

“No race can prosper until it learns there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem.”

—Booker T. Washington

**SPRING
2024**



CENTRAL REGION COOPERATIVE



NATE GIESEKE
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Returning Value to You

As we enter 2024 your board of directors and management team are focused on strengthening your cooperative with calculated growth and balance sheet management. With these priorities in mind, we are committed to maintaining a strong balance sheet, returning high volumes of cash to customers through cash patronage and equity distributions, and improving your company’s hard assets and rolling stock.

Our customers have always valued the three major uses of cash at Central Region Cooperative (CRC) which are equity distribution, cash patronage, and asset expenditures. Your board of directors has made it a priority to continue to increase the amount of equity distributions to our equity holders and pay out a high percentage of our earnings in cash to members. CRC’s continued success and strong history of earnings has allowed us to distribute record amounts of cash to members.

In 2023, cash patronage totaled \$4,970,506 million and equity redemptions totaled \$2,280,325 million for a combined total of more than \$7.2 million in cash paid to owners. This builds on the strong trend of recent years and our commitment to return cash to our owners.

Investing in assets to better serve our customers is also a priority. Our recent purchase of 50% of the United Farmers Cooperative (UFC) Agronomy complex in Brownton adds additional fertilizer storage capacity to meet our seasonal needs while significantly lowering our capital investment. We gained immediate fertilizer storage, capabilities, and access to an efficient, modern facility for our customers through this partnership

INSIDE:

- **BCA Upgrades**
- **Spring Oil Sale**
- **Agronomy Expansion**
- **FY 2023 Financial Results**
- **Supporting Community**

► GIESEKE FROM PAGE 1

with UFC and we do not have to spend capital to build a new plant.

This strategic use of capital lowered our capital investment at a lower interest rate which allows us to continue to invest in rolling stock and other updates at CRC facilities. This year we will be investing approximately \$4 million in rolling stock to bring added efficiency to customers across all our locations.

Along with providing the assets and infrastructure needed to meet the



Strategic use of capital lowered our capital investment at a lower interest rate which allows us to continue to invest in rolling stock and other updates at CRC facilities.

changing needs of our customers, our employees are committed to providing you with high quality products and services and support you can depend on. We look forward to serving you for years to come.

Thank you for choosing CRC as your trusted business partner. We value your business and wish you a safe and productive spring planting season.



JOHN COOK
Grain Merchandiser

In the grain trading world, your ownership

position determines your success. As an elevator grain dealer, you can either be long, even, or short ownership depending on market conditions which are determined by demand, weather, logistics and price. As a farmer you are a natural long position in ownership of grain until you have everything sold. As we look into the rest of this crop year and further, we have to take into account the four factors I have mentioned above and one very important factor that cannot be forgotten about—grain quality.

As I write this today, the corn market is down \$.90 from the October 2023 highs and the soybean market down \$2.24 from the November 2023 highs as demand has taken a hit compared to last year. The end user and merchandisers have seen limited grain sales this year compared to in the past, due to market conditions. This implies there is plenty of grain sitting in bins. I urge you to keep an eye on this grain in your bins and move things

We have all seen how spring planting and weather can make the markets give small opportunities for sales and having targets in place can help execute those sales.



Staying in Position

around as needed as we have seen it both from deliveries off the farm, and our own grain in the elevator that this mild winter and warmer temps have made it tough to keep inventory in perfect condition. You all work very hard to get as many bushels out of your operation as possible and it is a hard pill to swallow to see those bushels, or that “long” position decrease while it is sitting in the bin.

On the marketing side of things, my best advice is to keep an eye on exports along with domestic demand, and put in target pricing orders. We have all

seen how spring planting and weather can make the markets give small opportunities for sales and having targets in place can help execute those sales.

We offer a variety of contracts that all have their upsides and down sides. If you need an explanation of these contract offerings or want to go through a marketing plan, don't hesitate to get in touch with me, Carly Johnson, or Tanar Haala.

