

Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc.

Form 10-Q

May 02, 2011

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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-Q**

**Quarterly Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the**  
**Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the Quarterly Period Ended March 31, 2011

Commission File Number 001-32924

**GREEN PLAINS RENEWABLE ENERGY, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Iowa  
(State or other jurisdiction of

84-1652107  
(I.R.S. Employer

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incorporation or organization)

Identification No.)

**9420 Underwood Avenue, Suite 100 Omaha, NE 68114**

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

**(402) 884-8700**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). ☐ Yes ☐ No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). ☐ Yes ☒ No

The number of shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, outstanding as of April 29, 2011 was 36,418,562 shares.

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**Table of Contents****GREEN PLAINS RENEWABLE ENERGY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(in thousands, except share amounts)

	<b>March 31, 2011</b> (unaudited)	<b>December 31, 2010</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 151,883	\$ 233,205
Restricted cash	10,155	27,783
Accounts receivable, net of allowances of \$135 and \$121, respectively	89,382	89,170
Inventories	216,158	184,888
Prepaid expenses and other	11,519	7,222
Deferred income taxes	11,064	8,463
Deposits	64,415	54,485
Derivative financial instruments	34,412	33,557
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>588,988</b>	<b>638,773</b>
Property and equipment, net	798,686	747,421
Investment in unconsolidated subsidiaries	3,036	2,768
Goodwill	26,398	23,125
Financing costs and other, net	17,387	17,779
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,434,495</b>	<b>\$ 1,429,866</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 82,554	\$ 155,084
Accrued liabilities	16,329	21,200
Unearned revenue	26,907	22,581
Derivative financial instruments	38,760	34,657
Current maturities of long-term debt	188,679	141,068
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>353,229</b>	<b>374,590</b>
Long-term debt	545,457	527,900
Deferred income taxes	29,297	25,079
Other liabilities	4,233	4,655
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>932,216</b>	<b>932,224</b>
Stockholders' equity		
Common stock, \$0.001 par value; 50,000,000 shares authorized; 36,415,772 and 35,793,501 shares issued and outstanding, respectively	36	36
Additional paid-in capital	432,435	431,289
Retained earnings	65,084	57,343
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(4,460)	(420)
<b>Total Green Plains stockholders' equity</b>	<b>493,095</b>	<b>488,248</b>
Noncontrolling interests	9,184	9,394

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Total stockholders' equity	502,279	497,642
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 1,434,495	\$ 1,429,866

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****GREEN PLAINS RENEWABLE ENERGY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS****(unaudited and in thousands, except per share amounts)**

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Revenues	\$ 812,159	\$ 426,474
Cost of goods sold	774,709	389,000
Gross profit	37,450	37,474
Selling, general and administrative expenses	17,631	12,969
Operating income	19,819	24,505
Other income (expense)		
Interest income	91	27
Interest expense	(7,556)	(4,656)
Other, net	(462)	
Total other expense	(7,927)	(4,629)
Income before income taxes	11,892	19,876
Income tax expense	4,361	4,390
Net income	7,531	15,486
Net loss attributable to noncontrolling interests	210	90
Net income attributable to Green Plains	\$ 7,741	\$ 15,576
Earnings per share:		
Income attributable to Green Plains stockholders - basic	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.59
Income attributable to Green Plains stockholders - diluted	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.58
Weighted average shares outstanding:		
Basic	36,199	26,526
Diluted	42,764	27,026

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****GREEN PLAINS RENEWABLE ENERGY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(unaudited and in thousands)**

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 7,531	\$ 15,486
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	12,581	8,651
Deferred income taxes	1,617	4,307
Stock-based compensation expense	1,101	1,323
Undistributed equity in loss of affiliates	63	168
Allowance for doubtful accounts	14	20
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(226)	1,683
Inventories	(26,454)	(5,497)
Deposits	(9,930)	3,113
Unrealized gains on derivative financial instruments	(416)	(283)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(3,559)	673
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(77,751)	(20,993)
Unearned revenues	4,326	11,564
Other	(92)	(612)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	(91,195)	19,603
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(11,570)	(2,300)
Investment in unconsolidated subsidiaries	(331)	
Acquisition of businesses	(6,106)	
Other	(137)	
Net cash used by investing activities	(18,144)	(2,300)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from the issuance of long-term debt	4	1,750
Payments of principal on long-term debt	(23,051)	(8,833)
Proceeds from revolving debt	920,205	434,949
Payments on revolving debt	(886,412)	(437,312)
Proceeds from issuance of common stock		79,844
Change in restricted cash	17,628	4,498
Payments of loan fees	(402)	(26)
Other	45	100
Net cash provided by financing activities	28,017	74,970
Net change in cash and equivalents	(81,322)	92,273
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	233,205	89,779
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 151,883	\$ 182,052

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**GREEN PLAINS RENEWABLE ENERGY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

**(unaudited and in thousands)**

Continued from the previous page

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow:		
Cash paid for income taxes	\$ 441	\$ 25
Cash paid for interest	\$ 7,884	\$ 8,792
Supplemental noncash investing and financing activities:		
Assets acquired in acquisitions and mergers	\$ 61,015	\$
Less: liabilities assumed	(54,909)	
Net assets acquired	\$ 6,106	\$

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

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**GREEN PLAINS RENEWABLE ENERGY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(unaudited)**

**1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION, DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

*References to the Company*

References to we, us, our, Green Plains or the Company in the consolidated financial statements and in these notes to the consolidated financial statements refer to Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc., an Iowa corporation, and its subsidiaries.

*Consolidated Financial Statements*

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company, its wholly-owned subsidiaries, and entities which it controls. Intercompany balances and transactions are eliminated on a consolidated basis for reporting purposes. Unconsolidated entities are included in the financial statements on an equity basis. Results for the interim periods presented are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for the entire year.

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP, for interim financial information and the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by GAAP for complete financial statements. The financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company's annual report filed on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010.

The unaudited financial information reflects all adjustments, which are, in the opinion of management, necessary for a fair presentation of the results of operations, financial position, and cash flows for the periods presented. The adjustments are of a normal recurring nature, except as otherwise noted.

*Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Consolidated Financial Statements*

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

*Description of Business*

The Company is a vertically-integrated producer, marketer and distributor of ethanol. The Company has operations throughout the value chain, beginning upstream with agronomy and grain handling operations, continuing through approximately 740 million gallons per year, or mmgy, of ethanol production capacity as of March 31, 2011 and ending downstream with ethanol marketing, distribution and blending facilities.

*Revenue Recognition*

The Company recognizes revenue when all of the following criteria are satisfied: persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists; risk of loss and title transfer to the customer; the price is fixed and determinable; and collectability is reasonably assured.

For sales of ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil by Green Plains Trade Group LLC, the Company's marketing business, revenue is recognized when title to the product and risk of loss transfer to an external customer. Revenues related to the Company's marketing operations for third parties are recorded on a gross basis in the consolidated financial statements, as Green Plains Trade takes title to the product and assumes risk of loss. Unearned revenue is reflected on the consolidated balance sheet for goods in transit for which the Company has received payment and title has not been transferred to the customer. Revenues from Blendstar LLC, a majority-owned biofuel terminal operator that offers ethanol transload and splash blending services, are recognized as these services are rendered.



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The Company routinely enters into fixed-price, physical-delivery ethanol sales agreements. In certain instances, the Company intends to settle the transaction by open market purchases of ethanol rather than by delivery from its own production. These transactions are reported net as a component of revenues. Revenues also include realized gains and losses on related derivative financial instruments, ineffectiveness on cash flow hedges, and reclassifications of realized gains and losses on effective cash flow hedges from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss).

Sales of agricultural commodities, fertilizers and other similar products are recognized when title to the product and risk of loss transfer to the customer, which is dependent on the agreed upon sales terms with the customer. These sales terms provide for passage of title either at the time shipment is made or at the time the commodity has been delivered to its destination and final weights, grades and settlement prices have been agreed upon with the customer. Shipping and handling costs are presented gross in the statements of operations with amounts billed included in revenues and also as a component of cost of goods sold. Revenues from grain storage are recognized as services are rendered. Revenues related to grain merchandising are presented gross.

### *Cost of Goods Sold*

Cost of goods sold includes costs for direct labor, materials and certain plant overhead costs. Direct labor includes all compensation and related benefits of non-management personnel involved in the operation of the Company's ethanol plants. Grain purchasing and receiving costs, other than labor costs for grain buyers and scale operators, are also included in cost of goods sold. Direct materials consist of the costs of corn feedstock, denaturant and process chemicals. Corn feedstock costs include unrealized gains and losses on related derivative financial instruments not designated as cash flow hedges, inbound freight charges, inspection costs and internal transfer costs. Corn feedstock costs also include realized gains and losses on related derivative financial instruments, ineffectiveness on cash flow hedges, and reclassifications of realized gains and losses on effective cash flow hedges from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). Plant overhead costs primarily consist of plant utilities, plant depreciation and outbound freight charges. Shipping costs incurred directly by the Company, including railcar lease costs, are also reflected in cost of goods sold.

The Company uses exchange-traded futures and options contracts to minimize the effects of changes in the prices of agricultural commodities on the agribusiness segment's grain inventories and forward purchase and sales contracts. Exchange-traded futures and options contracts are valued at quoted market prices. Commodity inventories, forward purchase contracts and forward sale contracts in the agribusiness segment are valued at market prices, where available, or other market quotes adjusted for differences, primarily transportation, between the exchange-traded market and the local markets on which the terms of the contracts are based. Changes in the market value of grain inventories, forward purchase and sale contracts, and exchange-traded futures and options contracts in the agribusiness segment, are recognized in earnings as a component of cost of goods sold. These contracts are predominantly settled in cash. The Company is exposed to loss in the event of non-performance by the counter-party to forward purchase and forward sales contracts.

### *Derivative Financial Instruments*

To minimize the risk and the effects of the volatility of commodity price changes primarily related to corn, natural gas and ethanol, the Company uses various derivative financial instruments, including exchange-traded futures, and exchange-traded and over-the-counter options contracts. The Company monitors and manages this exposure as part of its overall risk management policy. As such, the Company seeks to reduce the potentially adverse effects that the volatility of these markets may have on its operating results. The Company may take hedging positions in these commodities as one way to mitigate risk. While the Company attempts to link its hedging activities to purchase and sales activities, there are situations where these hedging activities can themselves result in losses.

By using derivatives to hedge exposures to changes in commodity prices, the Company has exposures on these derivatives to credit and market risk. The Company is exposed to credit risk that the counterparty might fail to fulfill its performance obligations under the terms of the derivative contract. The Company minimizes its credit risk by entering into transactions with high quality counterparties, limiting the amount of financial exposure it has with each counterparty and monitoring the financial condition of its counterparties. Market risk is the risk that the value of the financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in commodity prices or interest rates. The Company manages market risk by incorporating monitoring parameters within its risk management strategy that limit the types of derivative instruments and derivative strategies the Company uses, and the degree of market risk that may be undertaken by the use of derivative instruments.

The Company evaluates its contracts that involve physical delivery to determine whether they may be deemed normal purchases or normal sales that are expected to be used or sold over a reasonable period in the normal course of business.

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Any contracts that do not meet the normal purchase or normal sales criteria are recorded at fair value with the change in fair value recorded in operating income unless the contracts qualify for, and the Company elects, hedge accounting treatment.

