

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6047(e), 6057(b), and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089
		2015
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2015 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2015</u> and ending <u>12/31/2015</u>	
A This return/report is for:	☐ a multiemployer plan; ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions); or ☒ a single-employer plan; ☐ a DFE (specify) ____
B This return/report is:	☐ the first return/report; ☐ the final return/report; ☐ an amended return/report; ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months).
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here.	☐
D Check box if filing under:	☒ Form 5558; ☐ automatic extension; ☐ the DFVC program; ☐ special extension (enter description)

Part II	Basic Plan Information —enter all requested information
1a Name of plan <u>GREEN PLAINS INC. 401(K) PLAN</u>	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>001</u> 1c Effective date of plan <u>01/01/2008</u>
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) <u>GREEN PLAINS INC.</u> <u>450 REGENCY PARKWAY</u> <u>SUITE 400</u> <u>OMAHA, NE 68114</u>	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>84-1652107</u> 2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>402-884-8700</u> 2d Business code (see instructions) <u>325900</u>

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	<u>Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.</u>	<u>07/28/2016</u>	<u>STEPHANIE STELZER</u>
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE
Preparer's name (including firm name, if applicable) and address (include room or suite number)			Preparer's telephone number

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN
	3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the name, EIN and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name	4b EIN 4c PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 934
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d).	
a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year.....	6a(1) 854
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	6a(2) 995
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits.....	6b 0
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits.....	6c 91
d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c	6d 1086
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.....	6e 1
f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e	6f 1087
g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item).....	6g 731
h Number of participants that terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6h 49
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7
8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions: 2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2R 2T	
b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:	
9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)	
a Pension Schedules (1) ☒ R (Retirement Plan Information) (2) ☐ MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (3) ☐ SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	b General Schedules (1) ☒ H (Financial Information) (2) ☐ I (Financial Information – Small Plan) (3) ☐ A (Insurance Information) (4) ☒ C (Service Provider Information) (5) ☒ D (DFE/Participating Plan Information) (6) ☐ G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III	Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)
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11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2015 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2015 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2015
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2015 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2015 and ending 12/31/2015		
A Name of plan GREEN PLAINS INC. 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 GREEN PLAINS INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 84-1652107	

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a** Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions)..... ☒ Yes ☐ No
- b** If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
LUTZ & COMPANY, PC
47-0625816

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosure on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER AND S

13-5674085

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
15 52 59 60 62 63 71 72	RECORDKEEPER	15201	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3 If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III **Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)**
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans)

a Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
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plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
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plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2015 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
For calendar plan year 2015 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2015</u> and ending <u>12/31/2015</u>		
A Name of plan <u>GREEN PLAINS INC. 401(K) PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	<u>001</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>GREEN PLAINS INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>84-1652107</u>	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.				
	Assets			
a	Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	200	375
b	Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
	(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	62627	56693
	(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
	(3) Other.....	1b(3)		0
c	General investments:			
	(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		0
	(2) U.S. Government securities.....	1c(2)		0
	(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
	(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		0
	(B) All other.....	1c(3)(B)		0
	(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
	(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		0
	(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		0
	(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		0
	(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		0
	(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		0
	(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	570250	640226
	(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts.....	1c(9)	1562886	1709982
	(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts.....	1c(10)		
	(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
	(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
	(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds).....	1c(13)	18404996	21415669
	(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)		
	(15) Other	1c(15)	342096	527442

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		0
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	20943055	24350387

Liabilities

g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0	0

Net Assets

l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	20943055	24350387
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Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	1600347	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	2764868	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	852321	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	0	
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		5217536
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	0	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)	0	
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)	0	
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	25157	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	0	
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		25157
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)	0	
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	0	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	1152252	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		1152252
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	0	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	0	
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	0	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		21541
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		0
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		-1112243
c Other income	2c		-8766
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		5295477

Expenses**e** Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:

(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	1780826	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)	0	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		1780826
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		0
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		86724
h Interest expense	2h		0
i Administrative expenses: (1) Professional fees	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Investment advisory and management fees	2i(3)		
(4) Other	2i(4)	20595	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (4)	2i(5)		20595
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		1888145

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		3407332
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		0
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		0

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☐ Unqualified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☒ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Did the accountant perform a limited scope audit pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and/or 103-12(d)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: LUTZ & COMPANY, P.C.

