

# Del Monte Foods, Inc. 2019/2020 Sustainability Update





# A LETTER FROM OUR CEO



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**Always, we are guided by our commitment to nurturing Earth's goodness today to grow a healthier, more resilient and more hopeful tomorrow.**

At Del Monte Foods, we have been in the business of producing healthy food in partnership with family farmers for more than 130 years. Our **corporate values guide our support** of the communities where we live and work, and we are constantly employing new and cutting-edge technologies to conserve a healthy environment. That way, we can all look forward to a sustainable future where food is **grown in harmony with nature** and farm communities thrive.

While we were looking forward to launching this 2019/2020 Sustainability Update on Earth Day, we chose to delay its release for three reasons: the COVID-19 pandemic, which required us to focus on the **safety of our team members**; ensuring that people around the country would continue to have regular **access to nutritious food**; and the Black Lives Matter movement, which awakened awareness not just in this country but around the world to racial injustice, prompting all of us at Del Monte Foods to do even more to fight racism and **support the Black community**.

Del Monte Foods issued our first sustainability report in 2018. Our **2019/2020 Sustainability Update outlines our 2025 goals** around three pillars: Cultivate a Healthy Planet, Nurture People and Grow Accessible Nutrition. Our goals align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which serve as a framework for companies everywhere contributing to a sustainable future so that collectively, we can **meet current needs without compromising resources** for future generations.

During the past year, our partnerships with organizations working to conserve natural resources and nurture a healthier tomorrow continued

to deepen and grow. We were recognized by **Feeding America** as a Mission Partner for our contributions and commitments. We started working with the **Sustainable Packaging Coalition** to increase recyclability and reduce plastic waste. We continued our work with the **Food Waste Reduction Alliance** to increase food donations and ensure that unavoidable food waste is put to good use. And we formed a partnership with **GrowingGreat™** to bring hands-on science and nutrition education to elementary and middle school children, empowering a generation of healthy eaters. We look forward to continuing to evolve these relationships in the coming years while also supporting other groups like the **NAACP and the National Black Farmers Association**.

Across Del Monte Foods, we are making great strides on our sustainability journey, from improving our Earth-friendly agricultural practices that reduce the use of water and pesticides to participating in programs that provide hungry people with nutritious meals. Always, we are guided by our **commitment to nurturing Earth's goodness** today to grow a healthier, more resilient and more hopeful tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Greg Longstreet  
President & CEO, Del Monte Foods, Inc.



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# WHO WE ARE

## About Del Monte Foods

Del Monte Foods, Inc. (Del Monte Foods), a wholly owned subsidiary of Del Monte Pacific Limited (Del Monte Pacific) is headquartered in Walnut Creek, CA, with net sales of \$1.4 billion and 7,390 employees. Del Monte Foods is one of the country's largest producers, distributors and marketers of premium quality branded food products for the U.S. retail market. We offer a wide array of vegetable and fruit products under the following portfolio of brands: Del Monte®, Contadina®, S&W®, and College Inn®. For more information, please visit [DelMonteFoods.com/Our-Story](https://www.DelMonteFoods.com/Our-Story)

## About this Sustainability Update

### STRUCTURE

Since Del Monte Pacific, our parent company, is listed on the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (SGX), both entities fall under the Sustainability Reporting Guide (Guide) and Rule. To align with the SGX Guide, Del Monte Foods reports biannually following the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Standards. Between the reports, we produce a Sustainability Update, such as this document, to share key sustainability milestones and progress.

### BOUNDARIES

This update covers fiscal year 2019/2020 for our entire operations, including our locations in the United States, Venezuela and Mexico. Any locations closed during this time were either removed from our data or are specifically addressed in the relevant sections.





# DEL MONTE'S PURPOSE

Del Monte Foods is in the business of producing healthy food and nourishing healthy lives—responsibly. We are on a mission to provide access to better food choices, because everyone deserves great-tasting, high-quality, nutritious meals. We are also committed to cultivating food that supports a healthy environment so that future generations can enjoy all of Earth's bounty.



## CULTIVATE A HEALTHY PLANET

Grow food in a responsible and sustainable manner, from roots and soil to water and climate.

