

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-K**

**Annual report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.**

**For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015**

**Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.**

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 000-52033**

**RED TRAIL ENERGY, LLC**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**North Dakota**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**76-0742311**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**3682 Highway 8 South, P.O. Box 11, Richardton, ND 58652**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**(701) 974-3308**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: None.**

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: Class A Membership Units**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

Yes  No

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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Accelerated Filer

Non-Accelerated Filer

Smaller Reporting Company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes  No

The aggregate market value of the membership units held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of March 31, 2015 was \$33,734,203. There is no established public trading market for our membership units. The aggregate market value was computed by reference to the most recent offering price of our Class A units which was \$1 per unit.

As of December 18, 2015, there were 40,148,160 Class A Membership Units outstanding.

#### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The registrant has incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K portions of its definitive proxy statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days after the close of the fiscal year covered by this Annual Report.

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## CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This annual report contains historical information, as well as forward-looking statements that involve known and unknown risks and relate to future events, our future financial performance, or our expected future operations and actions. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as "may," "will," "should," "expect," "plan," "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "future," "intend," "could," "hope," "predict," "target," "potential," or "continue" or the negative of these terms or other similar expressions. These forward-looking statements are only our predictions based on current information and involve numerous assumptions, risks and uncertainties. Our actual results or actions may differ materially from these forward-looking statements for many reasons, including the reasons described in this report. While it is impossible to identify all such factors, factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those estimated by us include:

- The reduction or elimination of the renewable fuels use requirement in the Federal Renewable Fuels Standard;
- Any delays in shipping our products by rail and corresponding decreases in our sales as a result of these shipping delays;
- An unfavorable spread between the market price of our products and our feedstock costs;
- Fluctuations in the price and market for ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil;
- Availability and costs of our raw materials, particularly corn and natural gas;
- Changes in or lack of availability of credit;
- Changes in the environmental regulations that apply to our plant operations and our ability to comply with such regulations;
- Ethanol supply exceeding demand and corresponding ethanol price reductions impacting our ability to operate profitably and maintain a positive spread between the selling price of our products and our raw material costs;
- Our ability to generate and maintain sufficient liquidity to fund our operations, meet debt service requirements and necessary capital expenditures;
- Our ability to continue to meet our loan covenants;
- Limitations and restrictions contained in the instruments and agreements governing our indebtedness;
- Results of our hedging transactions and other risk management strategies;
- Changes in or elimination of governmental laws, tariffs, trade or other controls or enforcement practices that currently benefit the ethanol industry including:
  - national, state or local energy policy - examples include legislation already passed such as the California low-carbon fuel standard as well as potential legislation in the form of carbon cap and trade;
  - legislation mandating the use of ethanol or other oxygenate additives; or
  - environmental laws and regulations that apply to our plant operations and their enforcement.
- Changes and advances in ethanol production technology; and
- Competition from alternative fuels and alternative fuel additives.

Our actual results or actions could and likely will differ materially from those anticipated in the forward-looking statements for many reasons, including the reasons described in this report. We are not under any duty to update the forward-looking statements contained in this report. We cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. We caution you not to put undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this report. You should read this report and the documents that we reference in this report and have filed as exhibits completely and with the understanding that our actual future results may be materially different from what we currently expect. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.

## AVAILABLE INFORMATION

Information about us is also available at our website at [www.redtrailenergyllc.com](http://www.redtrailenergyllc.com), under "SEC Compliance," which includes links to reports we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The contents of our website are not incorporated by reference in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

**PART I****ITEM 1. BUSINESS****Business Development**

Red Trail Energy, LLC was formed as a North Dakota limited liability company in July of 2003, for the purpose of constructing, owning and operating a fuel-grade ethanol plant near Richardton, North Dakota in western North Dakota. References to "we," "us," "our" and the "Company" refer to Red Trail Energy, LLC. We have been in production since January 2007.

During our second quarter of 2014, we commenced a project to convert our ethanol plant from a coal fired plant to a natural gas based ethanol plant. This project was completed during the second quarter of our 2015 fiscal year. We financed the natural gas conversion project from cash we had on hand as well as funds we had available to borrow on our line of credit. In conjunction with the natural gas conversion project, we entered into a seven year agreement for natural gas transmission which includes minimum required transmission and consumption volumes.

Our revenue was significantly lower than we expected during the second quarter of our 2015 fiscal year as a result of additional plant downtime. We experienced a failure in our coal boiler in early February 2015 which required us to accelerate our conversion of the ethanol plant from coal to natural gas as the fuel source. However, this resulted in an unexpected shutdown of the ethanol plant for approximately three weeks in February of 2015. We filed an insurance claim for losses we incurred as a result of this plant shutdown. We have not yet received any proceeds from the insurance claim. We have not experienced any additional unplanned shutdowns since the conversion to natural gas took place in February 2015.

