

"I would rather be on my farm than be emperor of the world."

~ George Washington

**FALL
2024**



CENTRAL REGION COOPERATIVE



NATE GIESEKE
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Ready for what's next

It's often been said the only constant in life is change. We know that holds true for agriculture too. Our industry is continually changing and evolving and we must change and adapt with it. As we look to the future, we see more change on the horizon.

USDA economists are forecasting 2024 net farm income will be approximately \$116 billion, which is 25% lower than 2023, following a 16% drop in 2023 from 2022. We know lower commodity prices, higher interest rates and weather challenges are all factors contributing to lower net farm income.

While these changes are happening on a macro level, we see it in our business too. As our customers take proactive steps to manage through an environment of lower commodity prices, they are making adjustments to lower their cost of production per acre. We must anticipate these changes, adjust and respond accordingly.

We believe Central Region Cooperative (CRC) is well prepared and well positioned to respond to these macro trends and the changing needs of our customers. As we look ahead, we will continue to invest strategically in assets and infrastructure that add value and efficiency to your operations. For example, we are growing our agronomy footprint in the northern part of our service area and look forward to providing more information soon.

Investing in modern rolling stock and technology is another way we are committed to bringing more efficiency to our operations and our customers. We know speed is a priority – getting you what you


INSIDE:

- Fall Planning
- Harvest Policies
- Directors Election
- Fuel & Propane Upgrades

► **GIESEKE FROM PAGE 1**

need, when and where you need it and getting our salespeople to your farm faster.

Our employees are focused on providing the right mix of products and services that deliver the results our customers expect, and we will continue to invest in our people. Finding talent remains a challenge, but I'm pleased to report we have been able to keep our teams nearly full and hire the quality employees you want on your farms. We also welcomed three interns across all of our operations this summer, and look forward to having several of them



Our employees are focused on providing the right mix of products and services that deliver the results our customers expect, and we will continue to invest in our people.

join CRC after they have completed their education.

As conditions in agriculture shift and change, CRC will continue to look for opportunities to improve your cooperative, but in doing so we will remain diligent and aware of the economic factors around us. We are focused on delivering strategic growth, a strong balance sheet and returning cash to customers. We value the trust you place in us and we look forward to continuing to serve you.



**NEWS
CENTRAL**

2024 CRC Directors Election

Central Region Cooperative is accepting applications for the board of directors. Directors serve four-year terms which begin after the cooperative annual meeting.

Applications will be accepted by the CRC board of directors until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 11, 2024.

If you have interest in running for the board, please contact any of your board members or stop at any of our offices to fill out an application.

Current Directors with terms expiring in 2024:

- Jason Boll – District 1
(area north of MN State HWY 19)
- Bruce Kuelbs – District 2
(area south of MN State HWY 19 and north of MN State HWY 14)
- Tim Kohn – District 3
(area south of MN State HWY 14)

Incumbents Boll, Kuelbs and Kohn are seeking re-election.

SAVE THE DATE!

Visit centralregioncoop.com for future announcements on Central Region Cooperative's Annual Meeting to be held **Tuesday, December 2, 2024.**



“Financing Designed Just for Me!”

Farming has enough challenges. Central Region Coop’s financing programs take the headaches out of time-consuming paperwork and interest-rate uncertainty.

TWO PROGRAMS TO CHOOSE FROM:



“I like the fact that I can chat with my account manager at the coop with which I do business about the best fit for my particular farming operation.”

■ CHS Crop Input Loans

Accolade Program:

- Loans up to \$600,000
- Simple one page application good for up to three years
- Loans up to and above \$2 million with additional information and documents
- Rates 1.9%-9.25% (subject to change)

■ Compeer Flexible Operating Loans

- Loans up to \$600,000
- Simple one page application
- Loans up to and above \$2 million with additional information and documents
- Rates 8%-9.25% based on credit rating (subject to change)



“This is a busy time of year. I can fill out a simple one-page app, get approval in a couple days and get back to work!”

One page application for either program may be completed online or completed and returned to Dan Filzen.

centralregioncoop.com • 507-426-8263, extension 1122

dan.filzen@centralregioncoop.com

Visit CRC Fairfax location office

Matching Donations Raise \$50,000 for Area Organizations

The CRC board of directors disbursed donations to area food shelves, backpack programs, fire departments and EMS organizations throughout the cooperative's service area. Dollars were matched by the Land O' Lakes Foundation, Co Bank Sharing Success Program and CHS's Seeds for Stewardship Program. Together, with matching grant dollars, CRC awarded \$50,000 to area organizations.