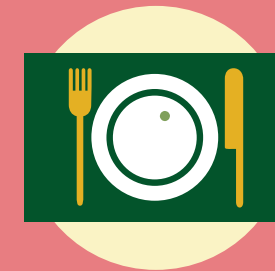
I



## NURTURE PEOPLE

Cultivate connections between team members, growers and communities.

II



## GROW ACCESSIBLE NUTRITION

Provide consumers with better food choices and more access to them.

III



# 02

## OUR GOALS

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### Improving our practices by setting tangible sustainability goals

Long-term economic growth, the eradication of hunger and the conservation of natural ecosystems depend on development that is economically, environmentally, socially and institutionally sustainable.

With the input of many external and internal stakeholders, we've developed 11 goals designed to address our material issues and enable us to make positive contributions to the planet, to individuals, to families and to communities.

Each goal has a series of target metrics, allowing us to accurately assess and report on our progress over time.





PILLAR		OBJECTIVES		2025 GOALS
I	CULTIVATE A HEALTHY PLANET		Reduce energy use and emissions in transportation and distribution.	Reduce empty miles driven from dedicated operations by 20%.
				Increase truckload efficiency in mpg by 14%.
			Reduce waste and the use of virgin material in packaging.	Convert plastic packaging to 100% recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2030.
				Include 25% recycled content into plastic packaging once recycled polypropylene supply is available and FDA approval is received.
II	NURTURE PEOPLE		Improve farming practices and enhance soil quality.	Add How2Recycle® icons to 100% of our packaging.
				Increase cover-cropping by 5% per year.
			Promote a culture of diversity and inclusion so all team members feel respected and can bring their best selves to work.	Define and measure employee engagement and achieve top quartile scores.
				Establish Diversity Leadership Council and expand employee resource groups. Increase diversity across leadership roles.
III	GROW ACCESSIBLE NUTRITION		Support grower and community partners through our “Farm2Family” corporate giving program.	Provide the opportunity for all team members to earn a living wage.
				Donate an average of five million pounds of food each year to support disaster relief, local food banks and nonprofits.
III	GROW ACCESSIBLE NUTRITION		Empower organizations committed to the advancement of agricultural, health and nutrition education.	Educate an average of five million children and parents annually through outreach efforts that focus on expanding knowledge around nutrition and making healthy eating choices.



# 03

## UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL GOALS

### Del Monte Foods' sustainability priorities are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Del Monte Foods is working to build a world where food is nutritious and accessible to everyone, in which natural resources are managed to maintain the healthy functioning of ecosystems, and to support current and future human needs.

Our efforts are guided by the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), which were established in 2015 and provide a framework for targeted improvements and greater impact over time.

Nothing connects people to the planet more than food, and by serving as a bridge between what people eat and the way it's grown, agriculture is key to achieving multiple UN SDGs and helping us overcome some of the world's most complex challenges, including the root causes of poverty and hunger.







Del Monte Foods continues to make significant progress toward the UN SDGs, helping to support a healthy and balanced future for people and the planet.



### Zero Hunger (UN SDG 2)

Del Monte Foods' Farm2Family corporate giving program contributes to farm advocacy (conservation and education), hunger relief, disaster relief, family care and healthy living. We donate slightly imperfect merchandise and excess food to Feeding America and Field to Foodbank. This also allows us to reduce our food waste—everything we donate is shelf-stable and needed by hungry communities.



### Good Health and Well-Being (UN SDG 3)

Over two-thirds of our products are classified as “healthy” from the globally accepted definition, and all of our products are thermally processed to minimize foodborne illnesses. Within our existing categories, we have a significant competitive set of No Sugar Added fruit products, and No Salt Added and Reduced Sodium vegetable products relative to other branded players. Our fruits and vegetables are picked, cooked and packed at the peak of ripeness, locking in nutrients. Real food tastes better, and that’s why we’ve worked hard to remove preservatives. About 97% of all Del Monte® canned fruit, vegetable and tomato products are preservative-free, and Vitamin C is the only preservative we use in fruit cups and canned fruit.



### Clean Water and Sanitation (UN SDG 6)

We work with growers to reduce water use by adopting methods like drip irrigation—now used by nearly all tomato growers—and capturing and reusing water where possible at all facilities, including our Hanford and Modesto, CA, plants, where water use has dropped 20% since 2013.



