## The Whole Grains Council Innovative Programs for Change

### **Cynthia Harriman**

Director of Food & Nutrition Strategies Oldways & the Whole Grains Council

November 7, 2007

Just Ask for Whole Grains Conference

## Whole Grains, ca. 1967



### Whole Grains, ca. 2007



### The Whole Grains Council

- Helps consumers find whole grain foods and understand their health benefits
- Helps the media write accurate, compelling stories about whole grains
- Helps manufacturers create delicious whole grain products

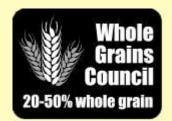
## **Helping Consumers** ...in grocery stores

### A Symbol is Sorely Needed

"It cannot be hoped to successfully educate, market and increase whole grain consumption until consumers can identify whole grain foods."

Marquart, Wiemer, Jones, and Jacobs Proceedings of the Nutrition Society (2003) 62: 151-160.

## 1 1/2 Years in the Making...



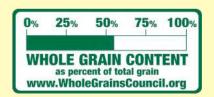












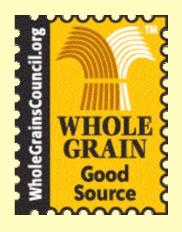








## Stamp Launched Jan. 2005







February 2005:

Bob's Red Mill & Great Harvest using Stamp

### **Stamp Catches on Quickly**



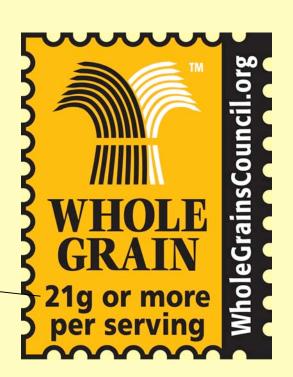
"...If you still aren't sure which of your favorite foods are really made with whole grains, look soon for these stamps on products. They're going to help take out the guesswork."

Oprah Winfrey, May 3, 2005

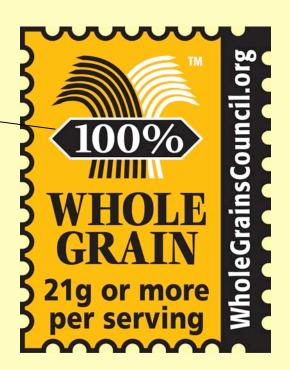
"I am SUCH a believer in whole grains!"



Grams of whole grain per labeled serving



100%, if all the grain is whole grain; there is NO refined grain



Minimum
Dietary Guidelines
Recommendation
for context



### **Different Numbers Galore**





Basic Stamp minimum 8g of WG

100% Stamp – NO refined grain minimum 16g of WG

### **A Difference Maker**

Consumer focus groups held in October 2006 in three midwest cities questioned shoppers about the Whole Grain Stamp. The majority of these adults

- associated the WG Stamp with being healthy
- thought it carried helpful & meaningful information
- believed the Stamp was reason to at least "make me pick it up and look at it" and that
- it would be "a difference maker when they were trying to decide between two similar products."

### Widespread Consistent Standard



Now on 1400 products, across all segments of grain products. 178 companies support the standard.

### Widespread Consistent Standard

American Italian Pasta Co. Interstate Bakeries

Barilla USA Kellogg and Kashi

Bimbo Bakeries Mission Foods

ConAgra Nestle

Costco Wholesale Quaker Oats

Country Home Bakers / J&J Snacks Ralcorp

Flowers Foods Schwan Food Company

FritoLay Tyson Foods

General Mills Uncle Ben's/Mars USA Inc.

George Weston Bakeries / Thomas' Unilever

Heartland / McKee Whole Foods

A full list is at the back of your program binder, including companies based in Canada, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Finland, Italy



### Consumers Look for the Stamp

"I am pregnant. It has been quite a bit of work for me to try and find products that not only contain whole grains, but also have them in a quantity that makes it worthwhile to purchase them.

Having the 'whole grain' stamp has made it much easier for me to find these products. I especially like having the exact gram count per serving listed on these stamps."

A. Wilson, July 2007

### ...and Notice Its Absence

Dear Ms. Harriman:

I did not see any products. Did I miss them or does their whole grain bread somehow not qualify?

D. Holt, August 20, 2007

# Helping Consumers ...in restaurants

### **Just Ask for Whole Grains**

"No one ever asks for whole grains, so we don't bother serving them..."