(2) EIN: 47-0625816

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l.

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	N/A	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		☒		
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		☒		

	Yes	No	N/A	Amount
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		X		
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		X		
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X			500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X		
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X		
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X		
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X			
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)		X		
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X		
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X		
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		X		
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.				
o Did the plan trust incur unrelated business taxable income?				
p Were in-service distributions made during the plan year?				

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year?

If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year. ☐ Yes ☒ No Amount:

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c If the plan is a defined benefit plan, is it covered under the PBGC insurance program (see ERISA section 4021)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

Part V Trust Information

6a Name of trust

6b Trust's EIN

6c Name of trustee or custodian

6d Trustee's or custodian's telephone number

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2015 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2015 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2015 and ending 12/31/2015

A Name of plan <u>GREEN PLAINS INC. 401(K) PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>001</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>GREEN PLAINS INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>84-1652107</u>

Part I	Distributions
---------------	----------------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	<u>0</u>
2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): <u>94-1687665</u>		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.		
3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year.....	3	

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part)
----------------	--

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.			
5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____			
If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount).....	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.			
7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments
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9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
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Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under Section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
----------------	---

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☐ No
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice and OMB Control Numbers, see the instructions for Form 5500.

Schedule R (Form 5500) 2015
v. 150123

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14	Enter the number of participants on whose behalf no contributions were made by an employer as an employer of the participant for:		
	a The current year	14a	
	b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	14b	
	c The second preceding plan year	14c	
15	Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:		
	a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
	b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	
16	Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:		
	a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
	b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16b	
17	If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment. ☐		

Part VI	Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans
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18	If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐
19	If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) through (c)
	a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as: Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%
	b Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt: ☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more
	c What duration measure was used to calculate line 19(b)? ☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify): _____

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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20a Is the plan a 401(k) plan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
20b If "Yes," how does the 401(k) plan satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2)?	☐ Design-based safe harbor method	☐ ADP/ACP test
20c If the ADP/ACP test is used, did the 401(k) plan perform ADP/ACP testing for the plan year using the "current year testing method" for nonhighly compensated employees (Treas. Reg sections 1.401(k)-2(a)(2)(ii) and 1.401(m)-2(a)(2)(ii))?	☐ Yes	☐ No
21a Check the box to indicate the method used by the plan to satisfy the coverage requirements under section 410(b):	☐ Ratio percentage test	☐ Average benefit test
21b Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules?	☐ Yes	☐ No
22a Has the plan been timely amended for all required tax law changes?	☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ N/A
22b Date the last plan amendment/restatement for the required tax law changes was adopted ____/____/____. Enter the applicable code _____. (See instructions for tax law changes and codes).		
22c If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved master and prototype (M&P) or volume submitter plan that is subject to a favorable IRS opinion or advisory letter, enter the date of that favorable letter ____/____/____ and the letter's serial number _____.		
22d If the plan is an individually-designed plan and received a favorable determination letter from the IRS, enter the date of the plan's last favorable determination letter ____/____/____.		
23 Is the Plan maintained in a U.S. territory (i.e., Puerto Rico (if no election under ERISA section 1022(i)(2) has been made), American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or the U.S. Virgin Islands)?	☐ Yes	☐ No

**Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan (Formerly
Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc.
401(k) Plan)**

Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report

December 31, 2015 and 2014



Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan (Formerly Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc. 401(k) Plan)

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Note: Schedules required by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 that have not been included herein are not applicable.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Plan Administrator
Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan (Formerly Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc. 401(k) Plan)
Omaha, Nebraska

Report on the Financial Statements

We were engaged to audit the accompanying financial statements of Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan (Formerly Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc. 401(k) Plan) (the Plan), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on conducting the audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Because of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, however, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion.

Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion

As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the plan administrator instructed us not to perform, and we did not perform, any auditing procedures with respect to the information summarized in Note 3, which was certified or provided by Bank of America, N.A., the custodian of the Plan, except for comparing this information with the related information included in the financial statements. We have been informed by the plan administrator that the custodian holds the Plan's assets and executes transactions. The plan administrator has obtained certifications from the custodian as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and for the years then ended, that the information provided to the plan administrator by the custodian is complete and accurate.

Disclaimer of Opinion

Because of the significance of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on these financial statements.

Emphasis of Matter – Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note 2 to the financial statements, the Plan has changed its method of presentation for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts and plan investment disclosures due to the adoption of Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Update 2015-12, *Plan Accounting*. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matter

The supplemental information, Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year), as of or for the year ended December 31, 2015, is required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and is presented for the purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. The supplemental information is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Because of the significance of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, we do not express an opinion on the supplemental information.

Report on Form and Content in Compliance with DOL Rules and Regulations

The form and content of the information included in the financial statements and supplemental information, other than that derived from the information certified or provided by the custodian, have been audited by us in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and, in our opinion, are presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

Lutz & Company, P.C.

July 21, 2016

Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan (Formerly Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc. 401(k) Plan)

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

December 31, 2015 and 2014

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
ASSETS		
Investments at Fair Value (Notes 3 and 4)	\$ 23,653,093	\$ 20,282,524
Receivables		
Notes Receivable from Participants (Note 3)	640,226	570,250
Employer Contributions	56,693	62,627
Total Receivables	696,919	632,877
Cash (Note 3)	375	200
Total Assets	24,350,387	20,915,601
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 24,350,387	\$ 20,915,601

Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan (Formerly Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc. 401(k) Plan)

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO		
Investment Income (Note 3)		
Net Appreciation in Fair Value of Investments (Note 4)	\$ -	\$ 155,095
Dividends from Investments	1,173,793	845,703
Total Investment Income	1,173,793	1,000,798
Interest Income on Notes Receivable from Participants (Note 3)	25,157	19,450
Contributions		
Employer	1,600,347	1,327,488
Participant	2,764,868	2,280,640
Rollovers	852,321	1,226,470
Total Contributions	5,217,536	4,834,598
Total Additions	6,416,486	5,854,846
DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO		
Net Depreciation in Fair Value of Investments (Notes 3 and 4)	1,103,263	\$ -
Benefits Paid Directly to Participants	1,867,550	1,524,085
Administrative Expenses	10,887	10,057
Total Deductions	2,981,700	1,534,142
NET INCREASE	3,434,786	4,320,704
Net Assets Available for Benefits, Beginning of Year	20,915,601	16,594,897
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, END OF YEAR	\$ 24,350,387	\$ 20,915,601

See Notes to Financial Statements.

Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan (Formerly Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc. 401(k) Plan)

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014

1. Plan Description

The following brief description of the Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan (the Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The Plan was established to provide post-retirement benefits for the employees of Green Plains Inc. (the Company). On May 14, 2014, the name of the Company was changed from Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc. to Green Plains Inc. Effective January 1, 2015, the name of the Plan was changed to Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan.

Employees are eligible to make salary reduction contributions and receive employer safe harbor and discretionary matching contributions when they begin employment. Participants employed on the last day of the Plan year are also eligible for employer discretionary profit sharing contributions. Eligible employees become participants on the first payroll period following employment.