### Decent Work and Economic Growth (UN SDG 8)

We are building a culture of safety, with the goal of zero incidents. To ensure our suppliers uphold these standards and to eliminate labor violations in our supply chain, we are enforcing our Supplier Code of Conduct. And to strengthen farmer livelihoods, we are supporting innovations to enhance soils, crop yields and resiliency.



### Sustainable Consumption and Production (UN SDG 12)

To promote sustainable production, Del Monte Foods focuses on regenerating topsoil and improving above- and below-ground biodiversity by applying our model pesticide control program, crop rotation, consistent soil sampling and using pest-resistant varieties when possible. Through our classic method of plant breeding, we provide growers with plants that are naturally resistant to diseases and insects, reducing the need for fertilizer and pesticides. We are also continuing to use packaging with a lower impact. More than two-thirds of our packaging is steel cans, which includes approx. 35% recycled steel—an infinitely recyclable material. Our wood pulp packaging is comprised of 33% recycled content.



### Climate Action (UN SDG 13)

We are adamantly committed to minimizing the emissions that cause climate change. We have gone beyond the standard emissions requirements in California and reduced emissions by generating energy from solar panels at processing and manufacturing centers. Also, locating our processing plants close to our growing fields reduces transportation emissions and improves the overall efficiency of our facilities.



### Partnerships (UN SDG 17)

We are committed to engaging with all stakeholders to further the Sustainable Development Agenda throughout our entire value chain. We know we cannot address the long-term challenges of the SDGs alone.



### Life Below Water (UN SDG 14)

### Life on Land (UN SDG 15)



We are committed to preserving ecosystems both on land and below the water. Del Monte Foods prevents nutrient runoff into waterways by maintaining proper soil health and by applying our model pesticide control program, rotating crops, consistently sampling soil and by using pest-resistant crop varieties, which we provide to our growers so they can reduce the need for fertilizer and pesticides that could negatively impact the environment.



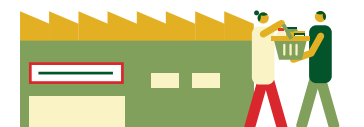
# 04

## PARTNERING FOR GOOD

**Fighting the complex, thorny and interrelated challenges of hunger and climate change takes more than a single company's best intentions. That's why Del Monte Foods partners with several organizations to ensure a more prosperous, sustainable future.**

### **Food Waste Reduction Alliance**

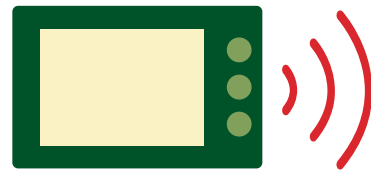
We've continued our work with the **Food Waste Reduction Alliance**, an industry-led initiative with the Consumer Brands Association, FMI —The Food Industry Association and the National Restaurant Association focused on reducing food waste by **increasing food donations and sending unavoidable food waste to productive use.**





## Sustainable Packaging Coalition

In 2019, we started working with the **Sustainable Packaging Coalition**, a global organization that works to empower companies to take meaningful action toward more environmentally friendly packaging, such as **increasing recyclability** and **reducing plastic waste**.



In 2019, we supported the **World Food Day online food drive** on Amazon, together with Kellogg Company.

## Feeding America

In 2019, we donated

**4.4 million**

pounds of foods to feed families across America.

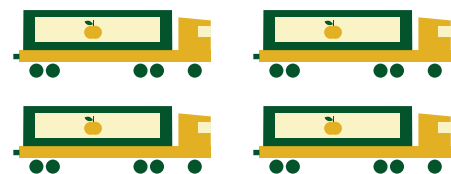


In March 2020, we donated

**\$2 million**

of food to fight food insecurity during COVID-19.

Initiatives such as our **Brite Recovery Program** and our partnership with **Feeding America** allow us to eliminate waste and feed people. Rather than discarding slightly damaged cans or imperfect produce, we donate the food to people in need. In 2019,

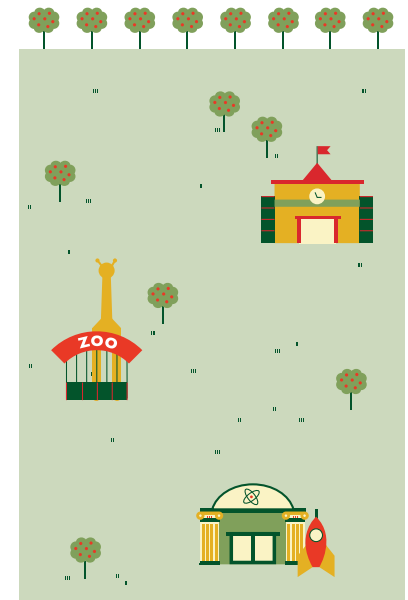


**4 truckloads**

of peaches that would have gone to waste ended up in people's pantries.