Producer Input Financing

DAN FILZEN
Credit & Risk Manager



Let us work with you and eliminate possible finance charges on your CRC account. As interest rates are on the rise, you may need to explore financing options available to you. We have a couple options available again this year. The CHS Accolades program, has changed in that it allows you to complete an application once every three years and has various rates. Both CHS Accolade and Compeer producer input financing programs have simple one-page

CHS Accolades program allows you to complete an application once every three years.

applications. They both have links on CRC's website. The application process is very short and loan approval can be completed within a couple of days.

If you have any questions about any of the financing options, please contact me at 507-426-8263, extension 1122, or come see me at the Fairfax location office.

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



Matching Donations Raise \$75,000 for Area Organizations



COMMITTED TO SUPPORT local youth in agriculture, CRC in partnership with the Land O'Lakes Foundation's matching grant program, made donations to 4-H programs in Brown, Meeker, Renville and Sibley counties. Board members Ron Wendinger and Larry Dean and presented a \$3,750 donation to Cassidy Martin, Meeker County 4-H Educator.



CENTRAL REGION COOPERATIVE Board Member Ron Wendinger presented a donation of \$2,400 to the Sibley County Food Share's director. The donation was made possible through a match program with Land O'Lakes Foundation. Cash donations, such as this one, are typically used to purchase food, and for general operating expenses. Sibley County Food Share is a SuperShelf which provides a welcoming environment and access to healthy food choices while cultivating a dignified experience. Similar donations were presented to several area food shelf organizations and school weekend backpack programs. Together with matching grant dollars, the cooperative disbursed \$15,000 to help fight hunger in the communities served.

WINTHROP POLICE DEPARTMENT

was presented with a \$10,000 donation in January. The donation was composed of \$5,000 from Central Region Cooperative in addition to a match donation of \$5,000 from CHS Seeds for Stewardship.



Winthrop Police Department is in the process of establishing a new K9 program that will become an important asset to the community and surrounding areas which impact CRC's service territory. The K9 and handler will be trained in narcotics detection, tracking (including missing persons), evidence article searches and obedience.

Goal areas of the program include:

- 1. Enhancing Community Engagement:** The K9 will actively contribute to the safety of rural communities by assisting in search and rescue operations, tracking of individual who may be in danger due to a mental health crisis, tracking of suspects, and deterring criminal activities.
- 2. Agricultural Safety:** Lost and/or injured individuals in rural or farm areas can be tracked with the assistance of the K9.
- 3. Youth Leadership Development:** The K9 unit will actively engage with rural youth in and outside of school, fostering leadership skills through educational programs, workshops, and mentoring opportunities.



Central Region Cooperative supports education and development of students participating in FFA Chapter activities. In 2023, CRC donated \$5,000 per FFA chapter in the following school districts: Sleepy Eye, New Ulm, GFW, BLHS, Springfield and ACGC. This was made possible through CoBank's Sharing Success matching grant program.



BUTCH ALTMANN
Agronomy Dept. Manager

The Winter That Never Was?

It sure has been a strange winter so far! I was even told someone was plowing alfalfa ground on February 10. With January and February being snowless it seems we have never really shut down for the winter this year. We are well into planning for the upcoming growing season and going through maps with many of you growers. We will even be doing some spreading soon unless the weather does a drastic change.

It has been a very exciting winter here at CRC. With the addition of the Brownnton facility we will be able to now hold the majority of all our needs for each season. With additional dry, liquid and chemical storage we will be able to feed all CRC locations in season and not have to rely on other facilities to store products for us. With the addition, we will no longer be running our fertilizer plant in Buffalo Lake. All the dry and liquid fertilizer will now come out of the

the Buffalo Lake location all these years. I know we will be able to service you as well or even better in the future. As for the chemical side of things, growers can pick up your needs in Buffalo Lake yet this spring and summer, but at any time you can also go to Brownnton, Bird Island or Fairfax. After this summer we will no longer have chemicals there, but you will still be able to get water in Buffalo Lake.

We have replaced four sprayers, two dry floaters and have added four more dry tenders to help keep up with the fast pace you can put your crop in the ground. At CRC, we understand the importance of helping you get your crop planted as fast as possible.