Buffalo Lake Ambulance Service
Other local community EMS organizations who received donations were Bird Island, Cosmos, Fairfax, Gibbon (Winthrop), Hector and Sleepy Eye.

Meeker County Food Share
Other county food programs benefiting from hunger program donations were Brown, Renville and Sibley.



Hector Fire Department
Other area fire departments receiving donations: Bird Island, Buffalo Lake, Cosmos, Gibbon, Fairfax and Sleepy Eye.



Helplines

Find the help and information you need on health, stress relief, addiction, finances, education, safety and more.

- Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center**
umash.umn.edu
- MDA COVID Question Line**
mdaresponds@state.mn.us
- Carcass Disposal Hotline (Poultry & Livestock Only)**
651-201-6041

Food & Feed Safety Main Line
651-201-6027
MDA.FFSD.Info@state.mn.us

Minnesota Farm and Rural Helpline
1-833-600-2670
Text: FARMSTRESS to 898211
farmstress@state.mn.us

Rural Finance Authority Office Loan Programs
651-201-6004





CARLY JOHNSON
Grain Dept. Manager

Fall Grain Update

Harvest time is approaching fast. The grain staff has been working diligently to have everything ready, so things run as smooth as possible this harvest season. We have done a lot of repair work to all locations throughout the year, so hopefully we can avoid breakdowns this fall. Inventories are going to be down, so we should have the speed and space to get your grain unloaded and get you back to the field quickly.

CRC Harvest Policies for this harvest season are included in this newsletter. As of right now, all harvest policies, storage and drying rates will remain the same as last year. The Harvest Policies are, however, subject to change at any time. Keep checking our website for updates.

If you need help with your harvest time hauling, Central Region Cooperative has the trucks to serve your needs. This has been a great service for many of you in the past and, as of now, we have 20 semi-trucks available for hauling your grain, whether it is directly out of the field or picked up on your farm. Just give us a call when you need to haul!

The excessive rainfall this growing season has taken a toll on yield expectations for the corn and soybean crops in our territory. Some look pretty good and some not so good depending on your location. It is what it is, and we all know that we can't control Mother Nature. All we can do now is hope the yields are better than we were expecting. I am anticipating that this year CRC harvest bushels will be down 15% from average. With all the variance in the corn maturity, drying and storing this year's corn crop could be a challenge. Be sure to keep a close watch on your storage bins after harvesting is done, especially if you plan on storing for an extended period.

Prices have been in a downward trend this past summer. The old adage that rain makes grain along with the better than average crop condition ratings in other parts of the grain belt as well as the rest of the world, grain traders have a reason to sell the Chicago Board of Trade futures on all commodities. If the yields come close to what the USDA is predicting, any hopes for much of a rebound in prices is probably not in the cards, at least for a while. Corn demand has been fairly strong this past year, but soybean demand is down compared to the previous year. China's demand for soybeans has mostly gone to Brazil and Argentina because of better yields and cheaper prices than what the United States can offer. So, the stocks-to-use ratio of corn and

soybeans is going to be up significantly from the previous year. We will have to see what kind of yields we get as we get further into harvest to see how the prices react.

CRC has several types of contracts to help reduce your price risk.

- Basis fixed and extended price contracts let you lock in the basis now and set the futures price at a later date. They remove basis risk and stop storage costs once grain is delivered. These contracts should be used if you think the futures price is low and expect Chicago Board of Trade prices to go up in the future.
- Minimum Price contracts let you sell now and buy a call option for any upside price potential prior to the options expiration date. It removes downside risk on both basis and futures price. Your only risk is the cost of the option and the fees involved.
- Hedge to arrive contracts allow you to lock in the Chicago Board of Trade futures price and set the basis later. This contract is to be used if you are satisfied with the futures price but feel the basis will improve in the future.

If you have any interest in any of these types of contracts, or you just need some help with your marketing plan, be sure to contact John Cook, Tanar Haala or me with any questions you have.

Thank you for allowing us to serve your grain marketing needs in the past and we look forward to serving your needs in the future.



