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U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency St Paul Regional Office Hosts U.S. Department of State's Professional Fellow from Azerbaijan

SAINT PAUL, Minn., May 6, 2014 – The USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) will host an emerging leader from Azerbaijan participating in the U.S. Department of State's [Professional Fellows Program](#), a two-way exchange embracing the power of individuals to find solutions to common challenges. In total, 200 leaders from more than 45 countries and territories will participate in the Professional Fellows Program, featuring a short-term assignment with U.S. organizations. During this one-month assignment with RMA, the participant will learn first-hand how issues in crop insurance are addressed in the United States. Duane Voy, Director of the RMA St Paul Regional Office will introduce an overview of USDA and the federal crop insurance program. He will include stakeholders and explain the role and interaction that makes the U.S. crop insurance program so successful. "This is a great opportunity for USDA to collaborate and assist another government in agricultural risk management," said Voy.

As the concluding piece of their fellowships, all 200 participants will travel to Washington, D.C., where they will take part in the Professional Fellows Congress, providing an opportunity for the Fellows to share best practices and gain key insights into effective leadership models in their respective fields. Among other activities, the Congress includes professional development seminars, post-exchange planning workshops, an Ambassadorial luncheon, and a poster showcase of the participants' work.

The U.S. Department of State [Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#) works to build relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships. Since 2010, more than 1,500 foreign fellows, including legislators, journalists, entrepreneurs, NGO managers, community activists, and government officials will come to the United States under the Professional Fellows Program. In return, more than 900 American participants have hosted fellows in the U.S. and have taken part in reciprocal fellowship programs overseas. For questions about the Professional Fellows Program, contact the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at eca-press@state.gov.

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