

Monday, 4 August 2014

MEDIA RELEASE

One grain at a time: growers give to Foodbank

The Australian grain industry has donated the equivalent of 8.8 million meals to the country's largest food relief organisation, Foodbank Australia, to help feed those in need.

Initiated by Grain Trade Australia (GTA), a Grain Industry Consultative Group partnered with Foodbank one year ago to coordinate the collection of the grain from individual growers through to major companies.

Since then, Foodbank has received 1293 tonnes of grain and flour, exceeding the 1,000 tonne target set for the first year of the program.

This grain has been used in the production of essential items such as pasta and breakfast cereal to supplement Foodbank's supply of key staple foods

GTA Chairman Peter Reading provided the Foodbank update at the Australian Grains Industry Conference (AGIC) in Melbourne last week.

"Charity can begin right at the very start of the food chain and it's really pleasing to see the industry getting behind this initiative," he said.

"We're off to a good start, but there's more we can do to help meet the demand of healthy grain-based foods for the welfare sector.

"The target for the second year of the program is to double donations to 2,000 tonnes. The ultimate aim is to have a guaranteed supply of 3,000 tonnes of grain donated a year.

"This would provide all the grain Foodbank needs for its manufacturing program – enough to produce the equivalent of 22 million meals.

"Even a couple of tonnes of grain will make a huge difference, if enough people participate."

Foodbank is a non-denominational, non-profit organisation which acts as a pantry to the welfare sector of Australia. Chief Executive Officer Jason Hincks thanked the industry for its support so far and looked forward to seeing the partnership grow to help feed 2.3 million Australians living below the poverty line.

The Foodbank page on GTA's website houses many of the resources needed to facilitate the trade's involvement in the program. It will also provide regular updates and information to Members on the progress of the Program.

For information on how to become involved visit www.graintrade.org.au/foodbank.

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Further information:

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