We have 20 semi-trucks available for hauling your grain, whether it is directly out of the field or picked up on your farm.



2024 HARVEST POLICIES

All policies are subject to change without prior notice.
Effective 9/1/2024

Warehouse/ Open Storage:

Corn/Soybeans: \$.06 cents per month
(pro-rated on a daily basis)

All Storage – warehouse receipt/open storage:

- No Minimum charge. *(Subject to change if storage space fills up)*
- If not sold, storage will start from the date of delivery.
- No storage charges if sold within 10 calendar days of delivery.
- Shrink and drying will be re-calculated to 15% if sold within 10 days of delivery.
- **Storage calculations will accrue on a daily basis and will be due and payable at sale of grain or July 31, 2025.**

Price Later Contracts:

Corn/Soybeans: \$.05 cents per month
(pro-rated on a daily basis)

- **Must be signed.**
- **Title of grain is transferred to CRC.**
- **No re-delivery (example – HCP or grain bank).**
- **Cannot be used for forward contracts.**
- **Can only be priced at the market on the day you choose to sell it.**
- **Not eligible for CCC loan.**
- No Minimum service charge. *(Subject to change if storage space fills up)*
- If not sold, service fees will start from the date of delivery.
- No service charges if sold within 10 calendar days of delivery.
- Shrink and drying will be re-calculated to 15% if sold within 10 days of delivery.
- **Service fee calculations will accrue on a daily basis and will be due and payable at sale of grain or July 31, 2025.**

Grain Bank Charges:

Corn used through the CRC Feed mill:

- First 60 days - no storage charge.
- After that, storage is \$.06 per month, accrued on a daily basis.
- Dried and shrunk to 15%.

Corn hauled out or sold out of GB:

- \$.06 per month storage from date of delivery.
- \$.15 per bushel handling charge if hauled out.
- Bushels will be reshunk to 14%.

Negative balances are not allowed and will be billed out at the close of the day you run out.

Moisture Limits:	Corn	Soybeans
Open Storage and Warehouse:	14%	13%
Grain Bank (used in CRC mill):	15%	-
Price Later:	14%	13%
Sale or applied to contract:	15%	13%

Corn Drying Charges: \$.055 per point for each point of moisture removed above moisture limits.
SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME DUE TO COST OF FUEL

Shrink Factor: 1.4% for each point of moisture removed above moisture limits.

All drying and shrink will be rounded up to the nearest 1/10% of moisture.

Custom Dried Corn: \$.15 per bushel handling charge. Must be hauled out within 10 days of delivery or storage will be applied and drying and shrink will be at 14%.

Disposition of Grain: The driver will provide the scale operator with the owner’s name or names, division of the grain, and disposition (store, sell, contract, grain bank, price later, etc.). The driver should notify the scale operator when the last load has been delivered. If no instructions are given, the grain will be marked as open storage.

No storage charges if sold within 10 days of delivery and shrink and drying will be recalculated to 15%. If not sold, storage will start from the date of delivery. Shrink and drying will not be recalculated.

Contracted Grain: Grain delivered against Cash sales and Basis contracts will be applied to the oldest contract first. Early delivery of contracted grain will not be allowed without prior approval. If delivered early, storage charges will apply and no early payment will be made. HTA contracts must be priced prior to delivery to avoid storage charges. Once contract(s) is filled, overrun will be stored unless stated on ticket.



2024 HARVEST POLICIES CONTINUED

Deferred Payment: Grain may be placed on deferred payment. Elevator must be notified prior to settlement. Grain placed on deferred payment cannot be changed. No premium will be paid at this time.

Farm to Terminal - Direct Shipment: All grain hauled directly to the terminal or processor will be settled on a load by load basis. Seller must accept the weights and grades of the delivery location. There will be no averaging of grades and discounts are subject to change without notice.

Treated Grain: Any and all grain that contains treated seeds will be rejected. If the load is dumped into our inventory, owner may be subject to one or all of the following: 1) no payment for the load, 2) punitive charges for contamination of our inventory, 3) further financial liability. **No exceptions!**

There will be no averaging of corn or bean discounts!

