

CHRISTIE & CO

FROM DREAM TO MAINSTREAM

PRESS RELEASE

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United Grain Corp. is Celebrating International Women’s Day March 8th by Highlighting the Important Role of Women in its Growing Success

From the field to finance, women are central to UGC, bringing high-quality grains from American farmers to markets around the world.

VANCOUVER, WA (February 2022) Agriculture as we know it would not be possible without the important work of women. Comprising 36% of all U.S. farmers, women make up a significant portion of the agricultural industry’s production side. According to the USDA’s Census of Agriculture, 56% of all farms in the U.S. have at least one female decision maker, often involved in important day-to-day farm and ranch decisions, as well as recordkeeping and financial management.¹ As the Pacific Northwest’s premier global exporter of wheat, feed grains, and oilseeds, [United Grain Corporation](#) (UGC) understands firsthand the significant contributions women have given as employees and partners toward its increasing success. True to its value of inclusivity and goal of creating a united voice among its employees and partners, UGC will celebrate the contributions women have given in jobs ranging from the fields to finance on March 8, International Women’s Day.

“UGC’s efforts to deliver our producers’ high-quality grains to consumers around the globe wouldn’t be possible without the women on our team,” said President and CEO of UGC Augusto Bassanini. “At UGC, one of our greatest values is inclusivity, and giving opportunities to women to fulfil some of our most important duties has made us more successful in feeding people around the world.”

From the fields and grain elevators to the corporate office, the women of the UGC team cover a wide range of duties.

¹ Shearing, C. (2019, May 1). Women Count in Agriculture. Retrieved February 3, 2022, from <https://www.fb.org/viewpoints/women-count-in-agriculture#:~:text=The%20Agriculture%20Department's%20just%20just%20Dunveiled,least%20one%20female%20decision%20maker.>



Ms. Meg Johnston, the Hedge Desk Analyst at UGC, grew up with agriculture surrounded by cattle and horses and an active member in 4H and FFA. With her Agriculture Business Management Degree from Oregon State University, Meg truly worked her way from the ground up into management, doing every job in a grain elevator in North Dakota, wind, rain or shine. Was it hard? Was it equitable as a woman in this environment? "Growing up in Ag helped, but I had great mentors who treated me the same. I learned to grow, fail, and be willing to try again," shared Ms. Johnston. "If you are willing to put in the effort and work hard, you will get the respect. Being at the grain elevator in North Dakota as well as at UGC in the corporate offices, I see that women can make better decisions because we are less emotional about the crops, like many of the women throughout the ag communities."

Ms. Chris Johnson is a multi-generational farmer, following in her father's footsteps working at the UGC Grain elevator in Conrad, MT since 2013. Like many women in agriculture, their organizational and financial skills are the backbone of the local organization. "Yes, we are less emotional than the men in managing the buying and transportation of the wheat," Ms. Johnson said. "My job at UGC oversees the accounting and financial transactions for our local grain. Sometimes it is challenging as a woman, but I just remind them I am the one to write the checks!" With nine years of experience at UGC, Ms. Johnson sees agriculture and the inclusivity at UGC a great career choice for other women.

Ms. Kyle Carnine, Grain Accountant at UGC office in Umatilla, OR, started her ag career at her family's farm in Eastern Oregon, doing every job in the growing and processing their crops of wheat, alfalfa and corn with cover crops of mint and spearmint. "It was exciting to know that the mint we raise and extracted could be found in the gum enjoyed around the world," shared Ms. Carnine. Following her passion for agriculture and obtaining her Ag Business degree at Eastern Oregon University, Ms. Carnine spent 12 years with the US Dept. of Agriculture and fresh out of college was assigned the County Executive Director in Sherman County, Oregon. "The position was challenging as I was young and a woman," Ms. Carnine added. "The men thought I didn't have the knowledge they needed. It was persistence and the willingness to work hard and share the knowledge I got growing up in farming as well as at university that were the basis of my success, which allowed me to transition to a position at UGC as a Grain Accountant at the McNary Office."

Ms. Carolyn Hotchkiss, a UGC Grain Merchant, manages the logistics of getting crops from farms to importers and ensures there is always demand and a bid for whatever crops UGC's farmers want to grow. The daughter of a dairy cow farmer, Ms. Hotchkiss was constantly around agriculture growing up south of Kansas City. Her introduction to the world of grain came when she worked through college as an options pit reporter at the Kansas City Board of Trade, from which she landed a position as a grain accountant at Louis Dreyfus. However, Ms. Hotchkiss knew that she was prepared for bigger things. "I knew I was overqualified as a grain accountant. Louis Dreyfus tends to only hire ivy league grads in their merchandising department. It is a very male dominated field," she said. Ms. Hotchkiss was recommended to UGC when they were looking for a grain accountant, but as soon as she joined, she developed a reputation for helping customers quickly and became considered for a merchandising position. "I think I'm the only female export merchandiser," she remarked.

UGC serves customers across the globe with its producers' high-quality grains, and Stephanie McClintock ensures those products' value is communicated most effectively for each market they are exported to.

Ms. Stephanie McClintock, appreciated by all at UGC in her role as Public Relations Executive, forwards the values UGC demonstrates to all employees, inclusivity, safety, respect and caring. "As a mother and female executive team member, UGC has always allowed me the time and opportunity to wear all my hats. There is



also support for our Community Initiatives we develop to give back to our communities throughout our three regions," added MS. McClintock.

By celebrating the important role that women play in its success, UGC creates a united voice among its team, as well as a united community. Its recognition of International Women's Day will happen through Team UGC, the company's internal brand culture and community giving program. Through Team UGC, the company recognizes the stand-out work ethic and performance of team members and arranges volunteer service events, building a sense of pride among its team and giving back to the community. Uniting employees through community service and celebrating the excellent work of one another improves UGC's ability to fulfill its mission of feeding the world safely, every day.

ABOUT UNITED GRAIN CORP.

For more than 50 years, United Grain Corp. (UGC) has been the Pacific Northwest's premier bulk grain export company. UGC delivers high quality products, including wheat, feed grains and oilseeds to global customers – backed by superior service from its headquarters in Vancouver, Washington. UGC's Vancouver Export Terminal (VET) boasts the largest storage capacity on the U.S. West Coast at 220,000 metric tons (8 million bushels) with an annual handling capacity of 5 million tons. With locations across Washington, Oregon, Montana, and the Dakotas, UGC has forged strong relationships throughout the decades. UGC's partnerships and experience help ensure that it not only continues to provide unwavering support to its customers but also provides a lifeline that helps feed the world. For more information, visit <https://ugcpnw.com>.

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