I would like to introduce the addition of two more sales account managers to our staff. Morgan Rowley will be helping customers in the Hanska, Essig and Sleepy Eye areas, and Kathy Jorgenson will be working out of the Bird Island location. They will be in touch with many of you in the future.

There is little to talk about in the fertilizer world, but I would encourage you to talk with your salesperson very soon to get organized for spring. Let us know your planting intentions so we can be sure and have product on hand for you. Pricing on all product so far has been very stable and I do not expect things to change in the immediate future. On the other hand, many chemicals have dropped significantly in cost. Please work with your salesperson to be sure you can take advantage of the drop in pricing.

As always, we certainly appreciate your support and look forward to working with you again this spring.

Brownnton, Bird Island or Fairfax locations.

“I would like to thank all the patrons who have supported the Buffalo Lake location all these years. I know we will be able to service you as well, or even better, in the future.”

I would like to thank all the patrons who have supported



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



BILL PELZEL
Energy Dept. Manager

up the dictionary definition of normal which is “usual, typical, or expected” and I learned what I already knew!

It seems with energy products, and most likely many others, there is not a normal anymore. In years past it was normal to use seasonal, technical, historical, and fundamental information to assist patrons in procuring energy needs at what we determined was the “right time.” Today volatility is the norm.

What I can promise you to be normal is the service and products you will receive from the energy staff of CRC. We are working diligently daily to assess market conditions to provide you with the best advice possible. Any day can be a good day to take delivery or contract for future needs, so let us help you limit your risk and exposure to market volatility.

If you haven't yet signed up to receive my *Energy Tidbits* article that is posted on our website please do so. In this

What I can promise you to be normal is the service and products you will receive from the Energy staff of CRC.

to Hanska, we feel our service and products are typical and expected, and we take great pride in that! Our refined fuels department is here to help with all diesel, gasoline, DEF and lube oil needs. From bulk truck to transport quantities, we have you covered, and pickup or delivery is available for most products. Trust that every day we are working hard to market our products efficiently and



The New Not Normal

competitively in a consistent manner. Please reach out to our offices in Buffalo Lake, Hanska, or Sleepy Eye to discuss pricing or delivery options. If you have not yet positioned yourself for your 2024 season's energy needs please reach out to us! The admin staff of CRC is ready to give you direction for your purchasing or contracting needs.

Be on the lookout for our annual spring oil sale (see ad on page 7). This is the best time of year to purchase lube oil as we offer reduced

pricing, while striving to get deliveries to you in advance of the busy planting season.

Although it is spring, it's still a good time to consider propane storage upgrades, heaters, or any other propane products. Recently we have added some employees to better serve you as a full-service propane coop. Our skilled service department is second to none when it comes to system design, storage options, shop, garage, or barn heating systems, as well as simple propane supply to your home.

In closing, I would like to thank the staff of our Hanska location as well as you, the patrons, for coming on board with CRC. We appreciate your patronage and are excited to continue serving you. Please note the Hanska energy/agronomy office is open with some of the same familiar faces there to help you, stop by or give them a call for all energy needs.

Thank you!

Spring Oil Sale



Our Best Prices Of The Year On Bulk/Packaged Oil And Grease!

10% Discount On Grease

\$0.75 Cents Per Gallon Off On All Bulk & Packaged Oil

Some Of The Available Bulk Products On Sale:

- Enviro Edge 5W-40
- TMS 15W-40
- Auto Gold 5W-30
- Qwiklift HTB
- TMS 10W-30

Promotion Will Run Through The End Of April.

**To Schedule A Delivery
Call One of Our Energy Offices Today!**



CENTRAL REGION COOPERATIVE

Buffalo Lake

320-833-3009

Hanska

507-439-6244

Sleepy Eye

507-794-5831

Option 1

The Culture of



Trends in agriculture in 2024 will include greater technical innovation and research into regenerative agriculture. The essence of regenerative agriculture is mimicking natural processes and biodiversity (within a managed plan) on agricultural land.

