

July 16, 2024

## **Central Farm Service (CFS) Appoints KC Graner as New CEO, Effective January 1, 2025**



Truman, MN – July 16, 2024 – Central Farm Service (CFS) is pleased to announce the appointment of KC Graner as the new Chief Executive Officer, effective January 1, 2025. KC, who currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Agronomy, will transition into his new role with nearly seven years of exceptional service in his current position. He will succeed Merlyn Kruger, the current CEO, who announced his retirement plans earlier this year.

During his tenure as Senior Vice President of Agronomy, KC has been instrumental in driving significant growth for CFS. Under his leadership, CFS Agronomy revenues have grown from \$104 million in sales in 2018 to \$173 million in sales in 2023. His unwavering commitment to extreme customer focus and dedication to servicing the owners of CFS has been a cornerstone of this success.

KC's extensive knowledge of the cooperative system and his forward-thinking approach have been evident in his initiatives, such as leading CFS's digital engagement efforts through the CFS App and enhancing customer interaction and service delivery.

Before joining CFS, KC gained valuable experience at Winfield United, starting in 2009. There, he serviced over three dozen member-owned cooperatives in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin in various roles, including Seed & Agronomy Advisor, Retail Development Manager, and District Sales Manager. KC holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science from the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, KC serves on the Land O'Lakes Regional Council representing Ag Region 1 and actively engages in government relations initiatives to advocate for farmers and the agriculture industry. He also serves as President of the Tim Rasmusson Foundation in Rochester, MN, promoting organ and tissue donor awareness, and is on the Rochester Youth Football Association Board of Directors, where he also coaches youth football and basketball.

A native of Oronoco, MN, KC grew up on a hobby farm, developing a deep-rooted passion for agriculture through hands-on experiences such as baling hay and cleaning grain bins. He and his wife, Anna, live southwest of Pine Island, MN, with their four children, Eli, Kate, Finn, and Wes.



"Central Farm Service is a cooperative with a robust history of providing trusted service and cooperative value to its now over 4,000 members," said KC. "The CFS team of professionals is outstanding in its commitment to expertise, service, and ultimately positive results for our owners' businesses. I am proud to work alongside this team to serve our owners into the future. I am extremely thankful to the CFS Board of Directors for this opportunity to lead this cooperative and to continue the legacy of success established by Merlyn Kruger, our current CEO."

Kurt Koehler, CFS Board Chair, added, "We, the CFS Board of Directors, are pleased to have KC step into the role of CEO. His record of success, deep understanding of the cooperative system, and strong commitment to our members make him the ideal leader for CFS moving forward. We look forward to continued growth and innovation under his leadership."

"As I prepare to hand off the responsibilities at the end of the year, I am proud of Central Farm Service's growth and commitment to its members. It has been a privilege to lead such a dedicated team, and I have full confidence in KC Graner's ability to steer CFS toward continued success," said Merlyn Kruger, outgoing CEO.

#### About Central Farm Service (CFS)

Central Farm Service (CFS) is committed to sustainability and the cooperative way of doing business. Our members own the company, guide the decision-making process, and share the benefits that come from working together. Headquartered in Truman, Minnesota, we serve over 4,000 producers across southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. Our operations span a wide range of products and services including grain marketing and merchandising, crop production and seed, feed manufacturing, bulk petroleum, and producer financing. Every day, we uphold our mission of delivering Trusted Service and Cooperative Value to our members. To discover more, visit [www.cfscoop.com](http://www.cfscoop.com).

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