

Cargill: A history of nourishing the world

Timeline of Key Milestones (1865-Present)

1865–1899: Founding & Early Expansion

- 1865 William Wallace Cargill founds a grain warehouse in Conover, lowa, at the end of the McGregor & Western Railroad line.
- 1875 Headquarters moves to La Crosse, Wisconsin, positioning Cargill for regional grain trade expansion.
- 1880 Cargill builds its first terminal elevator and enters the flour milling business.
- 1895 Marriage of Edna Cargill and John H. MacMillan, joining the two families that still own the company.
- 1899 John H. MacMillan Sr. takes over operations, guiding Cargill through early financial crises.

1900-1949: Industrial Growth & Global Reach

- 1909 Founder W.W. Cargill dies; the MacMillan family assumes leadership.
- 1917–1918 Cargill supplies grain during World War I.
- 1930 Cargill, Incorporated is formed; begins international expansion with offices in Europe and South America.
- 1936 John H. MacMillan Jr. becomes president; Cargill consolidates operations and adopts the name still used today.
- 1942–1945 During WWII, Cargill builds naval tankers at Port Cargill and earns the Army-Navy "E" Award for excellence.
- 1945 Acquires Nutrena Mills, marking entry into the animal feed business.

1950-1999: Diversification & Globalization

- 1953 Establishes Tradax in Antwerp, expanding global grain trading.
- 1955–1957 Opens a central research center and installs its first computer; Cargill becomes a research-driven enterprise.
- 1961 Acquires Belle Isle salt mine, entering the salt business.
- 1965 Marks 100 years; expands globally into Japan, Thailand, and Latin America.
- 1970s Diversifies into steel, financial services, and food production; becomes the largest privately held U.S. company.
- 1980s Expands into cocoa, coffee, palm oil, fertilizers, and metals; first to implement Temple Grandin's humane meat-handling standards.
- 1990s Launches Employee Stock Ownership Program; acquires Continental Grain's commodity trading business (1999).



2000–2019: Strategic Growth & Sustainability

- 2000s Major acquisitions (Agribrands, Cerestar, Provimi) strengthen food and feed businesses.
- 2008 Launches Truvia[™], a stevia-based natural sweetener; expands cocoa operations in Ghana.
- 2010s Grows in salmon nutrition, animal feed, and sustainable agriculture.
- 2015 Celebrates 150th anniversary; launches major reorganization to streamline operations globally.
- 2020 Present: Innovation, Responsibility & Future Focus
- 2020 Responds to COVID-19 with extensive global aid, employee safety programs, and community support.
- 2021–2022 Records highest earnings in company history (\$6.2B, FY2022).
- 2022 Cargill acquires Croda bio-based industrial business, expanding natured-derived solutions for customers.
- 2023 Brian Sikes, Cargill veteran with deep global experience and relentless focus on people, customers and defining growth strategies, named 10th CEO in Cargill's history.
- 2024 Cargill realigns company into three new business enterprises: Food, Ag & Trading and Specialized Portfolio to fuel growth for the company and its customers.
- 2025 Cargill expands foothold in renewable transportation fuels with acquisition of SJC Bioenergia; ranked #1 in the world for removing industrially produced trans-fatty acids (iTFAs) from its food products.