Certain qualifying derivatives within the ethanol production segment are designed as cash flow hedges. Prior to entering into cash flow hedges the Company evaluates the derivative instrument to ascertain its effectiveness. For cash flow hedges, any ineffectiveness is recognized in current period results, while other unrealized gains and losses are reflected in accumulated other comprehensive income/loss until gains and losses from the underlying hedged transaction are realized. In the event that it becomes probable that a forecasted transaction will not occur, the Company would discontinue cash flow hedge treatment, which would affect earnings. These derivative financial instruments are recognized in other current assets or liabilities at fair value.

*Recent Accounting Pronouncements*

Effective January 1, 2011, the Company adopted the second phase of the amended guidance in ASC Topic 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, which requires the Company to disclose information in the reconciliation of recurring Level 3 measurements regarding purchases, sales, issuances and settlements on a gross basis, with a separate reconciliation for assets and liabilities. The Company is not currently impacted by this guidance as the Company does not have any recurring Level 3 measurements.

**2. ACQUISITIONS***Acquisition of Global Ethanol, LLC*

In October 2010, the Company acquired Global Ethanol, LLC, or Global, pursuant to the merger of a newly-formed wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company with Global, with Global as the surviving entity. Global owned two operating ethanol plants which have an estimated combined annual production capacity of approximately 160 million gallons. The Company valued the merger transaction at approximately \$174.2 million, including approximately \$147.6 million for the ethanol production facilities and the balance in working capital. The value of the transaction includes the assumption of outstanding debt, which totaled approximately \$97.7 million at that time. Upon closing, Global was renamed Green Plains Holdings II LLC, or Holdings II. Upon closing of the merger transaction, all outstanding units of Global were exchanged for aggregate consideration consisting of 4,386,027 shares of restricted Company common stock valued at \$53.9 million, warrants to purchase 700,000 shares of restricted Company common stock, valued at \$3.1 million and \$19.5 million in cash. The warrants, recorded as a component of additional paid-in capital, are not transferable, except in certain limited circumstances, and are exercisable for a period of three years from the closing date at a price of \$14.00. Upon closing of the merger, Holdings II entered into an amendment to the existing credit agreement. In conjunction with the closing of the merger, the Company contributed \$10.0 million of cash equity to Holdings II, \$6.0 million of which was utilized to reduce outstanding debt. The operating results of Holdings II have been included in the Company's consolidated financial statements since October 22, 2010.

**Amounts of identifiable assets acquired****and liabilities assumed****(in thousands)**

Inventory	\$ 12,394
Other current assets	15,005
Property and equipment, net	148,864
Current liabilities	(11,143)
Other, net	(110)
Total identifiable net assets	165,010
Goodwill	9,195
Purchase price	\$ 174,205



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The amounts above are updated preliminary purchase price allocations, which did not change materially from the initial allocations. The Company expects to finalize the purchase price allocations during the second quarter of 2011 and does not expect it will materially impact the preliminary amounts shown above.

*Acquisition of Otter Tail*

On March 24, 2011, the Company acquired an ethanol plant and certain other assets near Fergus Falls, Minnesota with an annual expected production capacity of 60 mmgy. The assets were purchased from Otter Tail Ag Enterprises, LLC for \$60.3 million. Consideration included \$19.2 million of indebtedness to MMCDC New Markets Fund II, LLC and \$35.0 million in financing from a group of nine lenders, led by AgStar Financial Services. The remaining \$6.1 million was paid in cash. Goodwill related to the acquisition of \$2.7 million is tax deductible and results largely from economies of scale expected to be realized in the Company's operations. The operating results of Otter Tail since March 24, 2011, which were immaterial to the Company's consolidated financial statements, have been included for the three-month period ended March 31, 2011.

**Amounts of identifiable assets acquired****and liabilities assumed****(in thousands)**

Inventory	\$ 4,983
Other current assets	738
Property and equipment, net	52,250
Current liabilities	(350)
<b>Total identifiable net assets</b>	<b>57,621</b>
Goodwill	2,660
<b>Purchase price</b>	<b>\$ 60,281</b>

The amounts above are preliminary purchase price allocations. The Company expects to finalize the purchase price allocations during 2011 and does not expect it will materially impact the preliminary amounts shown above.

Consolidated pro forma revenue and operating income, had the acquisitions of the agribusiness operations in western Tennessee (which were acquired in April 2010), Global Ethanol (which was acquired in October 2010) and the Otter Tail ethanol plant occurred on January 1, 2010, would have been \$590.3 million and \$33.8 million, respectively, for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and \$881.8 million and \$21.4 million, respectively, for the three months ended March 31, 2011. This unaudited information is based on historical results of operations, and is not necessarily indicative of the results that would have been achieved had the acquisitions occurred on such date.

**3. FAIR VALUE DISCLOSURES**

The following methods, assumptions and valuation techniques were used in estimating the fair value of the Company's financial instruments:

**Level 1** unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to access at the measurement date. Level 1 unrealized gains and losses on commodity derivatives relate to exchange-traded open trade equity and option values in the Company's brokerage accounts.

**Level 2** directly or indirectly observable inputs such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets other than quoted prices included within Level 1; quoted prices for identical or similar assets in markets that are not active; and other inputs that are observable or can be substantially corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means. Inventory amounts are valued at nearby futures values, plus or minus nearby basis levels.

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Level 3 unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are a significant component of the fair value of the assets or liabilities. The Company currently does not have recurring any Level 3 financial instruments.



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There have been no changes in valuation techniques and inputs used in measuring fair value. On March 31, 2011, exchange-traded futures were reclassified from a Level 1 to a Level 2 measurement to reflect the price limit for corn futures set by the exchange for that day.

The following tables set forth the Company's assets and liabilities by level that were accounted for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	Fair Value Measurements at March 31, 2011			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Reclassification for Balance Sheet Presentation	Total
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 151,883	\$	\$	\$ 151,883
Restricted cash	10,155			10,155
Margin deposits	50,775			50,775
Inventories carried at market		88,835		88,835
Unrealized gains on derivatives	969	53,213	(19,770)	34,412
Total assets measured at fair value	\$ 213,782	\$ 142,048	\$ (19,770)	\$ 336,060
Liabilities				
Unrealized losses on derivatives	\$ 40,956	\$ 17,771	\$ (19,770)	\$ 38,957
Total liabilities measured at fair value	\$ 40,956	\$ 17,771	\$ (19,770)	\$ 38,957

	Fair Value Measurements at December 31, 2010		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 233,205	\$	\$ 233,205
Restricted cash	29,983		29,983
Margin deposits	43,394		43,394
Inventories carried at market		96,916	96,916
Unrealized gains on derivatives	3,303	30,663	33,966
Total assets measured at fair value	\$ 309,885	\$ 127,579	\$ 437,464
Liabilities			
Unrealized losses on derivatives	\$ 32,317	\$ 2,569	\$ 34,886
Total liabilities measured at fair value	\$ 32,317	\$ 2,569	\$ 34,886

The Company believes the fair value of its debt approximates book value, which was \$734.1 million and \$669.0 million at March 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively. The Company also believes the fair value of its accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate book value, which were \$89.4 million and \$82.6 million, respectively, at March 31, 2011 and \$89.2 million and \$155.1 million, respectively, at

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December 31, 2010.

Although the Company currently does not have any reoccurring Level 3 financial measurements, the fair values of the tangible assets and goodwill acquired in the Otter Tail acquisition represent Level 3 measurements and were derived using a combination of the income approach, the market approach and the cost approach as considered appropriate for the specific assets being valued.

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### 4. SEGMENT INFORMATION

Company management reviews financial and operating performance in the following three separate operating segments: (1) production of ethanol and related co-products, collectively referred to as ethanol production, (2) grain warehousing and marketing, as well as sales and related services of agronomy and petroleum products, collectively referred to as agribusiness, and (3) production and sales of corn oil, along with the marketing and distribution of Company-produced and third-party ethanol and distillers grains, collectively referred to as marketing and distribution. Selling, general and administrative expenses, primarily consisting of compensation of corporate employees, professional fees and overhead costs not directly related to a specific operating segment, are reflected in the table below as corporate activities.

During the normal course of business, the Company enters into transactions between segments. Examples of these intersegment transactions include, but are not limited to, the ethanol production segment selling ethanol to the marketing and distribution segment and the agribusiness segment selling grain to the ethanol production segment. These intersegment activities are recorded by each segment at prices approximating market and treated as if they are third-party transactions. Consequently, these transactions impact segment performance. However, revenues and corresponding costs are eliminated in consolidation and do not impact the Company's consolidated results.

The following are certain financial data for the Company's operating segments for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2011	2010
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Ethanol production	\$ 467,696	\$ 250,053
Agribusiness	114,044	42,281
Marketing and distribution	713,458	388,095
Intersegment eliminations	(483,039)	(253,955)
	\$ 812,159	\$ 426,474
<b>Gross profit:</b>		
Ethanol production	\$ 23,207	\$ 31,759
Agribusiness	5,941	2,769
Marketing and distribution	8,751	4,180
Intersegment eliminations	(449)	(1,234)
	\$ 37,450	\$ 37,474
<b>Operating income (loss):</b>		
Ethanol production	\$ 19,428	\$ 29,187
Agribusiness	894	(530)
Marketing and distribution	4,694	1,341
Intersegment eliminations	(434)	(1,234)
Corporate activities	(4,763)	(4,259)
	\$ 19,819	\$ 24,505

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The following table sets forth revenues by product line for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Revenues		
Ethanol	\$ 654,484	\$ 364,502
Distillers grains	87,280	37,005
Grain	55,287	17,851
Agronomy products	7,457	4,874
Other	7,651	2,242
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$ 812,159</b>	<b>\$ 426,474</b>

**5. INVENTORIES**

Inventories are carried at the lower of cost or market, except grain held for sale, which is valued at market value. The components of inventories are as follows (in thousands):

	<b>March 31, 2011</b>	<b>December 31, 2010</b>
Finished goods	\$ 52,654	\$ 38,231
Grain held for sale	88,835	96,916
Raw materials	36,255	23,306
Petroleum & agronomy items held for sale	16,936	9,011
Work-in-process	12,869	9,408
Supplies and parts	8,609	8,016
	<b>\$ 216,158</b>	<b>\$ 184,888</b>

**6. GOODWILL**

Changes in the carrying amount of goodwill attributable to each business segment during the three-month period ended March 31, 2011 were as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Ethanol Production</b>	<b>Marketing and Distribution</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance, December 31, 2010	\$ 12,527	\$ 10,598	\$ 23,125
Adjustment to Global Purchase Price Allocation	613		613
Acquisition of Otter Tail	2,660		2,660
 Balance, March 31, 2011	 \$ 15,800	 \$ 10,598	 \$ 26,398

**7. DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

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At March 31, 2011, the Company's consolidated balance sheet reflects unrealized losses, net of tax, of \$4.5 million in accumulated other comprehensive loss. The Company expects all of the deferred losses at March 31, 2011 will be reclassified into income over the next 12 months as a result of hedged transactions that are forecasted to occur. The amount ultimately realized in income, however, will differ as commodity prices change.

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### Fair Values of Derivative Instruments

The following table provides information about the fair values of our derivative financial instruments and the line items in the consolidated balance sheets in which the fair values are reflected.

Derivative Instruments Consolidated Balance Sheet Location	Asset Derivatives Fair Value at		Liability Derivatives Fair Value at	
	March 31, 2011	December 31, 2010	March 31, 2011	December 31, 2010
Derivative financial instruments (current assets)	\$ 34,412	\$ 33,557 (1)	\$	\$
Financing costs and other		409		
Derivative financial instruments (current liabilities)			38,760 (2)	34,657
Other liabilities			197	229
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 34,412</b>	<b>\$ 33,966</b>	<b>\$ 38,957</b>	<b>\$ 34,886</b>

(1) Balance at December 31, 2010, includes \$477 thousand of derivative financial instruments designated as cash flow hedging instruments.