Corn Discounts:

Test Weight:

(per .5#)	\$.02 each pound	53.9 to 52.0
	\$.04 each pound	51.9 to 50.0
	\$.05 each pound	under 50.0

Foreign Material:	\$.03 each 1%	3.1% to 5.0%
	\$.04 each 1%	5.1% to 8.0%
	\$.05 each 1%	over 8.0%

Damage:	\$.02 each 1%	5.1% to 8.0%
	\$.03 each 1%	8.1% to 12.0%
	\$.05 each 1%	over 12.0%

Other Factors:	Sour-	\$.10/bu.
	Musty-	\$.10/bu.
	Infested -	\$.15/bu.
	COFO -	\$.15/bu.
	Stones -	\$.15/bu.
	Heat Damage -	\$.01 each 1/10th

Soybean Discounts:

Moisture: Discounts will apply on any loads delivered with moisture content above 13%. Discounts will be deducted from the gross weight of the bushels delivered and rounded up to the nearest ½% of moisture.

<u>Moisture</u>	<u>Discount</u>
13.1 – 13.5%	1%
13.6 – 14.0%	2%
14.1 – 14.5%	4%
14.6 – 15.0%	6%
15.1 – 15.5%	8%
15.6 – 16.0%	10%
16.1 – 16.5%	13%
16.6 – 17.0%	16%
17.1 – 17.5%	19%
17.6 – 18.0%	22%
18.1 – over	4% added for each 1/2 % over 18% and will be subject to rejection.

Test Weight:

\$.005 each pound or fraction thereof 53.9# to 52#
 \$.01 each pound or fraction thereof 51.9# to 49#
 Loads testing below 49# will be subject to rejection.

Foreign Material:

1.0% of the gross weight will be deducted for each percentage - 1.1% to 5.0%
 1.5% of the gross weight will be deducted for each percentage - 5.1% to 10.0%
 2.0% of the gross weight will be deducted for each percentage over 10.0%

Damage:

\$.02 for each ½% - 2.1% to 2.5%
 \$.01 for each ½% - 2.6% to 4.0%
 \$.02 for each ½% - 4.1% to 6.0%
 \$.03 for each ½% - 6.1% to 8.0%
 \$.04 for each ½% - over 8.0%

Heat Damage:

.5% of the price for each ½% over .2%

Other Factors:

Sour - \$.12 / bu.
 Musty - \$.10 / bu.
 COFO - \$.20 / bu.
 DLQ - \$.25 / bu.



RON TREBESCH
Feed Dept. Manager

One of Our Best Years

Our 2023/24 fiscal year came to an end in July, and I believe we had a fantastic year. In the feed business, it may have been one of our best years ever. How does that happen? With the constant work of employees and loyal customers. Current grain prices for corn and soybeans are at the lowest price in years. I know we should have a chance to lock in some pricing on soybean meal and corn but I'm having a hard time pulling the trigger on this trying to find a bottom. By the time this newsletter is in your

hands, we should have some done. Again, I hope we all use LRPs for our livestock sales. I don't want to see producers lose if it can be helped but some people have collected on this tool this summer. Check with your crop insurance provider or give me a call to help connect you with someone who can assist.

July was a little slow for the mills due to some barns shifting from big hogs to nursery pigs and some poultry producers switching from laying

hens to pullets, so less feed has been going out to farms.

We have experienced some turnover in staffing and have some new employees learning the roles. Many of you knew Sonya Hoffmann who worked for CRC for nearly a decade and did her work quite well. She has gone on to take a new life adventure in something completely different. She will be missed by all of us, including customers, so this quote by William Arthurward fits her well, "Opportunities are like sunrises, if you wait too long you'll miss them." We wish her good luck!

We have been fortunate to have great candidates take interest in serving in the feed accounting role. I wish CRC could have hired them all, and I hope they will consider

"Yesterday is the past, tomorrow is the future, today is a gift, that's why it's called the Present"

other opportunities with us in the future, but we will select one and have the individual onboard by the time you're reading this. Please help us share a warm welcome! We have also recently added a contract feed hauler out of Sleepy Eye so look for him on your farms, not just in the south but in the north. Learning takes time and we really appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through getting new people up to speed with how our feed business operates.

The Gibbon feed mill recently was upgraded with some new mixing automation equipment that should help the location mix bulk feed loads more efficiently. This equipment has been in use at the Sleepy Eye feed mill for quite some time, and we're pleased to add similar functionality to the Gibbon facility.