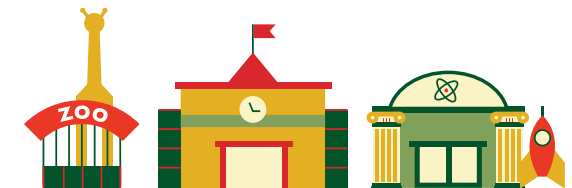
## GrowingGreat™

In 2019, we launched a partnership with **GrowingGreat™** to bring hands-on science and nutrition education to elementary and middle school children, empowering a generation of healthy eaters. This program benefits young people across the country with curricula about growing good food. It aligns with our **Growers of Good™** initiative, which is focused on nurturing the Earth's goodness today to grow a healthier and more hopeful tomorrow.



**95,000**

children, parents and teachers reached by **GrowingGreat™** action.



**8**

new **science center, children's museum, zoo** and **school partnerships**.

In addition to these partnerships, **our team members volunteered** at local food banks, youth organizations, and completed environmental stewardship projects throughout the U.S.







# 05

## GROWING GOOD WITH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

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**We have long been considered a leader in introducing agricultural practices that minimize the use of pesticides and help farmers grow healthier, heartier crops using less fertilizer and water.**

Sustainable agriculture is key to conserving biodiversity, reducing the impacts of climate change and improving the living and working conditions of farm communities. At Del Monte Foods, we are focused on helping our growers integrate Earth-friendly farm practices that improve soils, reduce water and pesticide use and improve efficiency.

**The success of our business relies on a healthy environment, both in our growers' fields and across our own operations. We work to drive sustainable agriculture practices through the following methods:**

**USING DRIP IRRIGATION TO REDUCE WATER USE**

**ENCOURAGING COVER CROPS**

**REDUCING FERTILIZER USE**

**INCREASING YIELDS THROUGH SEED BREEDING (NON-GMO)**

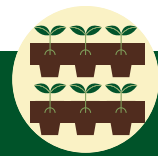
**REDUCING PESTICIDE USE**





## USING DRIP IRRIGATION TO REDUCE WATER USE

In recent years, the switch to drip irrigation has been a significant, game-changing practice in water management, particularly in arid areas of the western U.S., and especially in California, where water supplies are vulnerable to reservoir levels, snow melt and limited groundwater. Drip irrigation systems facilitate the application of precisely required amounts of plant nutrients, eliminate surface water runoff to **prevent possible contamination of streams and groundwater**, and help to reduce plant diseases and weed outbreaks due to excess water.



## ENCOURAGING COVER CROPS

Another practice that we encourage, especially in the Midwest growing areas of Wisconsin and Illinois, is the use of winter cover crops, which **help increase organic matter, reduce wind and soil erosion, sequester carbon, filter water, control weeds and manage nutrients**. Factors, including weather conditions, previous harvest conditions, location and rotation requirements, can affect cover crop applications, which means the acreage for cover crops can vary. With the CropTrak™ system, we monitor cover crops, and had a 6% increase from 2018 to 2019 in cover crops on all vegetable crops in all states combined. There was an 11.9% increase in cover crops grown in Wisconsin alone.



## REDUCING FERTILIZER USE

Our growers apply fertilizer to crops to ensure that the plants receive enough nutrients to grow vigorously and produce abundant yields. Too much fertilizer, however, can be worse than not enough. In many crops, excess nutrients can lead to lush vegetative growth

and reduced crop yields. Fertilizers can also leach into groundwater or wash off with the rain into nearby waterways, polluting streams and causing problems such as algae growth. Finally, synthetic fertilizers are often based on petroleum — an expensive and non-renewable resource. Given the environmental risks and operating costs associated with improper or excessive fertilizer use, our **research teams coordinate with our growers to identify the optimal amount of fertilizer per crop**. We have found that some crops need much less fertilizer to flourish than expected. For example, over the past several years, our pea and green bean growers have reduced fertilizer application by upwards of 25% over 50,000 acres. Although rising fertilizer costs contributed to this decision, Del Monte Foods research also showed that crops do just as well or better with less fertilizer.



