

Member Update

Title: Foodbank Grain Industry Donation Program

Update No.: 23 of 13

Date of Issue: 21 August 2013

Issue

During the Australian Grains Industry Conference 2013 GTA announce an industry partnership with Foodbank and the goal of providing 3,000 tonne of grain donations per year, in an attempt to alleviate hunger in Australia.

Background

Over 12% of Australians are living in poverty and the prices of essentials like health, education, housing, utilities and transport have climbed so much in recent years that people, who are already struggling, are susceptible to “sudden bill shock”, leaving no money for food. Each year two million Australians, or 1 in 10, will seek assistance with food - around half of them will be children.

Foodbank Grain Industry Consultative Committee

At the Australian Grain Industry Conference 2013 in Melbourne, Grain Trade Australia (GTA) announced the establishment of the Foodbank Grain Industry Consultative Committee (the Committee) comprising of representation from the major bulk handling companies, trading companies, the grain production sector and a variety of end users, along with Foodbank and GTA, to promote and assist Foodbank in attaining their vision of achieving *an Australia without hunger*.

Who is Foodbank?

Foodbank is a non-denominational, non-profit organisation which acts as a “pantry” to charities and community groups who feed the hungry. It was first established in 1992 in NSW and now has a presence in every state and the Northern Territory with distribution centres in all state capitals as well as a number of regional centres. Foodbank operates with a staff of approximately 100 employees and over 3,000 volunteers and last year distributed 24 million kilograms of food to 2,500 welfare agencies across Australia.

Our aim

GTA is committed to the promotion and facilitation of a grain donation program to raise the awareness of Foodbank and providing 3,000 tonnes of grain donations per year, with the support of the entire grain industry.

The 3,000 tonnes of donated grain is converted into bread, cereal, pasta and other cereal based products through the generosity of organisations such as Goodman Fielder, Weston Milling Group, Sanitarium and Rinoldi Pasta.

If, as an industry, we can obtain this goal of 3,000 tonnes of grain donations per year, this achievement will go a long way to alleviating hunger within Australia. This will be a world first and one which highlights the goodwill and generosity of the grain industry as a collective.

GTA urges the involvement from all sectors of the industry.

How to get involved

GTA encourages industry to participate in any way they can. This may include the promotion or donation of grain, provision or donation of storage and handling facilities for grain donated or providing the transport of grain for Foodbank donations.

GTA will provide a dedicated portal on our website with a suite of resources to assist industry eager to achieve the goal of 3,000 tonne per year. Some involvement suggestions may include:

Growers:

- Provide grain donations;
- Encourage other growers and grower groups to become involved;

Storage Providers:

- Provide grain donations;
- Provide an accumulation point and storage for donations for the program;
- Displaying posters at grain storage sites and sample stands;
- Promoting the program to growers who call to enquire about selling small volumes of grain;
- Flyers sent out to growers with harvest guides and warehouse stocks letters;
- Advertise at pre-harvest meetings and publications;
- Provide grower emails and text updates;
- Grower email and text message updates;
- Daily/weekly or ad-hoc phone calls and farm visits with growers;

Traders:

- Provide grain donations;
- Promoting the program to growers who call to enquire about selling small volumes of grain;
- Establish a Foodbank account;
- Flyers sent out to growers with harvest guides and warehouse stocks letters;
- Advertise at pre-harvest meetings and publications;
- Provide grower emails and text updates;
- Grower email and text message updates;
- Daily/weekly or ad-hoc phone calls and farm visits with growers;
- Covering the levy costs associated with grain donations.

Transport Operators:

- Donation of grain freight;

Will I get a tax receipt?

Yes, once a donation is transferred from the growers/traders to Foodbank's NGR, the transfer form is then forwarded to Foodbank who organise for a tax receipt to be sent to the donor.

Where can I find out more about the Foodbank Grain Industry Donation Program?

If you would like to get involved with the Foodbank Grain Donation Program please visit www.graintrade.org.au or contact:

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johnw@foodbank.com.au

or

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