I don't recall where I found this quote but I knew I would use it someday, "Yesterday is the past, tomorrow is the future, today is a gift, that's why it's called the Present". A big thank you to all employees and customers of CRC for the past, the future, and the present.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nate Gieske or me. Have a great harvest season!





TRACI SCHROEPFER
Safety Manager

Don't Learn Safety by Accident

The 2021 data for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

indicates that the agricultural sector is still the most dangerous in America with 453 fatalities. Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry. For this reason, the third week of



September has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week. This annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council has been proclaimed as such by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944. National Farm Safety and Health Week is led by the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS), the agricultural partner of the National Safety Council.

7 WAYS TO MANAGE FARM NOISES AND PREVENT HEARING LOSS

Between tractors, combines and farm animals, the farm can be a noisy place to work, and can put workers' hearing at risk.

For instance, some idling equipment can harm a worker's hearing if he or she is exposed to it for eight hours without protection.

Hearing damage begins when we are exposed to noises at 85 decibels (dB). Exposure to loud noises — even for a moment — can cause hearing damage that's severe, or even permanent.

Before we delve into some tips courtesy of our friends at It's A Noisy Planet, here are some standard decibel measurements for comparison.

Normal conversation: 60 dB
(not loud enough to cause damage)

iPod at maximum volume: 100 dB
(begins causing permanent damage after 15 min)

Thunder clap: 120 dB
(this is 32x louder than a noise at 70 dB!)

On the farm, this translates to:



Tractor (closed cab): 85 decibels

Tractor (without cab): 100 or higher

Grain dryers: 110 db

Tips to manage farm noises and prevent hearing loss

- 1. Replace worn machinery parts.** This, and lubricating machine parts, will reduce noise from friction or vibrations.
- 2. Install noise-reducing mufflers.** Engines are a great place to install these.
- 3. Place barriers between your workers and the noise.** Installing insulated covers on engines, barriers on stationary equipment, and a cab on tractors is a great start.
- 4. Wear ear protection when necessary.** If you need to shout over your farm equipment, you should be

wearing hearing protection to prevent damage. Any noise that leaves a ringing or buzzing sound in your ears means it is too loud to bear for any length of time without protection.

5. Wear hearing protection (earplugs or muffs) around the house first. This way, you can become acquainted with how things sound with them on before you hit the field. You don't want to be doing dangerous work without knowing how your protection works. You may miss a cautionary signal.

6. Keep children away from noisy areas. Remind your children to play and complete their chores away from loud machinery.

7. Post signs in noisy areas. After you identify these areas and place signage near them, arrange for hearing protection to be kept in these areas. Make it a rule for workers and family to wear them within a certain radius of the signage.

Your hearing is too precious to risk losing. Follow these tips on your farm to ensure everyone's ears remain healthy.



4 Step Revive and Thrive Lawn Care Program



Step 1 March, April & Early May	Step 2 Anytime	Step 3 Anytime	Step 4 September, October & November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevents crabgrass and fertilizes in one application Contains Dithiopyr for Pre and Post emergent crabgrass control for 180 days Non-staining formulation Develop a strong, disease resistant turf to remain robust throughout summer 3% Sulfur to balance pH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains VIPER™ with 4-way active herbicide for killing weeds Controls over 250 broadleaf weeds including dandelion, chickweed, and clover. High fertilizer analysis for fast growth, thickening, and lush green-up. 2% Sulfur to balance pH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps fight off the stresses of summer – heat, drought, high traffic Slow release fertilizer that thickens and promotes a strong green lawn for the rest of summer Versatile fertilizer can be used year round Minimizes weeds by maintaining a healthy lawn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepares your lawn for the stress of winter Root-building formula to withstand winter dormancy, encourage drought resistance, and increase plant hardiness Slow release nitrogen for your turf to store nutrients all winter and have it readily available in spring.



24399 225th Avenue
 Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
 1-888-454-4744

For Lawn Care Tips visit www.centralregioncoop.com/bca-products/lawn-care-fertilizer



Be a Weather Warrior with BCA Products!

No matter what winter brings, it is our goal to keep you prepared. BCA Products has developed a line of four performance-driven ice melt products and one traction grit

product to assure a safe and manageable season. We've formulated these products to perform at differing temperature ranges from 20°F down to -20°F.

