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MEDIA RELEASE

Foodbank wants your grain: guide to donating

Support is building for the grain industry's commitment to donate 3,000 tonnes of grain per year to Foodbank, with GrainCorp and CBH on board and in-principle support received from Grain Producers Australia, Viterra, Cargill and Emerald.

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) announced the initiative at the Australian Grain Industry Conference in Melbourne last month.

A Foodbank Grain Industry Consultative Group has been set up to help facilitate donations, comprising representatives from every sector of the industry including bulk handlers, traders, producers and a variety of end users.

GTA Chairman, Peter Reading, is encouraging individuals and companies along the supply chain to participate, with information now available on GTA's website on how to get involved.

"For growers, it's as simple as transferring an amount of grain from their National Grower Registration (NGR) number to Foodbank's. A tax receipt will be issued once the process is complete," Mr Reading said.

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

"Storage providers can donate themselves, or provide an accumulation point for donations made by others, as well as encouraging participation through communication with growers during harvest.

"Likewise, traders can do things like establish a Foodbank account, promote the program and cover levy costs for donations, or they may choose to donate small parcels of grain left over at various sites at the conclusion of physical execution of contracts.

"And the transport industry can get involved by donating their freight services once the grain has been collected."

Foodbank is a non-denominational, non-profit organisation which acts as a pantry to the welfare sector of Australia. It is the largest food relief charity in the country providing enough food for 88,000 meals a day to people in hardship.

As the essential component of staple foods such as bread, breakfast cereal and pasta, Foodbank believes the target of 3,000 tonnes of grain a year will go a long way to helping meet its commitment of doubling the amount of food available for distribution and ensuring that no one who seeks food assistance is turned away empty handed.

The Foodbank page on GTA's website will host 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 .

Further information:

Kaaren Latham – Cox Inall Communications, 02 8204 3852

Grain Trade Australia develops the grain standards and contracts that are used across the Australian grain industry and has over 250 member organisations ranging from regional family businesses to large national and international trading/storage and handling companies. Members operate within all sectors of the grain industry in Australia. Organisations involved in related commercial activities such as banking, communications, grain advisory services and professional services (solicitors and accountants) are also members