

PRESS RELEASE

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Columbia Grain International Participates in Stand Up for Grain Safety Week and Shares its Commitment to the Cause

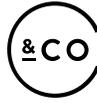
Columbia Grain International practices preventative strategies and educates its employees about grain safety throughout the year.

PORTLAND, OR (MARCH 2021) - As a leading supplier of grains and pulses, [Columbia Grain International](#) (CGI) works with over 8,000 farmers across the northern United States, processing and distributing their grain to countries around the world. CGI operates over 40 grain elevators across their company footprint. They understand that every year, hundreds of people are injured or die from preventable hazards, while working in grain storage and handling, and that safety doesn't have to be big to be effective. Each year, CGI is committed to safety through training, daily reminders, continued education, and making small changes in the workplace or how tasks are performed to ensure a positive impact. CGI employees will participate in Stand Up for Grain Safety Week, March 29-April 2, 2021. An outreach initiative by The Alliance, a coalition that includes the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Stand Up for Grain Safety Week raises awareness of the many hazards that come with working in the grain handling industry by offering resources and activities each day on the best practices for mitigating these hazards.

CGI employees must adhere to safety precautions when working in grain storage areas. Throughout the year, CGI Safety Director, William Spreeman conducts safety training, exercises, and workshops that include emergency action plans from Safety Made Simple, an agricultural industry safety education program with grain handling courses on topics like grain entrapment and engulfment, safely entering grain storage structures, and how to prevent grain dust explosions.

CGI's past safety trainings have included screenings of the film "Silo," which depicts a grain engulfment tragedy that hits a small town. This March, the company will be screening "Roberta's Request." This documentary film tells the story of Kansas grain elevator worker, Dwayne Seifried, who died in a grain entrapment accident at the Garden City Co-Op, and was made as per the wishes of his widow, the film's namesake Roberta Seifried. When asked by her late husband's general manager if there was anything he could do for her, she simply asked that the Garden City Co-Op do everything it could to ensure that what happened to her husband, never happen again. "Roberta's Request" has been screened in lectures and demonstrations across the United States and internationally.¹

¹ Garden City Co-op, Inc. (2019, November 12). *Remembering Dwayne - 10 Years Later*. [gcoop.com. https://www.gccoop.com/news/garden-city-news/remembering-dwayne-10-years-later](https://www.gccoop.com/news/garden-city-news/remembering-dwayne-10-years-later).



Beyond its endeavors to educate its employees about best safety practices for grain elevator work, CGI is prepared for a rescue, if need be. Their facilities are equipped with the proper equipment to rescue an entrapped worker as an essential part of its grain handling safety plan. Over the years, CGI has donated grain rescue tubes and rescue augers to several of the local responders in their trade area including the Valley City Fire Department in Valley City, ND, home to one of its' many facilities, and CGI continues to support grain safety initiatives throughout the industry.

“Stand Up for Grain Safety week is a time for us to speak with our employees and patrons about the best safety practices, be it conducting safety equipment inspections, developing rescue plans, or discussing job-specific identified hazards,” said Spreeman. “We believe it’s critical for every person who works in or around grain facilities to join the effort. Achieving a “World Class Safety Culture” is one of our core corporate values, and paramount to CGI’s mission of cultivating growth.”

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 online. For media inquiries, contact Christina Madrid at Christie & Co, www.christieand.co, by phone (818) 621-1897 and/or email christina@christieand.co.