Of all the 2024 trends in digital agriculture, the role played by Gen AI, or generative AI, is likely to be one of the most significant. The potential of Gen AI on the global general economy is already being calculated in trillions of dollars. There is a historic opportunity to improve productivity, eliminate waste and inefficiency, and even open new markets. AI may eventually account for 75% of the value of customer operations, marketing and sales, software engineering, and research and development.

One U.S. farm feeds 166 people annually in the U.S. and abroad. The global population is expected to increase by 2.2 billion by 2050, which means the world's farmers will have to grow about 70% more food than what is now produced.



RON TREBESCH
Feed Dept. Manager

You're the Caretakers

On the 8th day
God looked
down on his
planned paradise and

said I need a caretaker, so God made a farmer.
—Paul Harvey

If you have time, bring that up on YouTube if you've not listened to it yet.

Well, Paul Harvey sums it up. All you farmers are the caretakers of land and animals, and without you the rest of us wouldn't make it. For that, thank you for what you do.

The swine and dairy farmers are in the fight of their life to try and hang on. Some have given up, or will give up because of prices. CRC's feed mills are running good as the cooperative is keeping up with maintenance and repairs which means more expenses, the same as with your farm operations.

The prices on corn, soybean meal, and DDGs are priced better than a year ago for the livestock producer, not so much for the grain farmers. So, I am thinking a good year for feed costs, this will help get some money back. Now let's talk cattle. I am glad they are having an upturn in the markets, but replacements will come at a hefty price, so be careful. With the volatile prices, I would encourage producers to take a look at the insurance tool for Livestock

“You wouldn't think about not insuring your crop, so why not protect your livestock investment?”

Revenue Protection (LRP), found at rma.usda.gov. You wouldn't think about not insuring your crop, so why not protect your livestock investment? You can visit with your crop insurance agent about this program, or reach out to me and I can try to help you.

Remember, early orders are a must! You or your custom feeders should have received a letter. We have been lenient in enforcing early orders, but it is now go time. Please call Sonya Hoffmann or me with any questions.

What a beautiful winter so far to date. As of early February, I was told tilers are still going, top 4" good then 4" frost—spring will come fast at this rate! They are tiling in the morning as soil conditions tend to soften in the afternoon.

As always, the feed department employees would like to thank you for your business throughout the year. Should you have any questions or concerns, you may always contact myself or Nate Gieseke, general manager.

Have a safe spring!

I hope you all feel the same as all of us at CRC:
“Every great business is built on friendship”
—J.C. Penney

Top 5 Farm-Related Injuries

- 1 Overturning tractors and heavy machinery
- 2 Falls
- 3 Toxic chemical exposure to pesticides
- 4 Suffocation
- 5 Heat stress



CHUCK BRAUN
Treasury Manager

Financial Highlights

I was happy to see so many of you at our annual meeting which was held December

5th in Sleepy Eye. If you missed

it, here are some financial highlights from our sixth fiscal year ended July 31, 2023:

Total Net Sales	\$412,992,360
Gross Margin plus Other Operating Receipts	51,478,433
Local Net Margin	6,266,696
Net Income	11,638,361

CRC issued \$3,726,000 in cash patronage and \$1,242,000 in equity patronage to eligible patrons in November. For 2023, patronage was 75% in cash and 25% in equity. The Total Earned patronage amount displayed on the check stub(s) of your patronage check(s) should equal the Box 1 amount of your 1099PATR. Patronage covered the following products and services purchased between August 1, 2022 and July 31, 2023 (rates are per dollar of patron purchases):

Grain services (drying and storage)	\$.047653
Livestock feed	.015683
Gasoline and diesel fuels	.022300
Fertilizer	.005214
Fertilizer services	.057124
Chemicals	.018359
Seed	.008879
LP	.024000

CRC also paid patronage on grain purchased from patrons at a rate of \$.1038 per bushel.

CRC's by-laws require a patron to earn a minimum of \$25 in fiscal year patronage to receive a patronage check. CRC did not pass back any Section 199A deductions to patrons for 2023. The deduction amount in Box 6 on your 2023 1099PATR will be \$0.