We provide fast ice melting action at a reasonable price. Our ice melts are blended to take advantage of the low cost of sodium chloride and the performance enhancing attributes of magnesium and calcium chloride to bring a well-rounded, affordable and

performance-driven product to market. Our ice melts and grit includes blends that are crucially fast acting, pet safe, environmentally friendly and economical.

BCA Products provides products with consistent particle sizing, product integrity and top-notch customer service to assure optimal de-icing performance as promised. Try them out for yourself!



Contact us today to find your local distributor or inquire about becoming a dealer.





BILL PELZEL
Energy Dept. Manager

At Central Region Cooperative we take immense pride in our customer service. As we are granted selling opportunities by our patrons, it is our goal and objective to provide top notch products with reliable equipment, and quality employees. To provide the type of service our customers have come to expect and be sustainable in the industry, it requires constant planning, educating, and upgrading of facilities and equipment. Trust that every Energy staff member has received industry required propane and HazMat training prior to operating alone providing products or repairs to you, the customer. Although this training can be expensive, it is mandatory and necessary to meet insurance requirements as well as protect people and property from catastrophic damage!

Recently, the energy staff of CRC has been painting some of our bulk storage tanks, notably the propane tanks in Hector. The refined fuel storage tanks in Cosmos will be next, followed by the Hanska propane storage tanks. The Essig refined fuel storage plant will also be receiving some major attention! The CRC board of directors has approved a bottom loading system upgrade for this bulk plant. What this does is keep our refined fuel delivery drivers off the top of their bulk trucks while loading the product. They will now be able to load their trucks while on the ground, and this new system will load at a higher gallon per minute than our old top loading procedure. This has become an industry standard with insurance companies to avoid having drivers on top of these trucks during all types of weather conditions. I agree with them. The other piece of this bulk plant upgrade is a transport offload assistance pump. What this pump will do is enable our deliveries into the bulk plant to be accomplished nearly twice as fast as our current system, getting our transport drivers on the road for another load sooner. This will create efficiencies, as well as potentially “beating” product price increases on volatile market days. Many days our suppliers will increase our cost of refined fuel products at noon when the market is jumping.

Another refined fuel upgrade is the purchase of a new Freightliner bulk truck

Update and Upgrade

with an automatic transmission, faster pumping capabilities, and a new 5600-gallon tank. This rolling stock upgrade should help reduce costly down time at the Hanska site for Leroy Urban, our refined fuel driver.

Our propane storage plants are also getting some attention. We are testing the pumps at all eight sites to ensure we are loading our propane bobtails as rapidly as the industry can achieve! This may require simply changing pulleys and belts to speed up the pumps, or, potentially installing new upgraded pumps or additional loading hoses. Some of our propane bobtails can now take advantage of a dual loading procedure, cutting load time in half. Clearly, this helps us become more efficient and assists the Energy staff in providing reliable service. A new 5600-gallon propane bobtail truck has also been approved for purchase, replacing a 2002 model truck that is being retired.

As you can see, CRC is investing in people and equipment as we work towards our long-term goal of sustainably serving our patrons. None of this would be possible without our dedicated customer base. I can't thank you enough for allowing the Energy staff of CRC to serve your needs.

I hope everyone had a safe enjoyable summer! Please reach out to us at any of our Energy locations for all your Energy needs. Fall is fast approaching, let us help you be ready!

“CRC is investing in people and equipment as we work towards our long-term goal of sustainably serving our patrons.”





BRIAN MEYER
Project/Asset Management Lead

Out with the Old, In with the New

The year 2024 seems to be flying by and it won't be long before you will be seeing another round of Central Region Coop vehicles and equipment swarming the area. Dry fertilizer floaters, semi tenders, pickups pulling nurse tanks and tractors with NH3 toolbars are now being serviced in the CRC shops preparing for the crops to leave the field. With the normal day-to-day feed trucks, fuel and propane trucks, and grain semis added to this, it takes a dedicated team of employees to keep this vast fleet of vehicles on the road and running in the field.

In Fairfax, as you may know, a newly built shop was recently put into service to meet the growing need for more space to service our fleet and accommodate the increased overall size of equipment today and into the future. Overall, the shop is working well and will serve Fairfax and surrounding locations for many years to come.