Contributions

Participants may make voluntary pre-tax and after-tax Roth salary deferral contributions up to the maximum dollar limits allowable by law. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans. The Plan is a "safe harbor 401(k) Plan" whereby the Company makes safe harbor matching contributions equal to 100% of the first 3% of the participant's elective salary deferral plus 50% of the participant's elective salary deferral over 3% up to 5% of the participant's eligible compensation. The Company may also make discretionary matching and profit sharing contributions. Participants who are eligible to make deferral contributions and who are projected to attain age 50 before the close of the calendar year shall be eligible to make catch-up contributions. Contributions are subject to certain limitations.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and an allocation of a) the Company's safe harbor matching and discretionary matching contributions, b) the Company's discretionary profit sharing contributions, c) Plan earnings or losses and d) Plan expenses. Company matching contributions are allocated among participants based upon each eligible participant's elected salary deferral. Company profit sharing contributions are allocated among participants based upon eligible compensation of participants. Plan earnings or losses are allocated on the basis of actual results of the investments selected by each participant. Investments are maintained in individual member accounts managed by Bank of America, N.A. (Bank of America).

Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan (Formerly Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc. 401(k) Plan)

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014

Vesting

Participants are vested immediately in their contributions and the Company's safe harbor matching contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Company discretionary matching and profit sharing contributions credited to participant accounts are vested based on years of continuous service. A participant is 20% vested after one year of credited service and vesting increases 20% per year until a participant is 100% vested after five years of credited service.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. The notes are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at rates which are commensurate with local prevailing rates. Principal and interest payments are made through payroll deductions. Participants pay a \$50 note origination fee, plus a \$50 service fee per year until the participant's outstanding balance is \$100 or less, in addition to the requested note amount.

Payment of Benefits

Upon termination, retirement, disability, or death, the participant or beneficiary may elect to receive a lump sum payment equal to the value of the vested funds allocated to the participant's account. The Plan requires mandatory distribution of payments between \$1,000 and \$5,000 be directly rolled over to an individual retirement account designated by the plan administrator in the event the participant does not elect otherwise. Distributions under \$1,000 will be paid out to the participant in the event the participant does not elect a payout option. Benefits are recorded when paid.

Forfeitures

Upon a participant's termination of employment before normal retirement, disability, or death, the portion of their Company contributions not then vested shall be forfeited. The forfeited portion of any participant's account may be used to reduce Plan expenses, Company contributions or re-allocated to participants. As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, forfeited, non-vested account totaled \$6 and \$6,361, respectively. During 2015 and 2014, \$9,708 and \$6,329 of forfeited, non-vested accounts, respectively, were used to reduce Company contributions.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A summary of the significant accounting policies consistently applied in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements is set forth below.

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis and in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan (Formerly Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc. 401(k) Plan)

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014

Presentation of Participant-Directed Funds

The Plan's presentation of participant-directed investments is in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 962, *Plan Accounting – Defined Contribution Pension Plans*.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an investment in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 4 for further discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Delinquent participant notes are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the Plan document.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan (Formerly Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc. 401(k) Plan)

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014

New Accounting Pronouncements

In July 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-12, *Plan Accounting: Defined Benefit Pension Plans (Topic 960), Defined Contribution Pension Plans (Topic 962), Health and Welfare Benefit Plans (Topic 965): (Part I) Fully Benefit-Responsive Contracts, (Part II) Plan Investment Disclosures, (Part III) Measurement Date Practical Expedient*. Part I eliminates the requirements to measure the fair value of fully benefit-responsive investment contracts and provide certain disclosures. Contract value is the only required measure for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts. Part II eliminates the requirements to disclose individual investments that represent 5 percent or more of net assets available for benefits and the net appreciation or depreciation in fair value of investments by general type. Part II also simplifies the level of disaggregation of investments that are measured using fair value. Plans will continue to disaggregate investments that are measured using fair value by general type; however, plans are no longer required to also disaggregate investment by nature, characteristics and risk. Further, the disclosure of information about fair value measurement shall be provided by general type of plan asset. Part III is not applicable to the Plan. The ASU is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted. Management has elected to early adopt Parts I and II, which are applied retrospectively.