(2) Balance at March 31, 2011, includes \$7.3 million of derivative financial instruments designated as cash flow hedging instruments.

Refer to *Note 3 - Fair Value Disclosures*, which also contains fair value information related to derivative financial instruments.

### Effect of Derivative Instruments on Consolidated Statements of Operations and Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity and Comprehensive Income

The following tables provide information about the gain or loss recognized in income and other comprehensive income on our derivative financial instruments and the line items in the financial statements in which such gains and losses are reflected.

Gains (Losses) on Derivative Instruments Not Designated in a Hedging Relationship Consolidated Statements of Operations Location	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2011	2010
Revenue	\$ 615	\$ 680
Cost of goods sold	(25,240)	7,142
<b>Net increase (decrease) recognized in earnings</b>	<b>\$ (24,625)</b>	<b>\$ 7,822</b>

Location of Gains (Losses) Due to Ineffectiveness of Cash Flow Hedges Consolidated Statements of Operations Location	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2011	2010
Revenue	\$ (118)	\$
Cost of goods sold	20	
<b>Net decrease recognized in earnings</b>	<b>\$ (98)</b>	<b>\$</b>

Location of Gains (Losses) Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) into Net Income Consolidated Statements of Operations Location	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2011	2010
Revenue	\$ (4,457)	\$
Cost of goods sold	3,544	

Net decrease recognized in earnings	\$	(913)	\$
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Effective Portion of Cash Flow Hedges Recognized in Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2011	2010
Commodity Contracts	\$ (7,553)	\$ (123)

There were no gains or losses due to the discontinuance of cash flow hedge treatment during the three months ended March 31, 2011.

The table below summarizes the volumes of open commodity derivative positions as of March 31, 2011 (in thousands):

Derivative Instruments	March 31, 2011				Commodity
	Exchange Traded	Non-Exchange Traded		Unit of Measure	
	Net Long & (Short) (1)	Long (2)	(Short) (2)		
Futures	(21,455)			Bushels	Corn, Soybeans and Wheat
Futures	42,855 (3)			Bushels	Corn
Futures	(7,002)			Gallons	Ethanol
Futures	(154,896) (3)			Gallons	Ethanol
Options	453			Bushels	Corn
Options	(10,549)			Gallons	Ethanol
Options	392			mmBTU	Natural Gas
Forwards		24,036	(8,943)	Bushels	Corn, Soybeans and Wheat
Forwards		12,768	(10,290)	Gallons	Ethanol
Forwards		35	(59)	Tons	Distillers Grains

(1) Exchange traded futures and options are presented on a net long and (short) position basis. Options are presented on a delta-adjusted basis.

(2) Non-exchange traded forwards are presented on a gross long and (short) position basis.

(3) Futures used for cash flow hedges.

Energy trading contracts that do not involve physical delivery are presented net in revenues on the consolidated statements of operations. For the three months ended March 31, 2011, gross revenue and cost of goods sold under such contracts were \$11.3 million and \$10.9 million, respectively. For the three months ended March 31, 2010, gross revenue and cost of goods sold under such contracts were \$2.4 million and \$2.7 million, respectively.



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The principal balances of the components of long-term debt are as follows (in thousands):

	March 31, 2011	December 31, 2010
Green Plains Bluffton:		
\$70.0 million term loan	\$ 53,415	\$ 56,000
\$20.0 million revolving term loan	20,000	20,000
\$22.0 million revenue bond	19,880	20,615
Green Plains Central City:		
\$55.0 million term loan	49,400	52,200
\$30.5 million revolving term loan	30,500	30,500
\$11.0 million revolver	6,239	6,239
Equipment financing loan	216	230
Green Plains Holdings II:		
\$34.1 million term loan	32,636	34,136
\$42.6 million revolving term loan	41,039	42,214
\$15.0 million revolver	15,000	15,000
Other	387	387
Green Plains Obion:		
\$60.0 million term loan	32,870	40,930
\$37.4 million revolving term loan	36,200	36,200
Note payable	114	124
Equipment financing loan	555	591
Economic development grant	1,491	1,514
Green Plains Ord:		
\$25.0 million term loan	22,600	23,800
\$13.0 million revolving term loan	13,000	13,000
\$5.0 million revolver	2,500	2,500
Green Plains Otter Tail:		
\$30.3 million term loan	30,325	
\$4.7 million revolver	4,675	
\$19.2 million note payable	19,175	
Capital lease payable	247	
Green Plains Shenandoah:		
\$30.0 million term loan	9,668	13,368
\$17.0 million revolving term loan	17,000	17,000
Economic development loan	30	45
Green Plains Superior:		
\$40.0 million term loan	24,875	26,250
\$10.0 million revolving term loan	10,000	10,000
Equipment financing loan	203	219
Green Plains Grain:		
\$20.0 million term loan	18,500	19,000
\$107.0 million revolving loans	81,615	68,004
Equipment financing loans	767	915
Notes payable	3,288	3,288
Green Plains Trade:		
\$70.0 million revolving loan	42,536	21,179
Corporate:		
\$90.0 million convertible debt	90,000	90,000
Other	3,190	3,520
Total debt	734,136	668,968
Less: current portion	(188,679)	(141,068)

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Long-term debt	\$ 545,457	\$ 527,900
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### **Ethanol Production Segment**

#### *Loan Repayment Terms*

**Term Loans** The term loans were available for advances until construction for each of the plants was completed.

Scheduled principal payments (plus interest) are as follows:

Green Plains Bluffton	\$0.583 million per month
Green Plains Holdings II	\$1.5 million per quarter
Green Plains Obion	\$2.4 million per quarter
Green Plains Otter Tail	\$0.488 million per month
Green Plains Shenandoah	\$1.2 million per quarter
Green Plains Superior	\$1.375 million per quarter

Scheduled monthly principal payments (plus interest) for Green Plains Central City of \$0.6 million and Green Plains Ord of \$0.3 million do not begin until June 2011.

Final maturity dates (at the latest) are as follows:

Green Plains Bluffton	November 19, 2013
Green Plains Central City	July 1, 2016
Green Plains Holdings II	January 1, 2015
Green Plains Obion	May 20, 2015
Green Plains Ord	July 1, 2016
Green Plains Otter Tail	September 1, 2018
Green Plains Shenandoah	May 20, 2014
Green Plains Superior	July 20, 2015

**Revolving Term Loans** The revolving term loans are generally available for advances throughout the life of the commitment, subject to borrowing base restrictions. Allowable advances under the Green Plains Shenandoah loan agreement are reduced by \$2.4 million each six-month period commencing on the first day of the month beginning approximately six months after repayment of the term loan, but in no event later than November 1, 2014. Allowable advances under the Green Plains Superior loan agreement are reduced by \$2.5 million each six-month period commencing on the first day of the month beginning approximately six months after repayment of the term loan, but in no event later than January 1, 2016. Interest-only payments are due each month on all revolving term loans until the final maturity date for the Green Plains Bluffton, Green Plains Central City, Green Plains Ord, Green Plains Otter Tail, Green Plains Shenandoah, and Green Plains Superior loan agreements. The Green Plains Obion loan agreement requires additional semi-annual payments of \$4.675 million beginning November 1, 2015. The Green Plains Holdings II loan agreement requires semi-annual payments of \$2.7 million.

Final maturity dates (at the latest) are as follows:

Green Plains Bluffton	November 19, 2013
Green Plains Central City	July 1, 2016

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Green Plains Holdings II	April 1, 2016
Green Plains Obion	May 1, 2019
Green Plains Ord	July 1, 2016
Green Plains Otter Tail	March 23, 2012
Green Plains Shenandoah	November 1, 2017
Green Plains Superior	July 1, 2017

Through a wholly-owned subsidiary, Green Plains Otter Tail LLC, the Company acquired an ethanol plant and certain other assets near Fergus Falls, Minnesota in March 2011. Consideration included \$19.2 million of indebtedness to MMCDC New Markets Fund II, LLC and \$35.0 million in financing from a group of lenders, led by AgStar Financial Services. The Otter Tail loan is comprised of a \$30.3 million amortizing term loan, a \$4.7 million revolver and a \$19.2 million note payable. At March 31, 2011, \$30.3 million related to the term loan, \$4.7 million on the revolver and \$19.2 million on the note payable were outstanding. The term loan requires monthly principal and interest payments of \$0.5 million beginning May 1,

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2011 and the note payable requires monthly principal payments of \$0.3 million beginning October 1, 2014. The term loan and note payable mature on September 1, 2018 and the revolver matures on March 23, 2012.

All of the Company's ethanol production subsidiaries were in compliance with their debt covenants relating to the period ended March 31, 2011.

### **Bluffton Revenue Bond**

Green Plains Bluffton also received \$22.0 million in Subordinate Solid Waste Disposal Facility Revenue Bond funds from the City of Bluffton, Indiana. The revenue bond requires: (1) semi-annual principal and interest payments of approximately \$1.5 million during the period commencing on March 1, 2010 through March 1, 2019, and (2) a final principal and interest payment of \$3.745 million on September 1, 2019.

At March 31, 2011, Green Plains Bluffton had \$1.3 million of cash that was restricted as to use for payment towards the current maturity and interest of the revenue bond.

### **Agribusiness Segment**

The Green Plains Grain loan is comprised of a \$20.0 million amortizing term loan, a \$45.0 million revolving term loan, a \$20.0 million seasonal revolver and a \$42.0 million bulge seasonal revolver. Scheduled payments under the term loan of \$0.5 million are due on the first business day of each calendar quarter, with any remaining amount payable at expiration on August 1, 2013. The bulge seasonal revolver is reduced from a \$42.0 million facility to a \$35.0 million facility on April 1, 2011 and expires June 1, 2011. The revolving term loan and the seasonal revolver expire on August 1, 2011. As of March 31, 2011, Green Plains Grain was in compliance with all debt covenants.

### **Marketing and Distribution Segment**

The Green Plains Trade loan is comprised of a senior secured revolving credit facility. Under the loan agreement, as amended on January 21, 2011, the lender will loan up to \$70.0 million, subject to a borrowing base up to 85% of eligible receivables. At March 31, 2011 Green Plains Trade had \$8.8 million cash that was restricted as to use for payment towards the loan agreement. Such cash is presented in restricted cash on the consolidated balance sheet. The amended revolving credit facility expires on March 31, 2014. As of March 31, 2011, Green Plains Trade was in compliance with all debt covenants in the loan agreement.

### **Corporate Activities**

In November 2010, the Company issued \$90.0 million of 5.75% Convertible Senior Notes due 2015, or Notes. The Notes represent senior, unsecured obligations of the Company, with interest payable on May 1 and November 1 of each year. The Notes may be converted into shares of the Company's common stock and cash in lieu of fractional shares of the common stock based on a conversion rate initially equal to 69.7788 shares of the common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of Notes, which is equal to an initial conversion price of \$14.33 per share. The conversion rate is subject to adjustment upon the occurrence of specified events. The Company may redeem for cash all, but not less than all, of the Notes at any time on and after November 1, 2013, if the last reported sale price of the Company's common stock equals or exceeds 140% of the applicable conversion price for a specified time period, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest.

### **Capitalized Interest**

The Company had no capitalized interest for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2011 and 2010.

### **Restricted Net Assets**

At March 31, 2011, there were approximately \$489.5 million of net assets at the Company's subsidiaries that were not available to be transferred to the parent company in the form of dividends, loans, or advances due to restrictions contained in the credit facilities of these subsidiaries.

