



Shepherd's Grain Fred Fleming

Shepherd's Grain comes from an alliance of progressive family farms dedicated to practicing sustainable agriculture. Our farming practices have been certified "environmentally and socially responsible" by the Food Alliance. We produce high quality products from the crops we raise. In this way, you get the best nutritional benefits.

Shepherd's Grain (www.shepherdsgrain.com) was established in May 2002 with two farmers, Karl Kupers and Fred Fleming. Today Shepherd's Grain has 18 farmers representing over 90,000 acres of production. Shepherd's Grain has attracted a lot of interest in our approach to relationship marketing developing a value chain. Shepherd's Grain works with food activists that then become ambassadors to save the family farms.

Shepherd's Grain Direct Seeding practices help us highlight a philosophy of conservation farming that allows Shepherd's Grain farmers to market sustainability. The concept of sustainable agriculture has three main ideas:

Environmental health: Taking care of the land, soil and animal life that exists on the land that is entrusted to us. Reducing erosion by direct seeding and eliminating the use of some pesticides are good examples of our dedication to preserving the environmental health of our land.

Social and Economic Equity: Is the idea that crops grown with both care for the environment and a focus on the intended use of the crop will have more value to the buyer than crops grown with only yield in mind. All Shepherd's Grain products are identity preserved meaning that our flour and other products are not mixed with lower quality non identified products. This brings a consistency out in our products that is impossible through commercial channels.

Economic Profitability: Farming like any other occupation has a certain amount of risk involved. All of our work to preserve our environment and increase the quality of our end product would be wasted if we could not make a living while doing our job. The pricing structure used on Shepherd's Grain products is derived from local university data on the costs of producing our crops. Our pricing structure is also transparent so that the buyer can see all of the costs that are associated with the product purchased.

The products available are: High Gluten Flour, Low Gluten Flour and Whole Wheat Flour along with lentils, garbanzo beans and red beans.