CRC issued \$2,130,300 in equity retirement checks to patrons in November. CRC retired all remaining River Region Cooperative (RRC) equity issued in 2006 and 2007, 23.8% of RRC equity issued in 2008 and all equity of legacy RRC customers who reached the age of 80 in 2023. CRC also retired all remaining outstanding equity of legacy South Central Grain & Energy (SCGE) patrons who reached age 71 or age 70 in 2023. If you did not receive a retirement check and believe you should have, contact your local office; we might not have your correct birth date on file.

REMEMBER: Equity retirement checks are not subject to income tax. You paid the income tax on your equity in the year it was credited to your account. Consult your tax advisor.

CRC mailed 2023 Forms 1099PATR to patrons the week of January 15th. Grain customers with a number in Box 3 of their 1099PATR form also received a 2023 Domestic Production Report detailing how the Box 3 number was calculated.

NEWS CENTRAL

2023 Election of Directors



Incumbent directors were re-elected at the 2023 Annual Meeting held December 5, 2023.

There was a unanimous consent ballot electing Jon Meyer from District 2 and Dave Berle from District 3, whom ran unopposed, to serve another four-year term on the nine-member board.



Jon Meyer
District 2



Dave Berle
District 3



AL MACIUS
BCA Manager

BCA Growth!

The marketing team at BCA has spent the last two years bringing new and innovative products to the market.



Central Region Cooperative

has made a significant investment in the BCA Products division. For those who may not be familiar with BCA Products, we manufacture and package ice melt and turf products.

As a manufacturer our customers are primarily distribution companies, retail chain stores, large contractors, grocery distribution, and other cooperatives.

BCA has experienced significant growth over the last five years. We now operate in 18 states with the largest share of our business in 11 states in the Midwest. To effectively service this expansion, we have divided our sales operations into four geographical regions. Those regions are Central Plains, Great Lakes, Southwest and Rocky Mountain Regions. Our sales team also specializes in customer categories such as: distributor partner, retail chain, cooperative, regional lawn, and grocery distribution.

During the winter of 2019, a decision was made to invest in the business, and in March of 2020 our first automated line and robotic palletizer was put into service. Over the next 12 months, we held strategic planning sessions resulting in a design for a complete production facility upgrade and expansion. The original plan has been added to since then. It included a warehouse expansion, additional screening capabilities and an industrial dust collection system.

Ground was broken on the original plan in the fall of 2021, and we began production at the new facility in the summer of 2022. Startup was not without issues, but a

finish line is in sight. The 150'x 300' warehouse expansion was completed in November; the additional screener was completed in late December and the dust system was commissioned on February 8th. We are currently in the final planning stages for an additional automated production line and additional blending equipment.

The marketing team at BCA has spent the last two years bringing new and

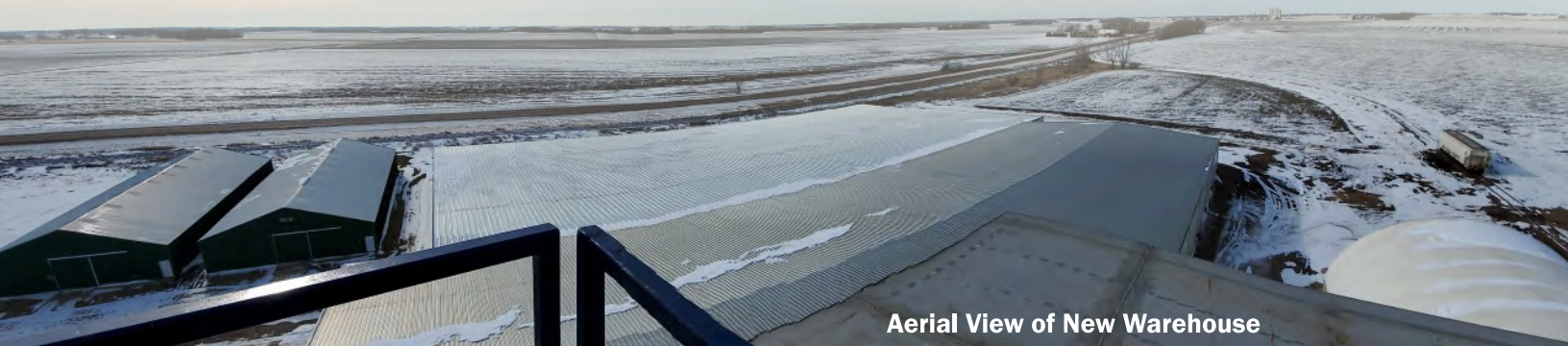
innovative products to the market. I am happy to announce that we've succeeded with several offerings. We became an approved customer of NSC Minerals and an approved formulator for PBI Gordon. We have also taken advantage of some new technology offered by our crop nutrient partner—Allied Nutrients.