For further information on the long-term debt obligations of the Company, refer to *Note 11, Long-Term Debt*, in the consolidated financial statements included in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010.



**Table of Contents****9. STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION**

The Company records noncash compensation expense related to equity awards to employees and directors in the financial statements over the requisite service period. The Company measures share-based compensation grants at fair value on the grant date, adjusted for estimated forfeitures.

The Company has 2007 and 2009 Equity Incentive Plans which reserve a combined total of 2.0 million shares of common stock for issuance pursuant to the approved plans. An additional 1.5 million shares are expected to be added to the 2009 Equity Incentive Plan, subject to shareholder approval, in the second quarter of 2011. The plans provide for the granting of shares of stock, including options to purchase shares of common stock, stock appreciation rights tied to the value of common stock, non-vested stock and non-vested stock unit awards to eligible employees, non-employee directors and consultants.

All of the Company's existing share-based compensation awards have been determined to be equity awards. The Company recognizes compensation costs for stock option awards which vest with the passage of time with only service conditions on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period.

A summary of stock option activity for the three months ended March 31, 2011 is as follows:

	Shares	Weighted-Average Exercise Price	Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in thousands)
Outstanding at December 31, 2010	1,170,500	\$ 15.42		
Granted				
Exercised	(7,500)	5.99		\$ 46
Outstanding at March 31, 2011	1,163,000	\$ 15.48	4.8	\$ 2,705
Exercisable at March 31, 2011	938,500	\$ 16.91	4.2	\$ 1,987

The Company's option awards allow employees to exercise options through cash payment to the Company for the shares of common stock or through a simultaneous broker-assisted cashless exercise of a share option, through which the employee authorizes the exercise of an option and the immediate sale of the option shares in the open market. The Company uses newly-issued shares of common stock to satisfy its share-based payment obligations.

The following table summarizes non-vested stock award activity and DSU activity for the three months ended March 31, 2011:

	Weighted-Average Number of Non-vested Shares and DSU's	Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value	Weighted-Average Remaining Vesting Term (in years)
Nonvested at December 31, 2010	367,109	\$ 10.13	
Granted	340,000	12.14	
Forfeited			
Vested	(158,125)	12.54	
Nonvested at March 31, 2011	548,984	\$ 10.68	2.4

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Compensation costs expensed for share-based payment plans described above were approximately \$1.7 million and \$1.3 million during the three month periods ended March 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. At March 31, 2011, there were \$5.2



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million of unrecognized compensation costs from share-based compensation arrangements, which is related to non-vested shares. This compensation is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of approximately 2.4 years. The potential tax benefit realizable for the anticipated tax deductions of the exercise of share-based payment arrangements generally would approximate 38% of these expense amounts.

**10. EARNINGS PER SHARE**

Basic earnings per common shares ( EPS ) is calculated by dividing net income available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted EPS is computed by dividing net income on an as-if-converted basis available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period, adjusted for the dilutive effect of any outstanding dilutive securities. The calculation of diluted earnings per share gives effect to common stock equivalents. The reconciliations of net income to net income on an as-if-converted basis and basic and diluted earnings per share are as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Net income attributable to Green Plains	\$ 7,741	\$ 15,576
Weighted average shares outstanding - basic	36,199	26,526
Income attributable to Green Plains stockholders - basic	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.59
Net income attributable to Green Plains	\$ 7,741	\$ 15,576
Interest on convertible debt	1,294	
Amortization of debt issuance costs related to convertible debt	146	
Tax effect of interest on convertible debt	(518)	
Net income attributable to Green Plains on an as-if-converted basis	\$ 8,663	\$ 15,576
Weighted average shares outstanding - basic	36,199	26,526
Effect of dilutive convertible debt	6,280	
Effect of dilutive stock options	285	500
Total potential shares outstanding	42,764	27,026
Income attributable to Green Plains stockholders - diluted	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.58

Excluded from the computations of diluted EPS for the three months ended March 31, 2011 and 2010 were stock-based compensation awards totaling 0.7 million and 0.6 million shares, respectively, because the exercise prices or the grant-date fair value, as applicable, of the corresponding awards were greater than the average market price of the Company's common stock during the respective periods.

**11. COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

Comprehensive income is as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Net income attributable to Green Plains	\$ 7,741	\$ 15,576

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Unrealized loss on derivatives	(6,640)	(123)
Tax effect	2,600	
Comprehensive income attributable to Green Plains	3,701	15,453

**Table of Contents****12. STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY**

Components of stockholders equity are as follows (in thousands):

	Common Stock		Additional		Accum.	Total	Non-	Total
	Shares	Amount	Paid-in	Retained	Other	Green	controlling	Stockholders
			Capital	Earnings	Comp.	Plains	Interest	Equity
					Loss	Stockholders		
						Equity		
Balance, December 31, 2010	35,793	\$ 36	\$ 431,289	\$ 57,343	\$ (420)	\$ 488,248	\$ 9,394	\$ 497,642
Net income				7,741		7,741	(210)	7,531
Unrealized loss on derivatives, net of tax					(4,040)	(4,040)		(4,040)
Total comprehensive income						3,701	(210)	3,491
Stock-based compensation	615		1,101			1,101		1,101
Stock options exercised	8		45			45		45
Balance, March 31, 2011	36,416	\$ 36	\$ 432,435	\$ 65,084	\$ (4,460)	\$ 493,095	\$ 9,184	\$ 502,279

**13. INCOME TAXES**

The Company records income tax expense during interim periods based on its best estimate of the full year's effective tax rate. Certain items are given discrete period treatment and, as a result, the tax effects of such items are reported in full in the relevant interim period.

Income tax expense for both of the three-month periods ended March 31, 2011 and 2010 was \$4.4 million. The effective tax rate (calculated as the ratio of income tax expense to income before income taxes) was approximately 37% and 22% for the three months ended March 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The effective tax rates for the three months ended March 31, 2011 and 2010 reflect the release of a portion of valuation allowances provided against certain of the Company's deferred tax assets, primarily federal and state net operating losses and tax credits due to anticipated income in the periods. There was no change in the Company's liabilities related to accounting for uncertain income tax positions for the first quarter of 2011 or the first quarter of 2010.

The full year 2011 effective tax rate can be affected as a result of variances among the estimates and amounts of full year sources of taxable income (among the various states), the realization of tax credits, adjustments that may arise from the resolution of tax matters under review, variances in the release of valuation allowances and the Company's assessment of its liability for uncertain tax positions.

**14. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES***Operating Leases*

The Company leases certain facilities and parcels of land under agreements that expire at various dates. For accounting purposes, rent expense is based on a straight-line amortization of the total payments required over the lease term. The Company incurred lease expenses of \$3.7 million and \$2.6 million during the three-month periods ended March 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Aggregate minimum lease payments under these agreements for the remainder of 2011 and in future fiscal years are as follows (in thousands):

Year Ending December 31,	Amount
2011	15,934
2012	12,360
2013	9,183

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2014	3,529
2015	2,639
Thereafter	4,014
Total	\$ 47,659

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### *Commodities*

As of March 31, 2011, the Company had contracted for future grain deliveries valued at \$562.3 million, natural gas deliveries valued at approximately \$19.4 million, ethanol product deliveries valued at approximately \$33.2 million and distillers grains product deliveries valued at approximately \$6.3 million.

### *Legal*

In April 2011, Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc. filed a complaint in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware in connection with its Chapter 11 bankruptcy naming as defendants Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc., Green Plains Obion LLC, Green Plains Bluffton LLC, Green Plains VBV LLC and Green Plains Trade Group LLC. This action alleges \$24.4 million of damages from preferential transfers or, in the alternative, \$28.4 million of damages from fraudulent transfers under an ethanol marketing agreement and an unspecified amount of damages for a continuing breach of a termination agreement related to rail cars. The Company is unable to predict the outcome of these matters at this time, and any views formed as to the viability of these claims or the financial exposure which could result, may change as the matters proceed through their course. The Company intends to defend these claims vigorously.

## **15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

### *Sales and Financing Contracts*

Three subsidiaries of the Company have executed separate financing agreements for equipment with AXIS Capital Inc. Gordon F. Glade, President and Chief Executive Officer of AXIS Capital is a member of our Board of Directors. A total of \$0.9 million and \$1.1 million were included in debt at March 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively, under these financing arrangements. Payments, including principal and interest, totaled \$0.2 million for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2011 and 2010. The highest amount outstanding during the three-month period ended March 31, 2011 was \$1.1 million and the weighted average interest rate for all financing agreements was 7.7%.

The Company has entered into fixed-price ethanol purchase and sale agreements with Center Oil Company. Gary R. Parker, President and Chief Executive Officer of Center Oil, is a member of our Board of Directors. During the three-month period ended March 31, 2011, cash receipts from Center Oil totaled \$43.1 million and payments to Center Oil totaled \$1.0 million on these contracts. During the three-month period ended March 31, 2010, cash receipts and payments totaled \$21.1 million and \$1.1 million, respectively, on these contracts. The Company had \$3.1 million and \$6.0 million included in accounts receivable from Center Oil at March 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively and no outstanding payables in current liabilities under these purchase and sale agreements.

### *Aircraft Lease*

The Company entered into an agreement in November 2009 with Hoovestol, Inc. for the lease of an aircraft. Wayne B. Hoovestol, President of Hoovestol Inc., is Chairman of our Board of Directors. The Company has agreed to pay \$6,667 per month for use of up to 100 hours per year of the aircraft. Any flight time in excess of 100 hours per year will incur additional hourly-based charges. For the three month-periods ended March 31, 2011 and 2010, payments related to this agreement totaled \$20,000 and \$10,000 respectively. The Company did not have outstanding payables to or receivables from Hoovestol Inc. at March 31, 2011 or December 31, 2010.

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### **Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.**

#### ***General***

The following discussion and analysis provides information which management believes is relevant to an assessment and understanding of our consolidated financial condition and results of operations. This discussion should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements included herewith and notes to the consolidated financial statements thereto and our annual report filed on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, including the consolidated financial statements, accompanying notes and the risk factors contained therein.

#### ***Cautionary Information Regarding Forward-Looking Statements***

This report contains forward-looking statements based on current expectations that involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements generally do not relate strictly to historical or current facts, but rather to plans and objectives for future operations based upon management's reasonable estimates of future results or trends, and include statements preceded by, followed by, or that include words such as anticipates, believes, continue, estimates, expects, intends, outlook, plans, predicts, may, could, should, will, and wo impact, and include, but are not limited to, statements regarding future operating or financial performance, business strategy, business environment, key trends, and benefits of actual or planned acquisitions. In addition, any statements that refer to expectations, projections or other characterizations of future events or circumstances, including any underlying assumptions, are forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements are made pursuant to safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Although we believe that our expectations regarding future events are based on reasonable assumptions, any or all forward-looking statements in this report may turn out to be incorrect. They may be based on inaccurate assumptions or may not account for known or unknown risks and uncertainties. Consequently, no forward-looking statement is guaranteed, and actual future results may vary materially from the results expressed or implied in our forward-looking statements. The cautionary statements in this report expressly qualify all of our forward-looking statements. In addition, we are not obligated, and do not intend, to update any of our forward-looking statements at any time unless an update is required by applicable securities laws. Factors that could cause actual results to differ from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, those discussed in Part I, Item 1A Risk Factors of our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 and in Item 1A of Part II of this Quarterly Report for the quarter ended March 31, 2011. Specifically, we may experience significant fluctuations in future operating results due to a number of economic conditions, including, but not limited to, competition in the ethanol and other industries in which we compete, commodity market risks, financial market risks, counter-party risks, risks associated with changes to federal policy or regulation, the timely completion of corn oil extraction projects, expected corn oil recovery rates and operating expenses, risks related to closing and achieving anticipated results from acquisitions, and other risk factors detailed in our reports filed with the SEC. Actual results may differ from projected results due, but not limited, to unforeseen developments.