"No one ever serves whole grains, so I don't bother asking for them..."



## "Just Ask" Breaks the Cycle

- I decided to ask for a healthier dinner. It was supposed to have white rice but I asked if they had anything better in the back they could throw in for me and it turns out they had brown rice and quinoa! Applebee's, Portage, MI (Kathleen K.)
- The salmon salad has wheat berries on it! I don't think I'd even heard of wheat berries before, but it turns out that I like them and am going to try to find them at the grocery store so that I may enjoy them at home. Thanks, Panera! *Panera, Shakopee, MN (Kate N.)*

### Just Ask for Whole Grains™

- Grassroots campaign
- RDs, teachers, nurses
- Buttons, stickers
- Handouts
- Web-based info
- Positive, active



Blue states = Just Ask Campaign

### Just Ask for Whole Grains™



"I am a pediatric nurse. Every summer I teach nutrition at Camp Sweet Freedom, a daycamp for children who use insulin, & Camp Strongheart, a camp for overweight children. Whole grains are always my first lesson! Thank you for what you provide to those of us "in the trenches"!"

Susan Pollack, Club Strongheart, West Cabarrus YMCA, Concord, NC

## Whole Grains Challenge

"At least one whole grain choice everywhere Americans eat."



New Restaurant Memberships in 2008

## Virginia Tech Dining Services

- posters, flyers
- feedback cards
- 30 choices / day
- 25 new ingredients
- WG menu symbol
- co-operation
- active, positive



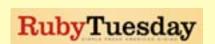
## Who's Doing What...



Premium Chicken Sandwiches have a bun with 8g of whole grain.



Whole grain linguini available as an option in any pasta dish.



"Smart Eating Menu" includes brown rice pilaf, whole grain tortillas.



Whole grain baguette, whole grain loaf and whole grain miche offered.

## Who's Doing What...



Brown rice offered as an option with all meals.



Whole grain penne available as an option in any pasta dish.

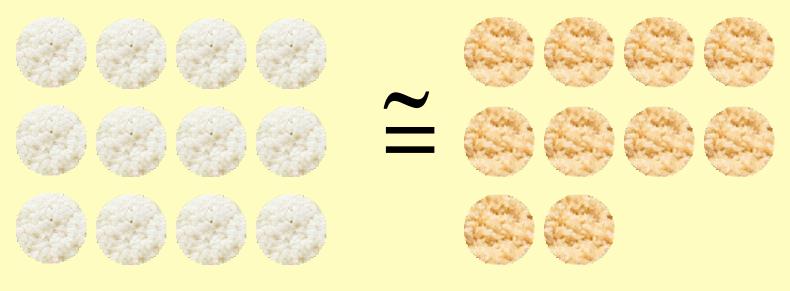


HealthMex burritos are served on whole grain tortillas.



Brown rice, whole wheat wraps and soba noodles available.

## If you serve it...they will eat!



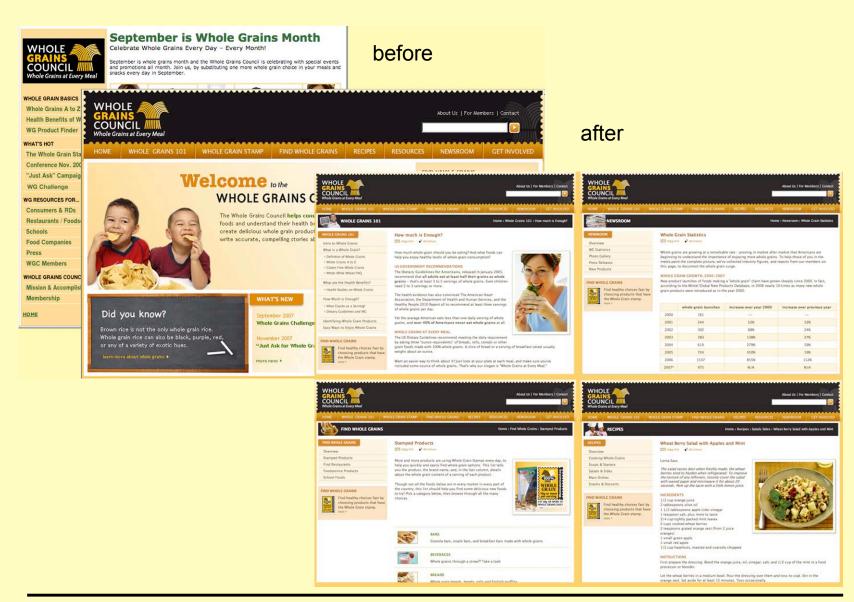
White Rice 12m pounds

**Brown Rice** 10m pounds

PF Chang's China Bistro & Pei Wei's Asian Diner / 2007

### **More for Consumers**

- Phone and email support
- Whole Grains Month activities
- Support for RDs and others working with consumers
- Website chock full of information