In the case of NSC Minerals, we have upgraded and improved the quality of our sodium chloride to the best in the industry. In case you've noticed, the salt crystals in Rid Ice, Super Rid Ice and Ice Warrior are pink in color. They are derived from natural colored mineral crystals



BCA Dust Collection System

MACIUS CONTINUED PAGE 11 ▸



Aerial View of New Warehouse

...Continued from page 10

brought to the surface in their natural rock form untouched allowing all the natural trace minerals to remain intact. These trace minerals include calcium, magnesium, and potassium increasing the melting power to a lower temperature.

On the turf side, becoming an approved formulator for PBI Gordon has given us access to a large portfolio of new chemistries and tech material.

Dithiodum, Surge and WeedZone 751 will become part of **new** weed and feed products in both retail chain and the professional markets. Dithiodum is a combination of four active ingredients: 2,4-D, Dicamba, Dithiopyr and Quinclorac and will be used in new offerings for retail chain. Surge is a combination of 2,4-D, Mecoprop-p, Dicamba and Sulfentrazone and will be used in the professional market. Weedzone 751 is a combination of 2,4-D, Mecoprop-p and Dicamba to be used in a new fall winterizer.

On the fertilizer side, you will begin to see offerings utilizing controlled-release nitrogen. They will be in products for both retail and the professional markets. Trusted time-release urea can become available in 60 days, 90 days, 120 days and 180 days. When used together they can provide a single application fertility program for turf. It has a polymer coating that is consistent and durable.

Your team at BCA is looking forward to the future and all the opportunities ahead.



BCA GreenPro Product



4 Step Revive and Thrive Lawn Care Program

STEP 1 Early Spring



- Prevents crabgrass and fertilizes in one application
- Develops a strong, disease-resistant turf to remain robust throughout summer

STEP 2 Anytime



- Controls over 250 broadleaf weeds including dandelion, chickweed, and clover
- High fertilizer analysis for fast growth, thickening, and lush green-up

STEP 3 Anytime



- Helps fight off the stresses of summer heat, drought, high traffic
- Slow release thickens and promotes a strong, healthy green lawn that minimizes weeds

STEP 4 Fall to Late Fall



- Prepares lawn for stress of winter
- Root-building formula withstands winter dormancy, encourages drought resistance and increases plant hardiness.



New Ranco Ingredient Bins



BCA Product to Palletizer



A Division of Central Region Cooperative
24399 225th Avenue
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
1-888-454-4744

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





CARLY JOHNSON
Grain Dept. Manager

Grain Update

For the first time in several years, I am happy to report that we have no big projects happening in the grain division of CRC. The Buffalo Lake repair project from the windstorm damage back in May of 2022 is, for the most part, completed. The storm caused considerable damage, along with some operational challenges, but we have built it back better than before. We added two new storage bins that hold 800,000 bushels each, which not only gives us more capacity during harvest, but also gives us the ability to load shuttle trains back-to-back without having to haul from other locations if need be. Our dumping speed during harvest has improved greatly because we now have the space available.

CRC purchased certain assets of Farmers Cooperative of Hanska in the spring of 2023. After much thought and deliberation, it was decided that it was not feasible to operate the facilities in Hanska, Hilltop or Valley Street elevators in New Ulm. We decided that our best option was to concentrate our efforts on the New Ulm “Burdick Elevator” location. We spent a lot of time and hard work to get that location up and operational before harvest. We continue to make improvements to the facility to make sure it is safe and is operating as efficiently as possible.