In light of these assumptions, risks and uncertainties, the results and events discussed in the forward-looking statements contained in this report or in any document incorporated by reference might not occur. Investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this report or the date of the document incorporated by reference in this report. We are not under any obligation, and we expressly disclaim any obligation, to update or alter any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

#### ***Overview***

We were formed in June 2004, incurring development costs until our first two plants were completed. Our plant in Shenandoah, Iowa commenced operations in August 2007 and our plant in Superior, Iowa commenced operations in July 2008. To complement and enhance our ethanol production facilities, in April 2008, we acquired Great Lakes Cooperative, a full-service farm cooperative in northwestern Iowa and southwestern Minnesota. As a result of our October 2008 merger with VBV LLC, we acquired two additional ethanol plants, located in Bluffton, Indiana and Obion, Tennessee. Operations commenced at the Bluffton and Obion plants in September 2008 and November 2008, respectively. In January 2009, we acquired a majority interest in Blendstar. In July 2009, we acquired two limited liability companies that owned ethanol plants in Central City and Ord, Nebraska that added expected operating capacity totaling 150 million gallons per year, or mmgy. In April 2010, we acquired five grain elevators with federally licensed grain storage capacity of 11.7 million bushels, all located in western Tennessee, within 50 miles of our Obion ethanol plant. In October 2010, we acquired Global Ethanol, LLC, which has two operating ethanol plants with a combined annual production capacity of approximately 160 million gallons. In March 2011, through our wholly-owned subsidiary, Green Plains Otter Tail, we acquired an ethanol plant near Fergus Falls, Minnesota, bringing our total expected ethanol production capacity to approximately 740 mmgy.

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We are a leading, vertically-integrated producer, marketer and distributor of ethanol. We focus on generating stable operating margins through our diversified business segments and our risk management strategy. We believe that owning and operating assets throughout the ethanol value chain enables us to mitigate changes in commodity prices and differentiates us from companies focused only on ethanol production. Today, we have operations throughout the ethanol value chain, beginning upstream with our agronomy and grain handling operations, continuing through our approximately 740 mmgy, of ethanol production capacity and ending downstream with our ethanol marketing, distribution and blending facilities.

Management reviews our operations in the following three separate operating segments:

*Ethanol Production.* At March 31, 2011, we operated a total of nine ethanol plants in Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska and Tennessee, with approximately 740 mmgy of total ethanol production capacity. At capacity, these plants collectively will consume approximately 265 million bushels of corn and produce approximately 2.1 million tons of distillers grains annually.

*Agribusiness.* We operate three lines of business within our agribusiness segment: bulk grain, agronomy and petroleum. In our bulk grain business, we have 13 grain elevators with approximately 31.4 million bushels of total storage capacity. We currently plan to increase our grain storage capacity at our Tennessee grain elevators by 2.0 million bushels in the second quarter of 2011. We sell fertilizer and other agricultural inputs and provide application services to area producers, through our agronomy business. Additionally, we sell petroleum products including diesel, soydiesel, blended gasoline and propane, primarily to agricultural producers and consumers. We believe our bulk grain business provides synergies with our ethanol production segment as it supplies a portion of the feedstock for our ethanol plants.

*Marketing and Distribution.* Our in-house marketing business is responsible for the sales, marketing and distribution of all ethanol and distillers grains produced at our nine plants. In addition, the segment produces and markets corn oil, currently extracted at six of our ethanol plants. We also market and distribute ethanol for third-party ethanol producers. One of these marketing contracts, with expected production of 110 mmgy, terminated effective May 1, 2011, reducing expected production capacity of these third-party producers to approximately 250 mmgy. Additionally, we hold a majority interest in Blendstar, LLC, which operates nine blending or terminaling facilities with approximately 495 mmgy of total throughput capacity in seven states in the south central United States.

We intend to continue to take a disciplined approach in evaluating new opportunities related to potential acquisition of additional ethanol plants by considering whether the plants fit within the design, engineering and geographic criteria we have developed. In our marketing and distribution segment, our strategy is to renew existing marketing contracts, as well as enter new contracts with other ethanol producers. We also intend to pursue opportunities to develop or acquire additional grain elevators and agronomy businesses, specifically those located near our ethanol plants. We believe that owning additional agribusiness operations in close proximity to our ethanol plants enables us to strengthen relationships with local corn producers, allowing us to source corn more effectively and at a lower average cost. We also plan to continue to grow our downstream access to customers and are actively looking at new marketing opportunities with other ethanol producers.

We continue our support of the BioProcess Algae joint venture, which is focused on developing technology to grow and harvest algae, which consume carbon dioxide, in commercially viable quantities. Construction of Phase II, which began during the third quarter of 2010, was completed and the Grower Harvesters bioreactors were successfully started up in January 2011. Phase II allows for verification of growth rates, energy balances and operating expenses, which are considered to be some of the key steps to commercialization. The Iowa Power Fund awarded BioProcess Algae an additional grant of \$2.0 million to continue the research and development of the Grower Harvester technology. The remaining cost of the Phase II project is being shared by the joint venture partners. As part of the Phase II funding, we increased our ownership in BioProcess Algae to 35%.

In the fourth quarter of 2010, we began implementing corn oil extraction technology at our ethanol plants. The corn oil system is designed to extract non-edible corn oil from the whole stillage process immediately prior to production of distillers grains. Industrial uses for corn oil include feedstock for biodiesel, livestock feed additives, rubber substitutes, rust preventatives, inks, textiles, soaps and insecticides. We expect the implementation of corn oil extraction at our plants, including amounts paid through March 31, 2011, will cost us approximately \$22.0 million in the aggregate. At March 31, 2011, we were operating corn oil extraction systems at our Bluffton, Lakota, Obion, Ord, Riga and Superior plants. We expect to complete the installation of corn oil extraction technology at our Central City and Shenandoah plants by the end of the second quarter, and at our recently-acquired Otter Tail ethanol plant during the third quarter of 2011. Because the value of





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the corn oil as an extracted product is currently greater than its value as a component of distillers grains, the implementation of corn oil extraction at our plants has provided us with a new revenue stream with greater value-added economics.

### ***Industry Factors Affecting our Results of Operations***

**Variability of Commodity Prices.** Our operations and our industry are highly dependent on commodity prices, especially prices for corn, ethanol, distillers grains and natural gas. Because the market prices of these commodities are not always correlated, at times ethanol production may be unprofitable. As commodity price volatility poses a significant threat to our margin structure, we have developed a risk management strategy focused on locking in favorable operating margins when available. We continually monitor market prices of corn, natural gas and other input costs relative to the prices for ethanol and distillers grains at each of our production facilities. We create offsetting positions by using a combination of derivative instruments, fixed-price purchases and sales contracts, or a combination of strategies within strict limits. Our primary focus is not to manage general price movements of individual commodities, for example to minimize the cost of corn consumed, but rather to lock in favorable profit margins whenever possible. By using a variety of risk management tools and hedging strategies, including our internally-developed real-time margin management system, we believe we are able to maintain a disciplined approach to risk.

**Reduced Availability of Capital.** Some ethanol producers have faced financial distress over the past few years, culminating with bankruptcy filings by several companies. This, in combination with continued volatility in the capital markets has resulted in reduced availability of capital for the ethanol industry generally. In this market environment, we may experience limited access to incremental financing.

**Legislation.** Federal and state governments have enacted numerous policies, incentives and subsidies to encourage the usage of domestically-produced alternative fuel solutions. Passed in 2007 as part of the Energy Independence and Security Act, a federal Renewable Fuels Standard, or RFS, has been and we expect will continue to be a driving factor in the growth of ethanol usage. To further drive growth in the increased adoption of ethanol, Growth Energy, an ethanol industry trade association, and a number of ethanol producers requested a waiver from the EPA to increase the allowable amount of ethanol blended into gasoline from the current 10% level, or E10, to a 15% level, or E15. In October 2010, the EPA approved E15 for use in model year 2007 and newer model passenger vehicles, including cars, SUVs, and light pickup truck. In January 2011, the EPA ruled that E15 was also approved for use in model year 2001 to 2006 passenger vehicles. Another major benefit to the industry is the blender's credit, which allows gasoline distributors who blend ethanol with gasoline to receive a federal excise tax credit of \$0.45 per gallon of ethanol used, or \$0.045 per gallon for E10 and \$0.3825 per gallon for E85. Currently, the blender's credit is set to expire December 31, 2011. There can be no assurances that the blenders' credit will be extended at the end of 2011.

On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, or the Reform Act, which, among other things, aims to improve transparency and accountability in derivative markets. While the Reform Act increases the regulatory authority of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, or CFTC, regarding over-the-counter derivatives, there is uncertainty on several issues related to market clearing, definitions of market participants, reporting, and capital requirements. While many details remain to be addressed in CFTC rulemaking proceedings, at this time we do not anticipate any material impact to our risk management strategy.

### ***Acquisition of Otter Tail***

On March 24, 2011, we acquired an ethanol plant and certain other assets near Fergus Falls, Minnesota with an annual expected production capacity of 60 mmgy. The assets were purchased from Otter Tail Ag Enterprises, LLC for consideration totaling approximately \$60.3 million, consisting of \$6.1 million in cash and \$54.2 million in debt. We currently plan to increase our grain storage capacity at the Otter Tail plant by 1.6 million bushels in 2011.

### ***Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates***

This disclosure is based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires that we make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. We base our estimates on historical experience and other assumptions that we believe are proper and reasonable under the circumstances. We continually evaluate the appropriateness of estimates and assumptions used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements. Actual results could differ materially from those estimates. Key accounting policies, including but not limited to those relating to revenue recognition, property and equipment, impairment of long-lived assets and goodwill, derivative financial instruments, and accounting for income taxes,

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are impacted significantly by judgments, assumptions and estimates used in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements. See further discussion of our critical accounting policies and estimates, as well as significant accounting policies, in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010.

### ***Recent Accounting Pronouncements***

Effective January 1, 2011, we adopted the second phase of the amended guidance in ASC Topic 820, which requires us to disclose information in the reconciliation of recurring Level 3 measurements regarding purchases, sales, issuances and settlements on a gross basis, with a separate reconciliation for assets and liabilities. We did not experience an impact from the adoption of this guidance as we currently do not have any recurring Level 3 measurements.

### ***Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements***

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements that have or are reasonably likely to have a current or future material effect on our consolidated financial condition, results of operations or liquidity.

### ***Components of Revenues and Expenses***

**Revenues.** In our ethanol production segment, our revenues are derived primarily from the sale of ethanol and distillers grains, which are co-products of the ethanol production process. In our agribusiness segment, the sale of grain, fertilizer and petroleum products are our primary sources of revenue. In our marketing and distribution segment, the sale of ethanol and distillers grains that we market for our nine ethanol plants and the sale of ethanol we market for the ethanol plants owned by third parties represent our primary sources of revenue. Within this segment, we also produce and market corn oil using extraction equipment installed, or in the process of being installed during the first half of 2011, at each of our ethanol plants. Revenues also include net gains or losses from derivatives.

