

CHRISTIE & CO

FROM DREAM TO MAINSTREAM

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Christina Madrid
Christie & Co
(818) 621-1897
christina@christieand.co



Columbia Grain™
CULTIVATING GROWTH™

Columbia Grain Celebrates National Teach Ag Day by Visiting High Schools and Colleges Across the Northern Tier of the U.S.

CGI teams encourage ag education and discuss exciting, entry-level job opportunities in agriculture with students.

PORTLAND, OREGON (SEPTEMBER 2023) — National Teach Ag Day, on September 21st is a day to celebrate agriculture teachers and thank them for shaping the minds of the agricultural leaders of tomorrow. [Columbia Grain International \(CGI\)](#), a global company that operates grain elevators, processing plants, and agronomy centers across the northern tier of the U.S., is excited to join the #teachagday movement. They celebrated by visiting local high schools and colleges and stepping into the role of ag educator for the day to discuss the importance, excitement, and rewards of pursuing a career in agriculture. They also shared information about current part-time and full-time job opportunities at CGI and hosted Q&A sessions with the students.

“Agriculture teachers play a crucial role in our schools and communities,” said the President & CEO of Columbia Grain, Jeff Van Pevnage. “They teach by doing, not just telling, they share their passion for agriculture, and they reach students, including those that might not thrive in the traditional classroom. We hope that we can extend their hard, dedicated work on Teach Ag Day to connect with students and show them the real world career opportunities that are available to them.”

CGI’s General Manager Matthew Franks and Grain Originator Wyatt Oberfell from the Plentywood, MT facility visited students at Plentywood High School to share the benefits of working in agriculture. CGI’s Manager of the Chester, MT facility Chet Wolery, Manager of the Rudyard, MT facility Cole Loboy, and Grain Buyer & Clerk at the Harlem, MT facility Shandel Fouts visited juniors and seniors at CJI High School in Chester, MT. CGI’s Location Manager for the Arvilla, ND facility Tyler Kieffer spoke about CGI and opportunities in the ag industry with students at May-Port CG High School in Mayville, ND. CGI’s South Camas Prairie Manager Brandon Rehder visited two classes at Grangeville High School in Grangeville, Idaho. CGI



Left to Right: CGI’s Buyer Ben Nuss, Location Manager Cody Michael, Operations Manager Derek Ikeogu, and Location Manager Jeff Knudson at University of North Dakota.



Buyer Ben Nuss, Location Manager Cody Michael, Operations Manager Derek Ikeogu, and Location Manager Jeff Knudson, all from North Dakota facilities, spoke with students about careers in ag at the University of North Dakota.

"Teach Ag Day is a great opportunity to celebrate school-based agricultural education," said CGI Locations Manger Tyler Kieffer. "It's nice to be able to thank ag teachers and FFA advisors not only for their dedication, but for helping students find their niche and preparing them for life in general. They contribute so much to our industry."

[Watch the Cultivate Your Career Movie to learn more](#) and explore CGI job opportunities, [here](#).



CGI's Tyler Kieffer speaks with students at May-Port CG High School in Mayville, ND.

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.

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

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