While there are no big projects happening at this time, that doesn't mean we are not thinking about what else needs to be done to improve grain facilities. Our goal is always to make our facilities something everyone can be proud of. We want to be your first choice when it comes to your grain marketing decisions. We also strive to make our facilities safe and more efficient so that we have the people, speed and space to handle all of your grain marketing needs.

These improvements all come at a cost. And, as you know, nothing is inexpensive. So, we need to make sure we are spending where we can get the best return on the investment. If you have any suggestions or thoughts on how or what we can do to make it even better, please give me a call, or talk to one of our location managers.

Thank you for your business.



WELCOME



Kevin Albrecht

Kevin joined the BCA sales team late January. He will serve customers in the Great Lakes region. He is experienced with turf products and has been in sales much of his career. In his free time, Kevin likes to bowl, play pool, watch drag racing, fish with friends, and play with his grandsons.



Julian Espinoza

Experienced driver, Julian, joined the agronomy operations team at the Bird Island location. He has worked in agriculture in the trucking side of the business for many years. Outside of work, Julian enjoys spending time with his family and attending his children's activities.



Brye Fowler

Brye joined CRC in the trucking division in September. After high school Brye was active in the military for 20+ years, then attended technical college to obtain an ag business degree. He has worked most of his career trucking. Brye enjoys four-wheeling, camping/fishing and spending time with his wife.



Kathy Jorgenson

Kathy brings years of ag-related experience into her new role as an agronomy account manager. She will assist producers in the Bird Island area. In her free time, Kathy enjoys horseback riding and spending time with her granddaughter.



Jon Fruetel

Local to the Cosmos and Cedar Mills area and having worked in the grain and feed business most of his career, CRC welcomed Jon to operate the Cosmos grain elevator location. For fun, Jon likes to hunt and travel.



Garret Kley

In September, CRC welcomed Garret to the Fairfax agronomy location. Garret comes to CRC with a background in agronomy, grain, and heavy equipment operations. When not at work he can be found spending time outdoors with his family, hunting, and fishing.



Jennifer Hietala

Jennifer joined CRC's feed division in August. Jennifer can be found straightening inventory, loading bags, and assisting with feed mixing. In her free time, Jennifer enjoys hiking trails in the New Ulm area and summer fishing.



Dakota Krumrey

Dakota recently returned to his hometown after having pursued his work interests outside of the area. He joined the energy team at CRC and is learning the propane and service side of the business. In his free time, Dakota enjoys hunting and fishing.

EMPLOYEE CENTRAL



Mike Meyer

BCA welcomed Mike in November, helping in all faucets of BCA. In his free time, Mike enjoys spending time with his family, dogs, gardening, and mowing lawn. You may find Mike at farm toy shows or in the countryside on his side-by-side.



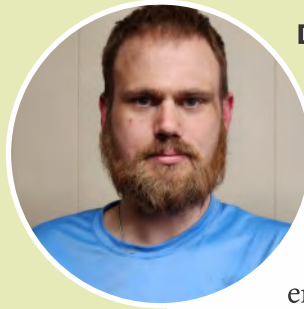
Dakota Pulley

Dakota joined CRC in the fall of 2023 assisting with grain operations at the Gibbon and New Ulm locations and he recently starting hauling commodities. Motorcycling, fishing, and spending time with his kids fill Dakota's free time.



Matt Pulley

Matt found trucking a career he wanted to pursue and has been with the CRC team since September. Spending time with his wife and two boys, camping, shooting, and watching football are a few of Matt's free time activities.



Dan Riley

Dan started at CRC late fall and is learning more aspects of the agronomy business at the Bird Island location and recently obtained his CDL and commercial applicator's license. He enjoys 3-wheeling, fishing, watching baseball and football and he is a collector of memorabilia.



Morgan Rowley

Morgan joined CRC as an Account Manager out of our Sleepy Eye and Hanska agronomy locations. She grew up in New Ulm MN before heading up to northern Minnesota where she earned her bachelor's degree in Agronomy Crop Production and Ag Business at the U of M Crookston. In her free time Morgan likes to spend time with family, hunt, fish, and go on adventures with her dog Orly.



