developed. One segment is specifically designed for students. Facts about China, Minnesota's business ventures there, and related articles and web sites are presented in an easy-to-use format. Check out [www.minnesota-china.com](http://www.minnesota-china.com) and click on the "Education Initiative" button.