The Whole Grains Council



**Oldways Preservation Trust** 

## **Helping the Media**

## **Amplifying Our Voice**



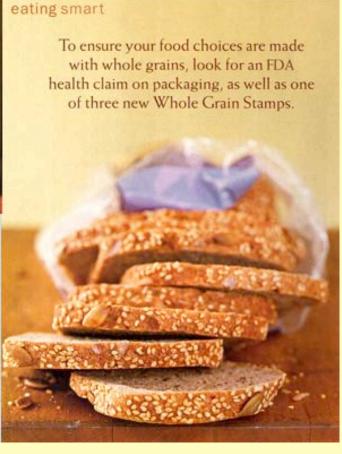
#### Shopping Toward the Goal

Quick tips to keep in mind when reading labels to find products made with whole grains:

1. Watch the wording on packaging. According to a research review published in the Journal of Nutrition, many people are unable to correctly identify whole grain foods in the supermarket because terms like multigrain or nine-grain are so misleading. Knowing what to look for is key. If a product is made from a whole grain, it will say so explicitly in the ingredient list. For example, a true whole wheat bread will have 100 percent whole wheat flour as its first ingredient.



2. Scan for seals. Two new, easy-to-spot clues include a Food and Drug Administration—approved health claim linking the consumption of whole grains to a reduced risk of heart disease and certain cancers. The other is one of three yellow and black Whole Grain Stamps (left), which were developed by the Whole Grains Council, a subsidiary of the Oldways Preservation Trust, a nonprofit organization that advocates healthful eating.





## Helping with 200 Stories/Year

- Health benefits of whole grains
- Details on specific grains
- Information about new products
- Market statistics
- Photos and graphics

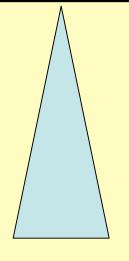
## **Helping Manufacturers**

## A Delicate Balancing Act

**CONSUMER** 

**MANUFACTURER** 

**DEMAND** 



**SUPPLY** 

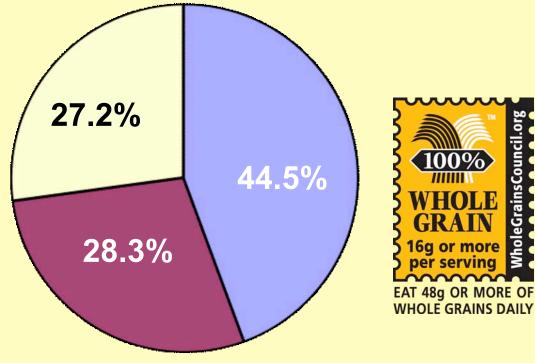
# Resources for Manufacturers

- Labeling Information and Advocacy
  - Regulatory clarity
  - Consumer clarity
- Scientific Advice
- Educational Materials
  - For inhouse "evangelists"
  - For customers
- "Credit" for making healthier products

