



Dear Patrons, This month's focus is agronomy—specifically input pricing and product availability. Many of you have heard me reference *Cooperation Re-Imagined*, more commonly known as **CRI**, and I'd like to take a moment to explain what it is, how it came about, and why it matters to you.

What is CRI and how did it begin? CRI is a growing alliance of cooperatives, Parcel AG, and crop protection manufacturers that have come together to create a more level and transparent playing field for crop protection pricing. Beyond pricing, CRI is focused on expanding product choices, improving logistics efficiency, and strengthening supply chain stability. As we all know, input costs continue to rise while grain prices often struggle to keep pace. Central Prairie Co-op was first approached by Ag Partners Cooperative, who shares our commitment to improving this reality for our member producers. From that conversation, CRI began to take shape.

Why is CRI important? Our responsibility is to ensure we are sourcing inputs in the best possible way for our producers. Whether purchasing directly from manufacturers or through brokers, we believe transparency and access to multiple options are essential. Equally important is making sure you have the products you need when you need them. As CRI continues to grow in scale, it increases our ability to expand product offerings and helps protect availability during periods of shortage.

What did it take to build CRI? Creating something like CRI from the ground up is no small undertaking. Over the past year and a half, CPC has worked closely with Ag Partners Cooperative, chemical manufacturers, and Parcel AG to build the relationships and infrastructure needed to support this endeavor. This effort required countless meetings, negotiations, and significant input from our own agronomy professionals.

Where does CRI stand today? CRI is now fully operational, and an initial order has already been placed. CRI now has four active member cooperatives representing \$183M in volume across both Crop Protection and Seed. The number of CRI members has doubled in the last several months and given the level of engagement and partnership, we see membership more than doubling in 2026. Additionally, CRI has seven suppliers covering branded, generics and direct manufacturing partners. Beginning January 2026 - In addition to crop protection, CRI members will have access to unique seed purchasing as well as custom bulk blended seed treatment. We are proud to be one of the founding members and excited about the continued growth of this initiative and the value it brings to our membership.

An additional benefit of CRI is our partnership with Parcel AG, providing access to an online ordering portal for our producers. **Input IQ**, powered by Parcel AG, is now available through the CPC website (sign up under the “Order Inputs” tab) providing price transparency and convenient ordering of crop protection products. Orders can be shipped (subject to required volumes) or picked up at any of our agronomy locations. For more information, please contact our Agronomy Department at 620-278-2470.

A sincere thank you on behalf of your Board of Directors, and the entire staff at CPC! – Mike Corbus