**Cost of Goods Sold.** Cost of goods sold in our ethanol production segment includes costs for direct labor, materials and certain plant overhead costs. Direct labor includes all compensation and related benefits of non-management personnel involved in the operation of our ethanol plants. Plant overhead costs primarily consist of plant utilities, plant depreciation and outbound freight charges. Our cost of goods sold is mainly affected by the cost of ethanol, corn, natural gas and transportation. In this segment, corn is our most significant raw material cost. We purchase natural gas to power steam generation in our ethanol production process and to dry our distillers grains. Natural gas represents our second largest cost in this business segment. Cost of goods sold also includes net gains or losses from derivatives.

Grain, fertilizer and petroleum acquisition costs represent the primary components of cost of goods sold in our agribusiness segment. Grain inventories, forward purchase contracts and forward sale contracts are valued at market prices, where available, or other market quotes adjusted for differences, primarily transportation, between the exchange-traded market and the local markets on which the terms of the contracts are based. Changes in the market value of grain inventories, forward purchase and sale contracts, and exchange-traded futures and options contracts are recognized in earnings as a component of cost of goods sold.

In our marketing and distribution segment, purchases of ethanol and distillers grains represent the largest components of cost of goods sold. Costs of corn oil production will become more significant in this segment as we complete implementation of corn oil extraction technology at our ethanol plants. Transportation expense represents an additional major component of our cost of goods sold in this segment. Transportation expense includes rail car leases, freight and shipping of our ethanol and co-products, as well as costs incurred in storing ethanol at destination terminals.

**Selling, General and Administrative Expenses.** Selling, general and administrative expenses are recognized at the operating segment level, as well as at the corporate level. These expenses consist of employee salaries, incentives and benefits; office expenses; board fees; and professional fees for accounting, legal, consulting, and investor relations activities. Personnel costs, which include employee salaries, incentives and benefits, are the largest single category of expenditures in selling, general and administrative expenses. We refer to selling, general and administrative expenses that are not allocable to a segment as corporate activities.

**Other Income (Expense).** Other income (expense) includes interest earned, interest expense, amortization of debt financing costs and other non-operating items.

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### Results of Operations

#### Segment Results

Our operations fall within the following three segments: (1) production of ethanol and related distillers grains, collectively referred to as ethanol production, (2) grain warehousing and marketing, as well as sales and related services of agronomy and petroleum products, collectively referred to as agribusiness, and (3) production and sales of corn oil, along with the marketing and distribution of Company-produced and third-party ethanol and distillers grains, collectively referred to as marketing and distribution. Selling, general and administrative expenses, primarily consisting of compensation of corporate employees, professional fees and overhead costs not directly related to a specific operating segment, are reflected in the table below as corporate activities. When the Company's management evaluates segment performance, they review the information provided below, as well as segment earnings before interest, income taxes, noncontrolling interest, depreciation and amortization.

During the normal course of business, our operating segments enter into transactions with one another. For example, our ethanol production segment sells ethanol to our marketing and distribution segment and our agribusiness segment sells grain to our ethanol production segment. These intersegment activities are recorded by each segment at prices approximating market and treated as if they are third-party transactions. Consequently, these transactions impact segment performance. However, intersegment revenues and corresponding costs are eliminated in consolidation, and do not impact our consolidated results.

The table below reflects selected operating segment financial information for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2011	2010
Revenues:		
Ethanol production	\$ 467,696	\$ 250,053
Agribusiness	114,044	42,281
Marketing and distribution	713,458	388,095
Intersegment eliminations	(483,039)	(253,955)
	\$ 812,159	\$ 426,474
Gross profit:		
Ethanol production	\$ 23,207	\$ 31,759
Agribusiness	5,941	2,769
Marketing and distribution	8,751	4,180
Intersegment eliminations	(449)	(1,234)
	\$ 37,450	\$ 37,474
Operating income (loss):		
Ethanol production	\$ 19,428	\$ 29,187
Agribusiness	894	(530)
Marketing and distribution	4,694	1,341
Intersegment eliminations	(434)	(1,234)
Corporate activities	(4,763)	(4,259)
	\$ 19,819	\$ 24,505

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### Three Months Ended March 31, 2011 Compared to the Three Months Ended March 31, 2010

#### *Consolidated Results*

Revenues increased \$385.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011 compared to the same period in 2010 as a result of acquired operations and changes in commodity prices. We acquired agribusiness operations in western Tennessee, in April 2010, and our Lakota and Riga ethanol plants in October 2010. Despite the increase in revenue, gross profit was flat when comparing the three months ended March 31, 2011 with the three months ended March 31, 2010 which resulted in a decrease in profit margin. This was due primarily to an increase in cost of goods sold as a result of higher corn prices and greater variability of commodity prices overall. Operating income also decreased \$4.7 million in the three months ended March 31, 2011 compared to the same period in 2010. In addition to the higher cost of goods sold, selling, general and administrative expenses were \$4.6 million higher for the three months ended March 31, 2011 compared to the same period in 2010 due to the expanded scope of our operations.

In addition to the factors listed above, income before taxes was also affected by an increase in interest expense of \$2.9 million due to the debt issued to finance the acquisitions and the \$90.0 million of convertible debt issued in November 2010. Income tax expense of \$4.4 million for both of the three month periods was favorably impacted by the release of a portion of valuation allowances against certain deferred tax assets, established in prior years due to the uncertainty of realization.

The following discussion of segment results provides greater detail on period to period results.

#### *Ethanol Production Segment*

The table below presents key operating data within our ethanol production segment for the periods indicated:

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Ethanol sold		
(thousands of gallons)	172,093	123,755
Distillers grains sold		
(thousands of equivalent dried tons)	505	355
Corn consumed		
(thousands of bushels)	60,371	44,635

Revenues for the ethanol production segment increased \$217.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011 compared to the same period in 2010. Revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2011, included production from our Lakota and Riga ethanol plants which were acquired in October 2010 as well as production from our Otter Tail ethanol plant, which was acquired in late March 2011. The Lakota and Riga plants contributed \$106.5 million in combined revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2011. The remaining increase in revenues was due to production efficiencies at our other ethanol plants compounded by increases in ethanol prices.

Cost of goods sold in the ethanol production segment increased \$226.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011 compared to the same period in 2010. The increase was due primarily to the consumption of 15.7 million additional bushels of corn and a 76.9% increase in the average cost per bushel during the first quarter of 2011 compared to the same period in 2010. The volume increase was due to a full quarter of production at our Lakota and Riga plants. Gross profit for the ethanol production segment decreased by \$8.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011 compared to the same period in 2010 due to the factors listed above.

Operating income for the segment, decreased \$9.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011 compared to the same period in 2010 due in large part to the factors discussed above. In addition, depreciation and amortization expense for the ethanol production segment was \$10.7 million during the three months ended March 31, 2011 compared to \$7.7 million during the same period in 2010.

**Table of Contents***Agribusiness Segment*

The table below presents key operating data within our agribusiness segment for the periods indicated:

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Grain sold		
(thousands of bushels)	13,954	7,800
Fertilizer sold		
(tons)	3,108	126

Our agribusiness segment had an increase of \$71.8 million in revenues, an increase of \$3.2 million in gross profit, and an increased operating income of \$1.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011 compared to the same period in 2010. Revenue, gross profit and operating income increased primarily due to additional volume from agribusiness locations in Iowa and the additional agribusiness operations acquired in western Tennessee in April 2010. Grain sold at the Iowa locations totaled 8.8 million bushels for the three months ended March 31, 2011 compared to 7.8 million bushels sold during the same period in 2010. Iowa locations sold 2.6 million tons of fertilizer for the three months ended March 31, 2011, up from 0.1 million tons in the three months ended March 31, 2010. The Tennessee agribusiness operations provided the remaining volume increases and contributed \$40.4 million in revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2011. The agribusiness segment's quarterly performance fluctuates on a seasonal basis with generally stronger results expected in the second and fourth quarters each year.

*Marketing and Distribution Segment*

Marketing and distribution revenues increased \$325.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011 compared to the same period in 2010. The increase in revenues was primarily due to an increase in ethanol revenues of \$295.4 million and an increase in distillers grains revenues of \$26.2 million. The remainder of the increase in revenue is attributable to corn oil production, which was deployed at six of our nine ethanol plants at March 31, 2011. We sold 277.5 million gallons of ethanol within the marketing and distribution segment during the quarter ended March 31, 2011 compared to 201.0 million gallons sold during the same period in 2010 and experienced an increase in revenue per gallon of ethanol. The increase in ethanol volumes is due to the expanded production of our own plants as a result of efficiency improvements and a full quarter of operations from the Lakota and Riga plants.

Gross profit and operating income for the marketing and distribution segment increased \$4.6 million and \$3.4 million, respectively, for the three months ended March 31, 2011 compared to the same period in 2010. The increases in gross profit and operating income were due primarily to increased ethanol and distillers grains prices and volumes sold and the production of corn oil. During the quarter ended March 31, 2011, we produced and sold 10.1 million pounds of corn oil, providing \$2.1 million in operating income.

*Intersegment Eliminations*

Intersegment eliminations of revenues increased \$229.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011 compared to the same period in 2010 due to a \$176.8 million increase in ethanol sold from our ethanol production segment to our marketing and distribution segment, a \$21.1 million increase in distillers grains sold from our ethanol production segment to our marketing and distribution segment, and a \$32.0 million increase in corn sold from our agribusiness segment to our ethanol production segment. These increases are a result of the expanded scope of our operations.

*Corporate Activities*

Operating income was impacted by an increase in operating expenses for corporate activities of \$0.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011 compared to the same period in 2010, primarily due to an increase in general and administrative expenses and personnel costs related to expanded operations.

**Table of Contents***Income Taxes*

We record income tax expense during interim periods based on our best estimate of the full year's effective tax rate. Income tax expense for both of the three-month periods ended March 31, 2011 and 2010 was \$4.4 million. The effective tax rate (calculated as the ratio of income tax expense to income before income taxes) was approximately 37% and 22% for the first quarter of 2011 and 2010, respectively. The effective tax rates for each period reflect the release of a portion of valuation allowances provided against certain of our deferred tax assets, primarily federal and state net operating losses and tax credits.

**EBITDA**

Management uses earnings before interest, income taxes, noncontrolling interests, depreciation and amortization, or EBITDA, to measure our financial performance and to internally manage our businesses. Management believes that EBITDA provides useful information to investors as a measure of comparison with peer and other companies. EBITDA should not be considered an alternative to, or more meaningful than, net income or cash flow as determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. EBITDA calculations may vary from company to company. Accordingly, our computation of EBITDA may not be comparable with a similarly titled measure of another company. The following sets forth the reconciliation of net income to EBITDA for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Net income attributable to Green Plains	\$ 7,741	\$ 15,576
Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	(210)	(90)
Interest expense	7,556	4,656
Income taxes	4,361	4,390
Depreciation and amortization	12,579	8,651
 EBITDA	 \$ 32,027	 \$ 33,183

*Liquidity and Capital Resources*

On March 31, 2011, we had \$151.9 million in cash and equivalents, comprised of \$80.1 million held at our parent company and the remainder at our subsidiaries. We also had up to an additional \$53.8 million available at our subsidiaries under our revolving credit agreements, subject to borrowing base restrictions or other specified lending conditions at March 31, 2011. Funds held at our subsidiaries are generally required for their ongoing operational needs. Further, distributions from our subsidiaries are restricted pursuant to these loan agreements. At March 31, 2011, there were approximately \$489.5 million of net assets at our subsidiaries that were not available to be transferred to the parent company in the form of dividends, loans or advances due to restrictions contained in the credit facilities of these subsidiaries. We incurred capital expenditures of \$11.6 million in the first quarter of 2011. Capital spending for the remainder of 2011 is expected to be approximately \$24.0 million, including planned grain storage expansion at our Otter Tail ethanol plant and at our agribusiness locations in Tennessee as well as previously-discussed installation of corn oil extraction technology at three of our ethanol plants. The remainder of our capital spending primarily relates to other recurring capital expenditures in the ordinary course of business. We believe available borrowings under our credit facilities and cash provided by operating activities will be sufficient to support our working capital, capital expenditures and debt service requirements for the foreseeable future.