Along with the service side of vehicles and equipment comes the purchase of new equipment to be able to cover more acres faster in ever narrowing windows of weather events. In the next few months, CRC will be looking to purchase a couple of 90' dry fertilizer floaters, a couple new 120' sprayers and other miscellaneous items to keep the products delivered to the field and farm in the most efficient way.

As new purchases come in, we will be looking to retire some of the items that we feel have reached their useful life or repair and maintenance will exceed the income for that particular unit. One of the ways we liquidate some of

these used items is through auction services and various other outlets depending on the item being sold. We will also do some roadside selling, so keep your eyes open around CRC locations. Items for sale will have a contact phone number listed on them.

Sleepy Eye Agronomy will be moving the anhydrous ammonia storage tanks from the West location and will be moving 60,000 gallons of storage to the East location. With the tanks moving, adding a second pump and updating the risers for filling nurse tanks, it will be much more efficient.

As of the first of August, the million-gallon 32% liquid nitrogen storage tank in Fairfax will be able to receive rail cars to fill the tank. This was in part made possible through a grant that was received a few years ago to build the rail spur and, in turn, relieve the highways of a few trucks.

Central Region Cooperative is always looking for ways to improve our fleet and facilities to maximize our efficiency to keep your farms, homes and businesses running smooth. Have a safe and abundant harvest.

We will also do some roadside selling, so keep your eyes open around CRC locations. Items for sale will have a contact phone number listed on them.

The Culture of ag

Pigs can run a seven-minute mile.

If you've ever been stuck in a pen with an angry sow, you know it's best to get out of the way. But did you know that the average human runner can cover one mile in seven to 10 minutes? On the flip side, pigs can run a mile in seven minutes. That means your odds of winning a race against a pig may be slimmer than you thought.

The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds.

Chickens aren't known for being good flyers. While they can fly short distances, it's unlikely to see one soaring above the treetops. Therefore, it should be no surprise that the longest recorded flight by a chicken is just 13 seconds. Even more interestingly, the longest recorded distance a chicken has flown is 301.5 feet.

There are 914 million acres of farmland just in the U.S.

Interestingly, AgHires reports that American agriculture is the most efficient and productive system in the world (despite having only 2% of the population working in the industry). This efficiency gives the United States the ability to be the world's largest exporter of food and fiber.



Neil Grabow

Hailing from Comfrey, Neil joined the feed team in July. When not at work, he enjoys bowling, and spending time with his children and grandchildren. Neil can be found working at our Sleepy Eye feed mill assisting with manufacturing, unloading semis, loading trucks, and delivering bags.



Justin Grosam

Learn by doing is how Justin started his career in agriculture. Justin grew up on a family farm west of Fairfax and knew agriculture was where he wanted to be. Following high school, he enrolled in the Farm Operations and Management program at Ridgewater. He completed an internship with CRC the summer of 2023, then returned for a full-time agronomy operations position following completion of the program. His special interests outside of work include hunting and fishing.



Rod Kramer

Rod is glad to be back with CRC. His main role is an account manager at Bird Island Agronomy. He will also spend time at Brownton in dispatch. After 10 years with Bird Island Soil Service, he moved on to a location manager role with a neighboring coop, but now is back. Rod grew up in Bird Island where he farmed with his family for years. In his spare time he likes to walk, golf, fish, hunt, and ride motorcycle.



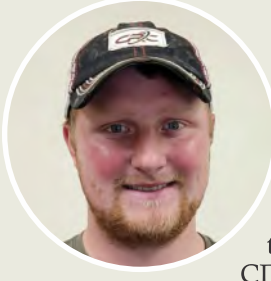
Tony LeGare

Tony's journey with CRC began last fall on a part-time basis, and since then he's transitioned to a full-time role. He's now an integral part of the team at the Sleepy Eye feed mill as a feed delivery driver.



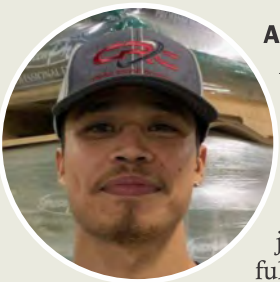
Tanner Olson

Beginning employment in May, CRC welcomed Tanner as Hanska's newest Account Manager. Tanner graduated from Ridgewater College in April and comes from a family farm near Godahl. He enjoys making connections with customers and providing them with agronomic information, products, and services. Outside of his professional life, Tanner finds enjoyment in hunting, fishing, and playing baseball.



