Frequently Asked Questions

1. What has been announced?

The Boards of Directors of Legacy Cooperative and Country Partners Cooperative have approved moving forward with a proposed merger. This is an important step in evaluating both cooperatives' future.

2. Where will the home office be located?

Gothenburg will be the cooperative's headquarters. The CEO will be located in Gothenburg. Other existing locations within the cooperative footprint will continue to be important centers of operations and member outreach for the cooperative.

3. Who will be the CEO?

Chris Wagner, current CEO of Country Partners, will become the CEO of the unified cooperative

4. Is the merger final?

No. Although both Boards have approved moving forward, the proposed merger is not yet final and remains subject to a membership vote and the completion of applicable requirements. Watch for mailings, upcoming member meetings, and voting information.

5. When will this happen?

The members of both cooperatives will vote on the merger in late November or early December. Assuming an affirmative vote, we're targeting a merger date of March 1, 2027.

6. Why are the two cooperatives considering a merger?

The cooperatives are exploring an opportunity to combine their strengths, resources, and expertise to support long-term sustainability and continue serving members and agricultural communities.

7. How many employees and locations will there be?

There will be a combined number of 438 full-time employees and 35 locations.

8. What will be the name of the new cooperative?

The unified cooperative will assume the Country Partners name.

9. How will we manage a larger trade area?

Location management will have autonomy to make the decisions needed to manage day-to-day operations. Additionally, joining the companies' management teams will create capacity and opportunities to better leverage combined skills and experience to serve the unified trade area.

10. What changes will members experience?

Because the existing trade territories of the cooperatives do not overlap, members can expect a smooth transition and business as usual. Our focus remains on providing the friendly, dependable, high-quality customer service members have come to expect, wherever they choose to do business with us.

11. How will the new cooperative's programs compare with existing programs?

The new cooperative's programs will be competitive with existing programs. Legacy and Country Partners must continue to operate as separate entities until a successful member vote is achieved for both cooperatives, and therefore details for new programs cannot be negotiated until member votes are passed.

12. What will happen to my equity?

Every $1 of equity earned through patronage from doing business with your cooperative will be worth $1 of equity in the unified cooperative.

13. Will members lose their voice in a larger cooperative?

This merger provides the unified cooperative with size and scale advantages that will help it remain competitive with large cooperatives and multinational companies in our trade territory, both in serving our members and attracting the next generation of talent. The unified cooperative will remain locally owned and controlled, governed by a board of producers from the trade area.

14. How will the board be elected?

The board Nominating Committee will ensure geographic representation of directors within each region. After approval, the board will have three regions, West, Central, and East, with five directors and one associate in each region.

15. What is the member vote threshold required to pass the merger?

Under Nebraska cooperative law, a two-thirds majority vote of the ballots cast is required to pass the merger. Members from both cooperatives will have the opportunity to vote on the merger, and both cooperatives must meet the two-thirds affirmative vote threshold to ratify the merger.

16. Who can vote for the unification?

All active members of both cooperatives are eligible to vote. As defined by both cooperatives bylaws, a member must do business with the cooperative within the last fiscal year and be an agricultural producer.

17. How will I cast my vote?

Members will vote in late November through early December via mail-in voting. The voting process must comply with state law, and we are currently finalizing the specific details. We will continue to update you as we learn more about the process.

18. Who will count the votes?

Both cooperatives intend to use an independent auditor to collect and count the votes.

19. What happens if the unification is rejected by membership?

If members reject the unification, the cooperatives will continue to operate as separate entities. In this scenario, both cooperatives will continue to seek growth opportunities through operational expansion, as well as merger and acquisition opportunities.

20. How can I get more information?

Member informational meetings will be held in the coming weeks to provide further detail on the potential consolidation and allow you the opportunity to answer any questions you may have. We will also post key communications on our website. Please send your questions to Kaitlyn Thurston (kthurston@legacycoop.com) or Janell Rossen (jrossen@countrypartnerscoop.com) for Country Partners