Net cash used by operating activities was \$91.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011. This was primarily a result of the reduction of accounts payable and an increase in our investments in inventories and deposits. Many agricultural producers defer receipt of payment for their grain sales until after the end of the calendar year, which results in significant cash outflows for accounts payable in the first quarter. Cash outflows for grain inventories were primarily a result of increases in commodity prices in the first quarter of 2011. Net cash used by investing activities was \$18.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011, primarily due to the acquisition of Otter Tail and purchases of property and equipment. Net cash provided by financing activities was \$28.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011. The decrease in restricted cash provided cash from financing activities of \$17.6 million. Green Plains Trade and Green Plains Grain utilize revolving credit facilities to finance working capital requirements. These facilities are frequently drawn upon and repaid resulting in significant cash movements that are reflected on a gross basis within financing activities. In addition, we made scheduled principal payments and \$13.0 million in free cash flow payments for a total of \$23.1 million in debt reduction on our term debt facilities during the three months ended March 31, 2011.



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Our business is highly impacted by commodity prices, including prices for corn, ethanol, distillers grains and natural gas. We attempt to reduce the market risk associated with fluctuations in commodity prices through the use of derivative financial instruments. Sudden changes in commodity prices may require cash deposits with brokers, or margin calls. Depending on our open derivative positions, we may require significant liquidity with little advanced notice to meet margin calls. We continuously monitor our exposure to margin calls and believe that we will continue to maintain adequate liquidity to cover such margin calls from operating results and borrowings. Recent increases in grain prices and our expanded grain handling capacity have led to more frequent and larger margin calls. Accordingly, in November 2010, we expanded Green Plains Grain's short-term borrowing capacity under its revolving credit facilities from \$65 million to \$107 million. Amounts available under these revolving credit facilities decreased to \$100 million on April 1, 2011, and, unless our request to extend is approved, will decrease to \$65 million on June 1, 2011. We intend to negotiate a new credit facility for Green Plains Grain prior to its maturity on August 1, 2011.

We are in compliance with our debt covenants for the three-month period ended March 31, 2011. Based upon our current forecasts, we believe we will maintain compliance at each of our subsidiaries for the upcoming twelve months, or if necessary have sufficient liquidity available on a consolidated basis to resolve a subsidiary's noncompliance; however, no obligation exists to provide such liquidity for a subsidiary's compliance. No assurance can be provided that actual operating results will approximate our forecasts or that we will inject the necessary capital into a subsidiary to maintain compliance with its respective covenants. In the event actual results differ significantly from our forecasts and a subsidiary is unable to comply with its respective debt covenants, the subsidiary's lenders may determine that an event of default has occurred. Upon the occurrence of an event of default, and following notice, the lenders may terminate any commitment and declare the entire unpaid balance due and payable.

We believe that we have sufficient working capital for our existing operations. However, we can provide no assurance that we will be able to secure additional funding for any of our operations. A sustained period of unprofitable operations may strain our liquidity and make it difficult to maintain compliance with our financing arrangements. While we may seek additional sources of working capital in response, we can provide no assurance that we will be able to secure this funding if necessary. We may sell additional equity or borrow additional amounts to improve or preserve our liquidity; expand our ethanol plants; build additional or acquire existing ethanol plants; or build additional or acquire existing agribusiness and ethanol distribution facilities. We can provide no assurance that we will be able to secure the funding necessary for these additional projects or for additional working capital needs at reasonable terms, if at all.

### ***Long-Term Debt***

For additional information related to our long-term debt, see *Note 8 Long-Term Debt* included herein as part of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

### ***Ethanol Production Segment***

Each of our ethanol production segment subsidiaries have credit facilities with lender groups that provide for term and revolving term loans to finance construction and operation of the production facilities.

The Green Plains Bluffton loan is comprised of a \$70.0 million amortizing term loan and a \$20.0 million revolving term loan. At March 31, 2011, \$53.4 million related to the term loan was outstanding, along with the entire revolving term loan. The term loan requires monthly principal payments of approximately \$0.6 million. The loans mature on November 19, 2013.

The Green Plains Central City loan is comprised of a \$55.0 million amortizing term loan and a \$30.5 million revolving term loan as well as a stated revolving credit supplement (revolver) of up to \$11.0 million. At March 31, 2011, \$49.4 million related to the term loan was outstanding, along with \$30.5 million on the revolving term loan and \$6.2 million on the revolver. The term loan requires monthly principal payments of \$0.6 million beginning in June 2011. The term loan and the revolving term loan mature on July 1, 2016 and the revolver matures on July 1, 2011 with an option to renew.

The Green Plains Obion loan is comprised of a \$60.0 million amortizing term loan and a revolving term loan of \$37.4 million. At March 31, 2011, \$32.9 million related to the term loan and \$36.2 million on the revolving term loan was outstanding. The term loan requires quarterly principal payments of \$2.4 million. The term loan matures on May 20, 2015 and the revolving term loan matures on May 1, 2019.

The Green Plains Ord loan is comprised of a \$25.0 million amortizing term loan and a \$13.0 million revolving term loan as well as a stated revolving credit supplement (revolver) of up to \$5.0 million. At March 31, 2011, \$22.6 million related to





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the term loan was outstanding, \$13.0 million on the revolving term loan, along with \$2.5 million on the revolver. The term loan requires monthly principal payments of \$0.3 million beginning in June 2011. The term loan and the revolving term loan mature on July 1, 2016 and the revolver matures on July 1, 2011 with an option to renew.

The Green Plains Otter Tail loan is comprised of a \$30.3 million amortizing term loan, a \$4.7 million revolver and a \$19.2 million note payable. At March 31, 2011, \$30.3 million related to the term loan, \$4.7 million on the revolver and \$19.2 million on the note payable were outstanding. The term loan requires monthly principal and interest payments of \$0.5 million beginning May 1, 2011 and the note payable requires monthly principal payments of \$0.3 million beginning October 1, 2014. The revolver matures on March 23, 2012.

The Green Plains Shenandoah loan is comprised of a \$30.0 million amortizing term loan and a \$17.0 million revolving term loan. At March 31, 2011, \$9.7 million related to the term loan was outstanding along with the entire \$17.0 million on the revolving term loan. The term loan requires quarterly principal payments of \$1.2 million. The term loan matures on May 20, 2014 and the revolving term loan matures on November 1, 2017.

The Green Plains Superior loan is comprised of a \$40.0 million amortizing term loan and a \$10.0 million revolving term loan. At March 31, 2011, \$24.9 million related to the term loan was outstanding, along with the entire \$10.0 million on the revolving term loan. The term loan requires quarterly principal payments of \$1.375 million. The term loan matures on July 20, 2015 and the revolving term loan matures on July 1, 2017.

The Green Plains Holdings II loan is comprised of a \$34.1 million amortizing term loan, a \$42.6 million revolving term loan and a \$15.0 million revolving line of credit loan. At March 31, 2011, \$32.6 million was outstanding on the term loan, along with \$41.0 million on the revolving term loan and \$15.0 million on the revolving line of credit loan. The term loan requires quarterly principal payments of \$1.5 million. The revolving term loan requires semi-annual principal payments of approximately \$2.7 million. The amortizing term loan will mature on January 1, 2015. The revolving term loan will mature April 1, 2016. The revolving line of credit will mature on April 30, 2013.

Each term loan, except for the Green Plains Holdings II and Green Plains Otter Tail agreements, has a provision that requires us to make annual special payments equal to a percentage ranging from 50% to 75% of the available free cash flow from the related entity's operations (as defined in the respective loan agreements), subject to certain limitations. During the three months ended March 31, 2011, \$13.0 million was paid under these requirements.

With certain exceptions, the revolving term loans are generally available for advances throughout the life of the commitment. Interest-only payments are due each month on all revolving term facilities until the final maturity date, with the exception of the Green Plains Obion loan, which requires additional semi-annual payments of \$4.675 million beginning November 1, 2015.

The term loans and revolving term loans bear interest at LIBOR plus 1.5% to 4.50% or lender-established prime rates. Some have established a floor on the underlying LIBOR index. In some cases, the lender may allow us to elect to pay interest at a fixed interest rate to be determined. As security for the loans, the lenders received a first-position lien on all personal property and real estate owned by the respective entity borrowing the funds, including an assignment of all contracts and rights pertinent to construction and on-going operations of the plant. Additionally, debt facilities within Green Plains Central City and Green Plains Ord are cross-collateralized. These borrowing entities are also required to maintain certain financial and non-financial covenants during the terms of the loans.

Green Plains Bluffton also received \$22.0 million in Subordinate Solid Waste Disposal Facility Revenue Bond funds from the City of Bluffton, Indiana, of which \$19.9 million remained outstanding at March 31, 2011. The revenue bond requires: semi-annual principal and interest payments of approximately \$1.5 million during the period commencing on March 1, 2010 through March 1, 2019; and a final principal and interest payment of \$3.745 million on September 1, 2019. The revenue bond bears interest at 7.50% per annum.

### *Agribusiness Segment*

The Green Plains Grain loan is comprised of a \$20.0 million amortizing term loan, a \$45.0 million revolving term loan, a \$20.0 million seasonal revolver and a \$42.0 million bulge seasonal revolver. The term loan expires on August 1, 2013, the revolving term loan expires on August 1, 2011, \$7.0 million of the bulge seasonal revolver expired on April 1, 2011, the remainder of the bulge seasonal revolver expires June 1, 2011 and the seasonal revolver expires on August 1, 2011. Payments of \$0.5 million under the term loan are due on the first business day of each calendar quarter, with any remaining amount payable at the expiration of the loan term. The loans bear interest at three-month LIBOR plus 4.25% on the term loan,



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LIBOR plus 3.5% on the revolving term loan, and one-month LIBOR plus 3.75% on the seasonal revolver, all subject to an interest rate floor of 4.5%. Loan proceeds are used primarily for working capital purposes. At March 31, 2011, \$18.5 million on the term loan and \$81.6 million on the various revolving loans were outstanding. As security for the loans, the lender received a first-position lien on real estate, equipment, inventory, and accounts receivable owned by Green Plains Grain. In addition, Green Plain Grain had outstanding equipment financing term loans totaling \$0.8 million at March 31, 2011.

*Marketing and Distribution Segment*

The Green Plains Trade loan is comprised of a senior secured revolving credit facility of up to \$70.0 million, subject to a borrowing base of 85% of eligible receivables. At March 31, 2011, \$42.5 million on the revolving credit facility was outstanding. The revolving credit facility expires on March 31, 2014 and bears interest at the lender's commercial floating rate plus 2.5% or LIBOR plus 3.5%. As security for the loan, the lender received a first-position lien on accounts receivable, inventory and other collateral owned by Green Plains Trade.

*Corporate Activities*

We also have \$90.0 million of 5.75% Convertible Senior Notes due 2015. The Notes represent senior, unsecured obligations, with interest payable on May 1 and November 1 of each year. The Notes may be converted into shares of common stock and cash in lieu of fractional shares of the common stock based on a conversion rate initially equal to 69.7788 shares of the common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of Notes, which is equal to an initial conversion price of \$14.33 per share. The conversion rate is subject to adjustment upon the occurrence of specified events. We may redeem for cash all, but not less than all, of the Notes at any time on and after November 1, 2013, if the last reported sale price of our common stock equals or exceeds 140% of the applicable conversion price for a specified time period, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest.