Cory Schmidt

Cory joined CRC this spring and works in a regular, part-time agronomy operations role at the Buffalo Lake plant. He grew up on a family farm north of Cosmos, and learned how to tend to livestock and perform farm work at a young age. He now raises dairy cattle and enjoys showing them in competitions. Cory recently obtained his CDL and is looking forward to doing some driving for the cooperative.



Alberto Velasquez

Alberto first joined BCA Products in Sleepy Eye as a seasonal employee to help the division meet demand for its lawn fertilizer and ice melt products. In June, he joined the production team full-time. In his free time Alberto likes to exercise, play sports, and train for cage fighting.



Dawson Yost

Dawson joined CRC as an Industrial Maintenance Technician at the Sleepy Eye East facility. Out of high school, he spent four years in the Air Force as an Aerospace Mechanic. Dawson has spent time working with students at New Ulm Public High School as a Robotics Coach and assisting with the IT department. Currently, Dawson is pursuing a degree in Manufacturing Engineering at MSU Mankato. In his spare time, he enjoys running, tinkering, and listening to music.



Nate Ziegler

Nate returned to local roots this spring after living in the Tennessee area for several years following his education. He grew up on a farm east of Fairfax where his family raised pigs. Nate works in agronomy operations and is a chemical and seed warehouse assistant at the Fairfax agronomy plant. In his spare time, Nate enjoys playing guitar, watching movies and spending time with his niece and nephews.



Employment Opportunities



FULL-TIME

- Accounts Payable (Sleepy Eye)
- Agronomy Operations (Bird Island, Brownton)
- Energy Transport (Open)
- Feed Delivery Driver (Sleepy Eye)
- Grain Operations (Buffalo Lake, New Ulm)
- Trucking (Fairfax, Sleepy Eye)

SEASONAL

- Agronomy Operations
- Grain Operations
- Grain Scale Operations

Apply at centralregioncoop.com, at any CRC location, or by calling Human Resources at 320-833-3003.

Account Access—GROWER360

Key features include:

- ✓ Quick overview display of account balances, including grain
- ✓ View and download invoices, payments, bookings, and statements
- ✓ View and download grain delivered
- ✓ View detailed agronomy field information
- ✓ View patronage equity balance
- ✓ Receive text or email notifications
- ✓ Sign your grain contracts electronically
- ✓ Payment on account now available

Enroll Today!

Simply complete the sign-up form. To get started, visit www.centralregioncoop.com and click on the **ACCOUNT ACCESS** tab at the top of our home page. Once you have submitted the form you will receive an email from CRC Grower360 within one business day of sign-up.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact our main office in Sleepy Eye at (507) 794-3031, extension 2134.



AGRONOMY GRAIN ENERGY FEED BCA PRODUCTS ABOUT US RESOURCES **ACCOUNT ACCESS** Q

ACCOUNT ACCESS - GROWER360

ACCOUNT LOG-IN

Enroll Today!

Grower360 provides customers a user friendly portal to view your account in real time, see past activity and view the details to make informed business decisions. Simply complete the sign up form (right). Once you have submitted the form you will receive an email from CRC Grower360 within one business

Grower360 Sign-up Form

*First and Last Name



CENTRAL REGION COOPERATIVE

P0 Box 429
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MANKATO, MN
PERMIT 609

LOCATIONS:

BIRD ISLAND
320-365-3655

BUFFALO LAKE
320-833-5321
800-642-6727

COSMOS
320-877-7261

FAIRFAX
507-426-8263
800-328-0131

GIBBON
507-834-6534
800-690-6534

HANSKA
507-439-6244

HECTOR
320-848-2252

NEW ULM
507-354-4149

SLEEPY EYE
Main Office &
West Elevator
507-794-3031
800-757-0572

East Elevator
507-794-4581

Cobden Elevator
507-794-7390

Agronomy & Energy
507-794-5831
877-576-5456

BCA Products
507-794-5411

Feed Mill
507-794-3001



**LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK!**

Questions or
comments? Call one
of our locations or visit
centralregioncoop.com

