

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Columbia Grain™

CULTIVATING GROWTH™

Laying the Foundation for a Healthier Tomorrow, Columbia Grain International is Bringing its Protein-Packed Balanced Bushel Line of Pulses to Montana's Local School District

CGI and North Star Elementary School are working together to offer healthy plant-based nutrition to Montana's students in celebration of World Pulses Day.

GILDFORD, MT (FEBRUARY 2023) — With domestic food insecurity and inflation levels on the rise, American families need more access to affordable sources of nutritious foods, mainly plant-based protein. On the heels of World Pulses Day on February 10th, 2023, [Columbia Grain International \(CGI\)](#) donated its [Balanced Bushel](#) beans to North Star Elementary School in Gildford, Montana. The students, from kindergarten through 5th grade, enjoyed [Cowboy Beans](#) with Balanced Bushel Pinto Beans, while learning about pulse farming in Montana, where American-grown pulses are exported throughout the world, and why they are great for the health of our people and the planet. Columbia Grain supports organizations like U.S.A. Pulses that are dedicated to increasing the amount of pulses that go into school nutrition programs. Pulses are a great alternative to animal proteins as they are nutritious, affordable, and easy to prepare. They are an excellent source of fiber as well as vital nutrients such as magnesium, iron, and vitamin B6.

“Through this partnership and beyond, we are dedicated to giving back to our local Montana and other communities in which CGI operates,” said CEO & President of Columbia Grain, Jeff Van Pevenage. “We’re excited to get kids across America trying our beans and pulses in an effort to get them onto more dinner tables to bring better nutrition to our youth. We know that children who eat dry beans are likely to become adults who eat dry beans. It’s important to promote healthy eating habits as early in life as possible. Also, this is a great opportunity for us to support our farming families. A healthier future begins by bringing bountiful nutrition to our children and schools, right here at home.”





“Over the past five years, we have seen an exponential increase in demand for pulse crops in U.S. school districts. Not only are chickpeas, lentils, dry beans, and peas a good source of plant-based protein and an excellent source of fiber, but they also contain a variety of nutrients of concern for Americans – that is, the nutrients we do not consume enough of as a population. The rising demand for plant-based protein sources is on trend with young consumers, Gen Z in particular. Our organization is encouraged by this trend and ever-supportive of enriching the meals offered to our students via school foodservice – a.k.a the largest ‘restaurant’ in the nation!,” said the Marketing Manager of USA Pulses, Madison Jacobson.

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 of 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.

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