Other

Administrative expenses and investment management fees are paid by the Plan. Other certain expenses specifically incurred by or attributable to individual participants are paid from the applicable participants' accounts. Investment-related expenses are included in net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments. Audit fees are paid by the Company and are excluded from these financial statements.

Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to the 2014 financial statements to conform to the 2015 presentation.

Subsequent Events

Subsequent events are events or transactions that occur after the statement of net assets available for benefits date but before the financial statements are available to be issued and may require potential recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. Management has considered such events or transactions through July 21, 2016, noting no items requiring disclosure.

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3. Information Certified by Bank of America

The plan administrator has elected the method of compliance as permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Accordingly, as permitted under such election, the plan administrator instructed the Plan's independent auditors not to perform any auditing procedures with respect to the following information certified by Bank of America, except for comparing such information certified by the custodian to information included in the Plan's financial statements and supplemental information.

The following table presents the value of the participant-directed Plan assets that were certified by Bank of America.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Investments at Fair Value	\$ 23,653,093	\$ 20,282,524
Notes Receivable from Participants	\$ 640,226	\$ 570,250
Cash	\$ 375	\$ 200

Bank of America also certified to the completeness and accuracy of the following related to the aforementioned Plan assets for the years ended December 31.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Net Appreciation (Depreciation) in Fair Value of Investments	\$ (1,103,263)	\$ 155,095
Dividends from Investments	1,173,793	845,703
Net Investment Income	\$ 70,530	\$ 1,000,798
Interest Income on Notes Receivable from Participants	\$ 25,157	\$ 19,450

4. Fair Value Measurements

FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides the framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

Level 1 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2 Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;

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Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014

- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- Inputs, other than quoted prices, that are observable for the asset or liability;
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2015 and 2014.

Mutual Funds: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their Net Asset Value (NAV) and to transact at that price. Mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Participant Directed Brokerage Account: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

Common Collective Trusts: Valued at the NAV of units of a bank collective trust. The NAV, as provided by the custodian, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund less its liabilities. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different than the reported NAV. Participant transactions (purchased and sales) may occur daily. Were the Plan to initiate a full redemption of the collective trust, the Plan is required to give a one-year notice (two-year notice during 2014) and the investment adviser reserves the right to temporarily delay withdrawal from the trust in order to ensure that securities liquidations will be carried out in an orderly business manner.

The methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014

The following table presents by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2015:

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mutual Funds	\$ 21,415,669	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,415,669
Participant Directed				
Brokerage Account	527,442	-	-	527,442
Common Collective Trust	-	1,709,982	-	1,709,982
Total Investments at Fair Value	\$ 21,943,111	\$ 1,709,982	\$ -	\$ 23,653,093

The following table presents by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2014:

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mutual Funds	\$ 18,404,996	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,404,996
Participant Directed				
Brokerage Account	342,096	-	-	342,096
Common Collective Trust	-	1,535,432	-	1,535,432
Total Investments at Fair Value	\$ 18,747,092	\$ 1,535,432	\$ -	\$ 20,282,524

The following table summarizes level 2 investments measured at fair value based on NAV per share as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

December 31, 2015	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
Common Collective Trust	\$ 1,709,982	None	Daily	1 Day

December 31, 2014	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
Common Collective Trust	\$ 1,535,432	None	Daily	1 Day

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December 31, 2015 and 2014

5. Tax Status

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Company by a letter dated August 1, 2011, that the Plan is qualified and the trust established under the Plan is tax-exempt, under the applicable sections of the Code. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the applicable taxing authority. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. The plan administrator believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2012.

6. Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants will become 100% vested. Any unallocated assets of the Plan shall be allocated to participant accounts and distributed as soon as practicable after the termination date.