Parker Wiggert

The feed division welcomed Parker to the feed delivery team based from the Gibbon location. Previously he worked in ag retail and recently obtained his CDL. Some of his favorite activities include fishing and snowmobiling.



Isaac Velasquez

First coming to CRC to help the agronomy team last fall, Isaac stayed on to help with operations and maintain equipment. He joined the cooperative full-time in February. Watching sports, listening to all genres of music and spending time with family are his favorite activities outside of work.



Jeff Zarn

The energy division welcomed Jeff in November as a service technician. When not at work, Jeff spends his time coaching softball, hunting, fishing, and spending time with family and friends.

THANK YOU!



CENTRAL REGION COOPERATIVE

Employment Opportunities

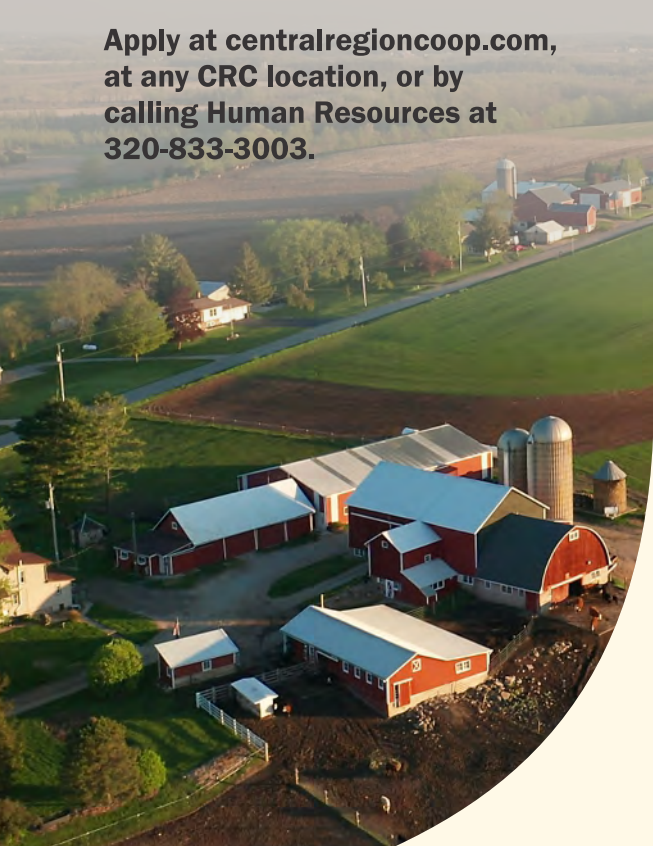
FULL-TIME

- **Agronomy Operations**
(Brownton/Buffalo Lake, Fairfax, Sleepy Eye)
- **Agronomy Account Manager**
(Sleepy Eye)
- **Energy Transport**
(Open)
- **Industrial Maintenance Technician**
(Sleepy Eye)

SEASONAL

- **Agronomy Operations**

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



2023 Service Awards

5 YEARS

Paul Barchenger
Megan Hoffmann
Heidi Hutton
Traci Schroepfer
Lynn Simonsen
Dean Welch
Jim Wellmann
Dylan Wersal

10 YEARS

Renee Anderson
Jared Koupal
Kelvin Mathiowetz
Jeff Mickelson

15 YEARS

Chuck Braun
Joe Eaton
Curt Helget

20 YEARS

Daryn Huiras

25 YEARS

Patti Mickelson

30 YEARS

Dave Duehn
Ron Trebesch

40 YEARS

Sue Huiras



2023 Retirements



SHARON BRIESE
A/R
DECEMBER
18 YEARS



LINDA NISSEN
ACCOUNTING
APRIL
7 YEARS



BRUCE SEVCIK
AGRONOMY
APRIL
28 YEARS



RANDY WAIBEL
TRUCKING
OCTOBER
14 YEARS



RANDY WATSON
BCA
AUGUST
35 YEARS



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
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Agronomy & Energy
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Feed Mill
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