### **Incentives for Better Products**



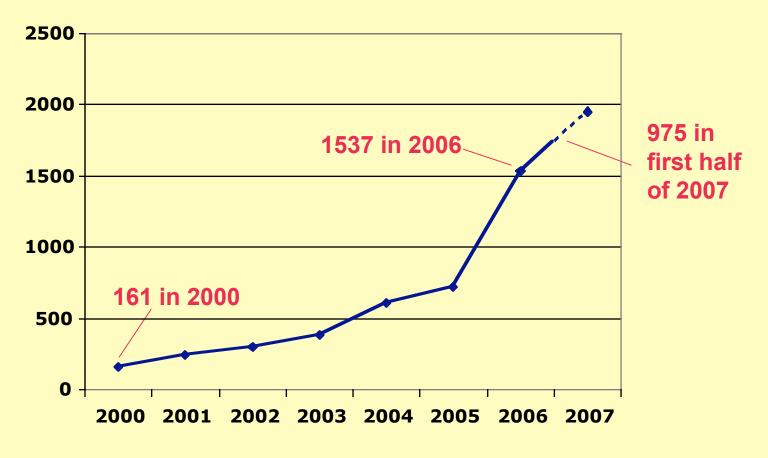




Products using Whole Grain Stamp, as of October, 2007



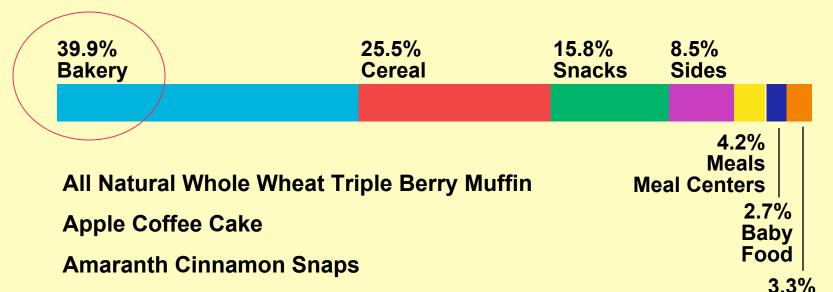
### **New Whole Grain Products up 1200%**



Mintel Global New Products Database, through June 30, 2007



## 2006+1st Half 2007 Launches



Blueberry & Oats Coffee Cake

**Cinnamon Chip Oatmeal Scone Mix** 

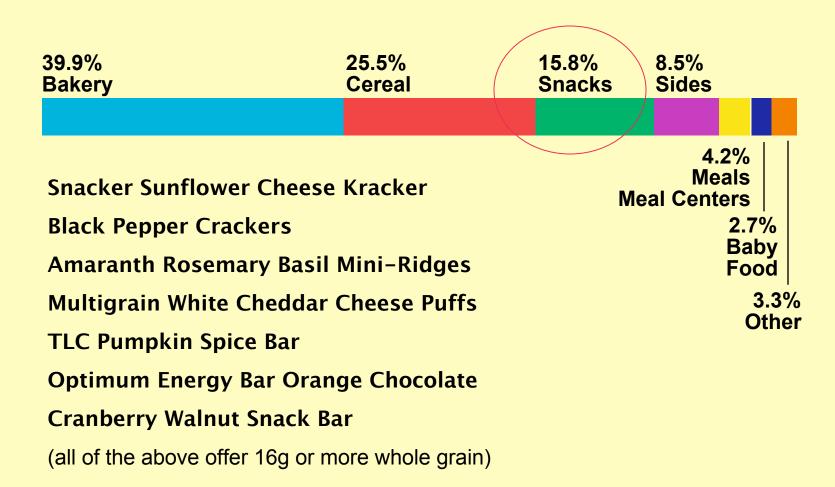
**10-Grain Pancake Mix** 

(all of the above are 100% whole grain)

