

CHRISTIE & CO

FROM DREAM TO MAINSTREAM

PRESS RELEASE

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Columbia Grain™

CULTIVATING GROWTH™

Columbia Grain International Cultivates High Quality, Safe Ingredients to Nourish Everyone, from People to Pets

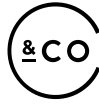
CGI donates \$25,000 to the DCM Research Fund Campaign to explore the efficacy of grain-free pet foods.

Portland, OR (July 2020) — For over 42 years, [Columbia Grain International](#) (CGI) has been cultivating ethical plant-based ingredients, supporting consumers that desire a nutritious diet for themselves as well as their pets. As one of the largest producers and exporters of pulses in the United States, CGI has invested in eight processing facilities in which pulse crops are cleaned, bagged, and distributed worldwide. Moreover, they operate an integrated system of assets and joint ventures from processing plants to grain elevators, agronomy centers, to barge loading facilities, and execute sales through high capacity export terminals in conjunction with one of their Joint Venture companies. CGI is focused on bringing clean, safe, plant-based, protein-packed pulses from U.S. farmers to manufacturers and consumers around the globe from people to pets.



Lately, the FDA has made it difficult for pet owners to share the health values of pulses with their pets without concerns brought about by the FDA's unsubstantiated claims that they may be harming their furry friends. In 2018, the FDA announced that it had begun investigating potential links between canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in dogs eating certain pet foods, including many labeled as "grain-free," which contained a high proportion of peas, lentils, and other pulses. However, the FDA based their actions on a very small sample of dogs with unsubstantiated scientific evidence. This bad press has negatively impacted the grain-free pet food industry, as well as the pulse farmers and trade. During this time, the North American pulse industry estimates a loss of 250,000 metric tons of sales to the pet food industry.

BSM Partners, a leading U.S. company in companion animal consulting and research, with a stable of veterinarians with expertise in clinical nutrition, cardiology, food safety, veterinary medicine, and research design, examined the results of more than 150 studies related to DCM and companion animals. They have published their findings, which did not support a link between grain-free and legume-rich diets, and DCM in dogs. They say their review also points out significant gaps in the literature available, which offers opportunities for further research.



CGI is supporting its pulse growers and industry partners through their donation to the DCM Research Fund Campaign, aimed at uncovering the causes of DCM in dogs. They will join the coalition of North American pulse industry organizations spearheading this fundraising effort to raise \$1 million to support pet food research.

This fund will enable BSM Partners to tackle three studies. BSM will also perform a comparison of grain-free (including pulse crops) and grain-inclusive diets on cardiac function and health of dogs. They will examine the influence of litter size on the risk of cardiac disease later in life. Lastly, they will explore the role that diet history and plasma amino acid concentrations play in the cardiac health of various breeds, including Golden Retrievers, a dog breed predisposed to DCM.

“We are honored to help fund this critical research effort to advance the understanding of what causes DCM in dogs to ensure all get the benefits provided by pulses, from people to pet, to our producers,” said President and CEO of Columbia Grain International, Jeff VanPevenage.

BSM has asked growers, processors, and industry partners in North America to join in supporting their efforts and provide funding for this critical research project. Visit www.usapulses.org/dcmresearch for more information or to donate.

About Columbia Grain International

Since 1978, Columbia Grain International™ (CGI) has been Cultivating Growth™ as a global leader in the origination, processing, logistics, and distribution of high-quality bulk grains, pulses, edible beans, oilseeds and organics for U.S. domestic and worldwide export markets. Headquartered in Portland, OR, CGI’s reliable supply chain spans the western region of the US, ensuring abundant ingredients for all its partners, thanks to their trusted relationships with their farmers throughout the fertile croplands of Washington, Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota, well known for its high-quality wheat, feed grains, canola, and pulses. CGI is an owner of Montana Specialty Mills, who operates an organic and non-GMO oilseed crushing facility in Great Falls, Montana, a mustard seed facility in Conrad, Montana, and most recently Montana Craft Malt — providing specialty malt barley from Montana farmers to the craft brewing world. Today, they are vertically integrated, operating assets including grain elevators, processing plants, and agronomy centers to support their farmers, which stretch the northern tier of the United States. With multiple touchpoints across the food supply chain, CGI provides trusted solutions and cultivates high-quality ingredients from their local farmers for a farm to table philosophy that nourishes the world, safely.

For more information, visit [Columbia Grain International](http://ColumbiaGrainInternational.com) online, For media inquiries, contact Christina Madrid at Christie & Co, www.christieand.co, by phone (805) 576-7102 and/or email christina@christieand.co.

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