**Contractual Obligations**

Our contractual obligations as of March 31, 2011 were as follows (in thousands):

	Total	Payments Due By Period			
		Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
<b>Contractual Obligations</b>					
Long-term debt obligations (1)	\$ 734,136	\$ 188,679	188,873	191,686	164,898
Interest and fees on debt obligations (2)	94,108	25,643	38,008	20,146	10,311
Operating lease obligations (3)	47,659	16,404	21,226	6,188	3,841
Purchase obligations					
Forward grain purchase contracts (4)	562,342	559,066	3,276		
Other commodity purchase contracts (5)	39,539	39,539			
Other	15,392	15,318	74		
Total contractual obligations	\$ 1,493,176	\$ 844,649	\$ 251,457	\$ 218,020	\$ 179,050

- (1) Includes current portion of long-term debt.
- (2) Interest amounts are calculated over the terms of the loans using current interest rates, assuming scheduled principle and interest amounts are paid pursuant to the debt agreements. Includes administrative and/or commitment fees on debt obligations.
- (3) Operating lease costs are primarily for railcars and office space.
- (4) Purchase contracts represent index-priced and fixed-price contracts. Index purchase contracts are valued at current quarter-end prices.
- (5) Includes fixed-price ethanol, dried distillers grains and natural gas purchase contracts.

**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.**

We are exposed to various market risks, including changes in commodity prices and interest rates. Market risk is the potential loss arising from adverse changes in market rates and prices. In the ordinary course of business, we enter into various types of transactions involving financial instruments to manage and reduce the impact of changes in commodity



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prices and interest rates. At this time, we do not expect to have exposure to foreign currency risk as we expect to conduct all of our business in U.S. dollars.

### ***Interest Rate Risk***

We are exposed to market risk from changes in interest rates. Exposure to interest rate risk results primarily from holding term and revolving loans that bear variable interest rates. Specifically, we have \$734.1 million outstanding in debt as of March 31, 2011, \$525.4 million of which is variable-rate in nature. Interest rates on our variable-rate debt are determined based upon the market interest rate of either the lender's prime rate or LIBOR, as applicable. A 10% change in interest rates would affect our net income by approximately \$1.3 million per year in the aggregate. Other details of our outstanding debt are discussed in the notes to the consolidated financial statements included as a part of this report.

### ***Commodity Price Risk***

We produce ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil from corn and our business is sensitive to changes in the prices of each of these commodities. The price of corn is subject to fluctuations due to unpredictable factors such as weather; corn planted and harvested acreage; changes in national and global supply and demand; and government programs and policies. We use natural gas in the ethanol production process and, as a result, our business is also sensitive to changes in the price of natural gas. The price of natural gas is influenced by such weather factors as extreme heat or cold in the summer and winter, or other natural events like hurricanes in the spring, summer and fall. Other natural gas price factors include North American exploration and production, and the amount of natural gas in underground storage during both the injection and withdrawal seasons. Ethanol prices are sensitive to world crude-oil supply and demand; crude-oil refining capacity and utilization; government regulation; and consumer demand for alternative fuels. Distillers grains prices are sensitive to various demand factors such as numbers of livestock on feed, prices for feed alternatives, and supply factors, primarily production by ethanol plants and other sources.

We attempt to reduce the market risk associated with fluctuations in the price of corn, natural gas, distillers grains and ethanol by employing a variety of risk management and economic hedging strategies. Strategies include the use of forward fixed-price physical contracts and derivative financial instruments, such as futures and options executed on the Chicago Board of Trade and/or the New York Mercantile Exchange.

We focus on locking in operating margins based on a model that continually monitors market prices of corn, natural gas and other input costs against prices for ethanol and distillers grains at each of our production facilities. We create offsetting positions by using a combination of forward fixed-price physical purchases and sales contracts and derivative financial instruments. As a result of this approach, we frequently have gains on derivative financial instruments that are conversely offset by losses on forward fixed-price physical contracts or inventories and vice versa. In our ethanol production segment, gains and losses on derivative financial instruments are recognized each period in operating results while corresponding gains and losses on physical contracts are generally designated as normal purchases or normal sales contracts and are not recognized until quantities are delivered or utilized in production. For cash flow hedges, any ineffectiveness is recognized in current period results, while other unrealized gains and losses are reflected in accumulated other comprehensive income until gains and losses from the underlying hedged transaction are realized. In the event that it becomes probable that a forecasted transaction will not occur, we would discontinue cash flow hedge treatment, which would affect earnings. During the three months ended March 31, 2011, revenues and cost of goods sold included net losses from derivative financial instruments of \$4.0 million and \$21.7 million respectively. To the extent the net gains or losses from settled derivative instruments are related to hedging current period production, they are generally offset by physical commodity purchases or sales resulting in the realization of the intended operating margins. However, our results of operations are impacted when there is a mismatch of gains or losses associated with the change in fair value of derivative instruments at the reporting period when the physical commodity purchase or sales has not yet occurred since they are designated as a normal purchase or normal sale.

In our agribusiness segment, inventory positions, physical purchase and sale contracts, and financial derivatives are marked to market with gains and losses included in results of operations. The market value of derivative financial instruments such as exchange-traded futures and options has a high, but not perfect, correlation to the underlying market value of grain inventories and related purchase and sale contracts.

### ***Ethanol Production Segment***

A sensitivity analysis has been prepared to estimate our ethanol production segment exposure to ethanol, corn, distillers grains and natural gas price risk. Market risk related to these factors is estimated as the potential change in net income

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resulting from hypothetical 10% changes in prices of our expected corn and natural gas requirements, and ethanol and distillers grains output for a one-year period from March 31, 2011. This analysis includes the impact of risk management activities that result from our use of fixed-price purchase and sale contracts and derivatives. The results of this analysis, which may differ from actual results, are as follows (in thousands):

Commodity	Estimated Total Volume Requirements for the Next 12 Months	Unit of Measure	Net Income Effect of Approximate 10% Change in Price
Ethanol	740,000	Gallons	\$ 84,780
Corn	265,000	Bushels	\$ 82,428
Distillers grains	2,100	Tons (1)	\$ 18,298
Natural gas	20,513	MMBTU (2)	\$ 4,636

(1) Distillers grains quantities are stated on an equivalent dried ton basis.

(2) Millions of British Thermal Units

*Agribusiness Segment*

The availability and price of agricultural commodities are subject to wide fluctuations due to unpredictable factors such as weather, plantings, foreign and domestic government farm programs and policies, changes in global demand created by population changes and changes in standards of living, and global production of similar and competitive crops. To reduce price risk caused by market fluctuations in purchase and sale commitments for grain and grain held in inventory, we enter into exchange-traded futures and options contracts that function as economic hedges. The market value of exchange-traded futures and options used for economic hedging has a high, but not perfect correlation, to the underlying market value of grain inventories and related purchase and sale contracts. The less correlated portion of inventory and purchase and sale contract market value, known as basis, is much less volatile than the overall market value of exchange-traded futures and tends to follow historical patterns. We manage this less volatile risk by constantly monitoring our position relative to the price changes in the market. In addition, inventory values are affected by the month-to-month spread relationships in the regulated futures markets, as we carry inventories over time. These spread relationships are also less volatile than the overall market value and tend to follow historical patterns, but also represent a risk that cannot be directly offset. Our accounting policy for our futures and options, as well as the underlying inventory positions and purchase and sale contracts, is to mark them to the market and include gains and losses in the consolidated statement of operations in sales and merchandising revenues.

A sensitivity analysis has been prepared to estimate agribusiness segment exposure to market risk of our commodity position (exclusive of basis risk). Our daily net commodity position consists of inventories related to purchase and sale contracts and exchange-traded contracts. The fair value of our position, which is a summation of the fair values calculated for each commodity by valuing each net position at quoted futures market prices, is approximately \$192,000 at March 31, 2011. Market risk at that date, based on the estimated net income effect resulting from a hypothetical 10% change in such prices, was approximately \$12,000.

**Item 4. Controls and Procedures.***Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures*

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or Exchange Act, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required financial disclosure.

As of the end of the period covered by this report, our management carried out an evaluation, under the supervision of and with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act). Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms. These disclosure controls and procedures are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions





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regarding required financial disclosure. Based upon that evaluation, our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

*Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting*

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of our financial reporting and the preparation of our consolidated financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. There were no material changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by this quarterly report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**Table of Contents****PART II OTHER INFORMATION****Item 1. Legal Proceedings.**

In April 2011, Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc. filed a complaint in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware in connection with its Chapter 11 bankruptcy naming as defendants Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc., Green Plains Obion LLC, Green Plains Bluffton LLC, Green Plains VBV LLC and Green Plains Trade Group LLC. This action alleges \$24.4 million of damages from preferential transfers or, in the alternative, \$28.4 million of damages from fraudulent transfers under an ethanol marketing agreement and an unspecified amount of damages for a continuing breach of a termination agreement related to rail cars. We are unable to predict the outcome of these matters at this time, and any views formed as to the viability of these claims of the financial exposure which could result may change as the matters proceed through their course. We intend to defend these claims vigorously.

**Item 1A. Risk Factors.**

Our investors should consider the risks that could affect us and our business as set forth in Part I, Item 1A, "Risk Factors" of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010. Although we have attempted to discuss key factors, our investors need to be aware that other risks may prove to be important in the future. New risks may emerge at any time and we cannot predict such risks or estimate the extent to which they may affect our financial performance. Investors should carefully consider the discussion of risks and the other information included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 and in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, including Cautionary Information Regarding Forward-Looking Information, which is included in Part I, Item 2, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations."

**Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.**

The Company withholds shares upon the vesting of restricted stock grants to cover employee payroll and income taxes. The following table sets forth the shares that were withheld by month during the first quarter of 2011.

Month	Total Number of Shares Withheld	Average Price Paid per Share
January		\$
February	20,769	\$ 11.56
March	31,116	\$ 12.12
Total	51,885	\$ 11.90

**Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.**

None.

**Item 4. (Removed and Reserved).****Item 5. Other Information.**

None.

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**Item 6. Exhibits.**

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.1	Amended and Restated Revolving Credit and Security Agreement by and among PNC Bank, National Association, Green Plains Trade Group LLC and the other Persons joined as borrowers from time to time dated January 21, 2011 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, dated January 27, 2011)
10.2	Amended and Restated Revolving Credit Note dated January 21, 2011 by Green Plains Trade Group LLC to PNC Bank, National Association, (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, dated January 27, 2011)
10.3	Revolving Credit Note dated January 21, 2011 by Green Plains Trade Group LLC to GE Capital Finance Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, dated January 27, 2011)
10.4	Revolving Credit Note dated January 21, 2011 by Green Plains Trade Group LLC to U.S. Bank National Association (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, dated January 27, 2011)
10.5	Third Amendment to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated February 28, 2011 by and among Green Plains Grain Company LLC, Green Plains Grain Company TN LLC, and First National Bank of Omaha (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.36(c) of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed March 4, 2011)
10.6	Employment Agreement dated March 4, 2011 by and between the Company and Jeffrey S. Briggs (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, dated March 8, 2011)
10.7	Employment Agreement dated March 4, 2011 by and between the Company and Carl S. (Steve) Bleyl (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, dated March 8, 2011)
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**GREEN PLAINS RENEWABLE ENERGY, INC.**  
(Registrant)

Date: May 2, 2011

By: */s/ Todd A. Becker*  
Todd A. Becker  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: May 2, 2011

By: */s/ Jerry L. Peters*  
Jerry L. Peters  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial Officer)