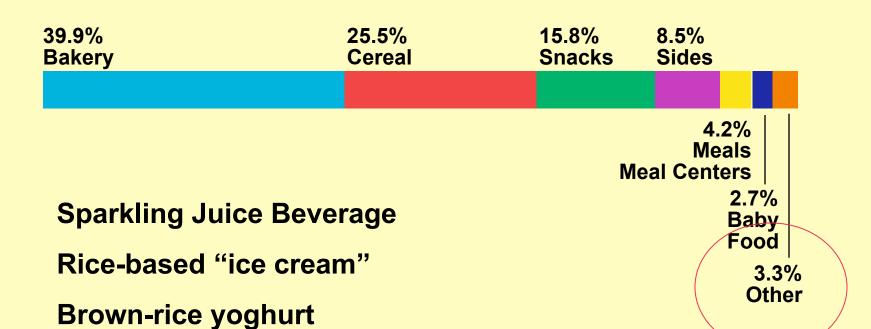


Other

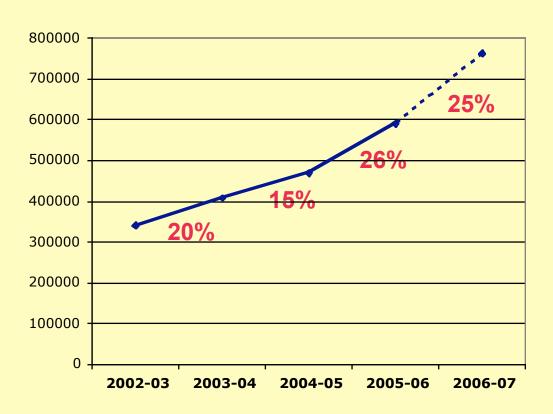
# 2006+1st Half 2007 Launches



# 2006+1st Half 2007 Launches



## Whole Grain Flour up 26% in 1 Year



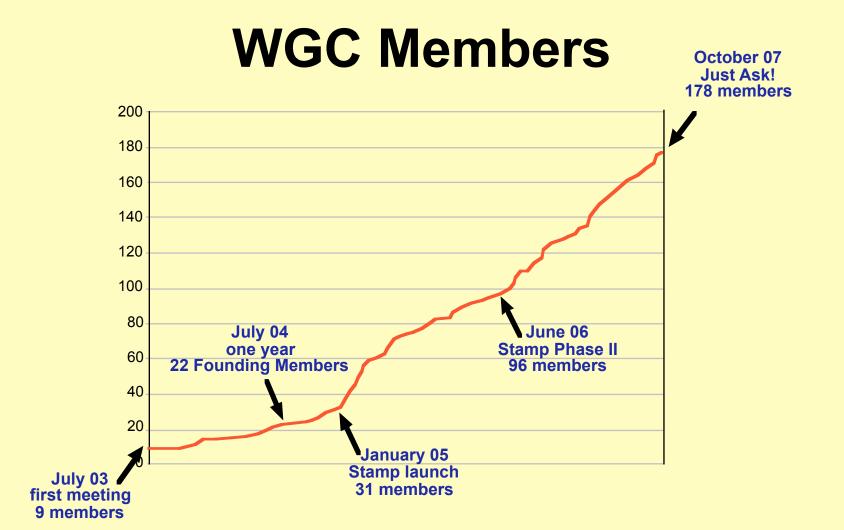
"The 26% growth in whole wheat flour production [in] 2005-06 represented an extraordinary pace of increase for an industry as mature as grainbased foods."

World-Grain.com / Milling & Baking News, May 2007



# **Working Together**

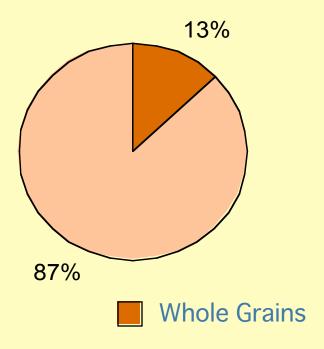
- 178 WGC Industry Members
- 13 Scientific Advisors
- 10 Culinary Advisors



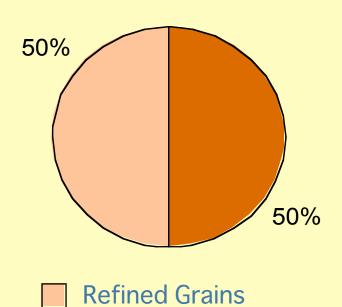
# What's Next?

# **Big Potential in Whole Grains**

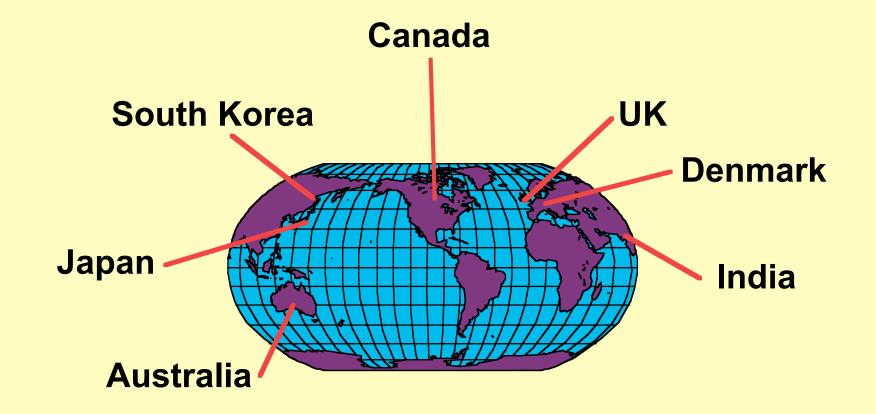
#### Consumed



#### Recommended



## **International Interest**



# The Whole Grains Council



Helping Americans make half (or more!) of their grains whole

Thank You