7. Related Party Transactions

Certain Plan investments are shares of funds and accounts managed by Bank of America. Bank of America is the custodian of the Plan and therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

8. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of Net Assets Available for Benefits per the financial statements at December 31, 2015 and 2014 to Form 5500:

	2015	2014
Net Assets Available for Benefits per the Financial Statements	\$ 24,350,387	\$ 20,915,601
Adjustment from Fair Value to Contract Value for fully benefit		
Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts	-	27,454
Net Assets Available for Benefits per Form 5500	<u>\$ 24,350,387</u>	<u>\$ 20,943,055</u>

Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan (Formerly Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc. 401(k) Plan)

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014

The following is a reconciliation of the net increase per the financial statements during the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 to net income per the Form 5500:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Net Increase per the Financial Statements	\$ 3,434,786	\$ 4,320,704
Adjustment from Fair Value to Contract Value for Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts at Beginning of Year	(27,454)	(12,195)
Adjustment from Fair Value to Contract Value for Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts at End of Year	-	27,454
Net Income per Form 5500	<u>\$ 3,407,332</u>	<u>\$ 4,335,963</u>

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan (Formerly Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc. 401(k) Plan)

Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) – Schedule H – Item 4i

Year Ended December 31, 2015

Employer Identification Number 84-1652107
Plan Number 001

	<u>Description of Investment</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Current Value</u>
<u>BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.</u>				
Franklin Growth Fund	Mutual Fund	35,421	**	\$ 2,598,864
Western Asset Core Plus Fund	Mutual Fund	3,735	**	42,653
Blackrock Equity Dividend Fund	Mutual Fund	103,796	**	2,174,525
MFS International Value Fund	Mutual Fund	60,971	**	2,080,946
Columbia US Government Mortgage Fund	Mutual Fund	403,937	**	2,189,337
* Invesco Stable Value Retirement Fund	Common Collective Trust	1,709,982	**	1,709,982
Oppenheimer International Growth Fund	Mutual Fund	49,736	**	1,794,458
JP Morgan Mid-Cap Value Fund	Mutual Fund	48,786	**	1,625,542
JP Morgan Small-Cap Equity Fund	Mutual Fund	29,409	**	1,135,862
Jennison Mid-Cap Growth Fund	Mutual Fund	35,742	**	1,212,712
JP Morgan Small-Cap Value Fund	Mutual Fund	40,253	**	934,267
Blackrock S&P 500 Index Fund	Mutual Fund	3,357	**	820,876
Principal High Yield Fund	Mutual Fund	81,567	**	552,209
Principal Mid-Cap Blend Fund	Mutual Fund	27,058	**	556,311
JP Morgan US Equity Fund	Mutual Fund	29,216	**	402,009
Franklin Mutual Global Discovery Fund	Mutual Fund	14,223	**	410,489
Oak Ridge Small-Cap Growth Fund	Mutual Fund	10,257	**	350,692
Self-Directed Account	Brokerage Account	527,442	**	527,442
Blackrock Global Allocation Fund	Mutual Fund	7,334	**	130,834
Janus Balanced Fund	Mutual Fund	2,576	**	74,470
Pioneer Bond Fund	Mutual Fund	244,859	**	2,328,613
* Notes Receivable from Participants	4.25% - 10.25%		-	640,226
* Cash			-	375
Total Investment Assets				\$ 24,293,694

*Indicates party-in-interest

**Cost information is not required for participant-directed investments.

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Green Plains Inc. 401(k) Plan (Formerly Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc. 401(k) Plan)

Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) – Schedule H – Item 4i

Year Ended December 31, 2015

Employer Identification Number 84-1652107
Plan Number 001

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Pioneer Bond Fund	Mutual Fund	244,859	**	2,328,613
* Notes Receivable from Participants	4.25% - 10.25%		-	640,226
* Cash			-	375
Total Investment Assets				\$ 24,293,694

*Indicates party-in-interest

**Cost information is not required for participant-directed investments.