## INCREASING YIELDS THROUGH SEED BREEDING (NON-GMO)

Our expert plant breeders and research farm staff **work in tandem with our growers to introduce new crop varieties** with improved yields. The benefits are significant: for example, a 30% increase in yield means that 30% less acreage needs to be planted, and 30% fewer inputs such as fertilizer or fuel for farm equipment are needed to harvest the same amount of crop. Over the past 48 years, our Blue Lake® green bean breeding program and new growing practices have increased yields by nearly 200%.



## REDUCING PESTICIDE USE

Beginning in the early 1980s, we introduced our growers to the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and continue to help them minimize the amount of pesticides they use to control insects, other pests and crop diseases. IPM is a common-sense

approach to pest control. Instead of routinely applying pesticides on a set schedule, growers closely monitor crop conditions and use cultural tools (such as crop rotation or seeds that are disease-resistant) to help avoid conditions that could contribute to pest outbreaks. By limiting pesticide use, we **reduce the potential for contaminated runoff from fields, protect the health of farm workers, prevent the destruction of beneficial insects** and other field organisms and ultimately decrease the chance that any pesticide residue remains on the crop when it is harvested and processed.

## WE WORK WITH OUR GROWERS TO:

Apply our **model pesticide control** program.

Use **pest-resistant varieties** where available.

**Rotate crops** to minimize the effect of soil insects and diseases.



**Our work to disseminate best practices in IPM as a way to minimize pesticide use has resulted in great success. For example, our IPM research team found that a new seed treatment provided 30 days of protection for sprouting green beans. Once implemented, the treatment eliminated the use of 3,700 gallons of broadcast insecticide (application over an entire area) per year.**



# 06

## PACKAGING AND PLASTICS

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**While the majority of our products are sold in recycled metal cans, we are focused on reducing the impact of our packaging in every way possible.**

This means working to drive recycling of packaging, increasing the recyclability of packaging and reducing plastic and material use where possible. In 2019, we joined the Sustainable Packaging Coalition to partner with leading packaging suppliers and consumer packaged goods companies to work toward sustainable packaging solutions that deliver delicious shelf-stable food. We have also advocated for recycling and sustainable packaging through the Consumer Brands Association, as members of the Packaging Committee. By including recycling information on our packages and on our website, DelMonteFoods.com, we are raising awareness and increasing transparency. We are also exploring new materials and formats to increase recyclability and reduce the need for new resources.





## We have been reducing our use of plastics and metal through lightweighting of our packaging from 2009–2020.

### PLASTIC PACKAGING LIGHTWEIGHTING



**4 OZ. CUP**  
**TOTAL PLASTIC REDUCTION**

**↓ 4,300 TONS**

**7 OZ. CUP**  
**TOTAL PLASTIC REDUCTION**

**↓ 1,300 TONS**

### METAL CAN LIGHTWEIGHTING



**VEGETABLE CANS**  
**REDUCED METAL USAGE**

**↓ 11,500 TONS**

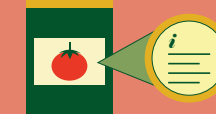
**TOMATO CANS**  
**REDUCED METAL USAGE**

**↓ 3,700 TONS**

**FRUIT CANS**  
**REDUCED METAL USAGE**

**↓ 1,800 TONS**

**IN 2019, WE ESTABLISHED CLEAR PACKAGING GOALS, WITH A 2025 TARGET:**



## Transparency

We are committed to letting people know what our packaging is made of and how to recycle it by including detailed instructions on our packages using the How2Recycle label.



## Certified Fiber

Currently, all of the ~12,000 tons of corrugated material we use for trays, cases and displays is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). As we move closer to 2025, we'll work with our suppliers to remain 100% certified, either through the FSC or the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), for corrugated and other packaging materials.



## Recyclability

We are working with our suppliers to overcome the technical challenges inherent to applying recycled plastic content to materials that touch packaged foods vs. secondary outer packaging. We also aim to source more recyclable polypropylene that is suitable for food contact.





## Del Monte Foods, Inc.

Corporate Social Responsibility  
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