On March 4, 2015, our board of governors voluntarily decided to suspend trading of our membership units on the qualified matching service operated by FNC Ag Stock LLC. Our board of governors decided to suspend trading on the qualified matching service while it conducted due diligence on a potential transaction in order to protect the interests of our members. We allowed unit trading to resume on the qualified matching service on October 7, 2015.

On March 26, 2015, we executed amended loan agreements with our primary lender, First National Bank of Omaha (FNBO) to extend the maturity dates of our loans, to modify the interest rate terms of our loans and to modify the financial covenants associated with our loans.

On April 2, 2015, our board of governors declared a cash distribution of \$0.20 per membership unit to the holders of units of record at the close of business on April 2, 2015, for a total distribution of \$8,029,632. We paid the distribution on April 6, 2015. The additional \$5,091 of dividends paid on the cash flow statement is related to the payment of state income taxes for some members.

On July 23, 2015, our board of governors declared a cash distribution of \$0.15 per membership unit to the holders of units of record at the close of business on July 23, 2015, for a total distribution of \$6,022,224. We paid the distribution on August 6, 2015.

**Financial Information**

Please refer to "**ITEM 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**" for information about our revenue, profit and loss measurements and total assets and liabilities and "**ITEM 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data**" for our financial statements and supplementary data.

**Principal Products**

The principal products that we produce are ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil. The table below shows the approximate percentage of our total revenue which is attributed to each of our primary products for each of our last three fiscal years.

<b>Product</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2015</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2014</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2013</b>
Ethanol	81%	81%	77%
Distillers Grains	17%	17%	21%
Corn Oil	2%	2%	2%

### Ethanol

Ethanol is ethyl alcohol, a fuel component made primarily from corn and various other grains, which can be used as: (i) an octane enhancer in fuels; (ii) an oxygenated fuel additive for the purpose of reducing ozone and carbon monoxide vehicle emissions; and (iii) a non-petroleum-based gasoline substitute. Ethanol produced in the United States is primarily used for blending with unleaded gasoline and other fuel products. Ethanol blended fuel is typically designated in the marketplace according to the percentage of the fuel that is ethanol, with the most common fuel blend being E10, which includes 10% ethanol. The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has approved the use of gasoline blends that contain 15% ethanol, or E15, for use in all vehicles manufactured in model year 2001 and later. In addition, flexible fuel vehicles can use gasoline blends that contain up to 85% ethanol called E85.

### Distillers Grains

The principal co-product of the ethanol production process is distillers grains, a high protein animal feed supplement primarily marketed to the dairy and beef industry. We produce two forms of distillers grains: distillers dried grains with solubles ("DDGS") and modified distillers grains with solubles ("MDGS"). MDGS is processed corn mash that has been dried to approximately 50% moisture. MDGS has a shelf life of approximately seven days and is often sold to nearby markets. DDGS is processed corn mash that has been dried to approximately 10% moisture. It has a longer shelf life and may be sold and shipped to any market regardless of its vicinity to our ethanol plant.

### Corn Oil

In March 2012, we commenced operating our corn oil extraction equipment. The corn oil that we are capable of producing is not food grade corn-oil and it cannot be used for human consumption. The primary uses of the corn oil that we produce are for animal feed, industrial uses and biodiesel production.

## **Principal Product Markets**

We market nearly all of our products through a professional third party marketer, RPMG, Inc. ("RPMG"). The only products we sell which are not marketed by RPMG are certain MDGS which we market internally to local customers. RPMG is a subsidiary of Renewable Products Marketing Group, LLC ("RPMG, LLC"). We are a part owner of RPMG, LLC which allows us to realize favorable marketing fees for our products and allows us to share in the profits generated by RPMG, LLC. Our ownership interest in RPMG, LLC also entitles us to a seat on its board of directors which is filled by Gerald Bachmeier, our Chief Executive Officer. Except for the MDGS we market locally, RPMG decides where our products are marketed and sold. Our products are primarily sold in the domestic market; however, as domestic production of ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil continue to expand, we anticipate increased international sales of our products. Currently, the United States exports a significant amount of distillers grains to China, Mexico, South Korea, Vietnam and Canada. In addition, the United States exports ethanol primarily to Canada, Brazil, the United Arab Emirates and the Philippines.

We expect our product marketer to explore all markets for our products, including export markets. However, due to high transportation costs, and the fact that we are not located near a major international shipping port, we expect a majority of our products to continue to be marketed and sold domestically.

## **Distribution Methods**

Our ethanol plant is located near Richardton, North Dakota in Stark County, in the western half of North Dakota. We selected the Richardton site because of its proximity to existing coal supplies and accessibility to road and rail transportation. Our plant is served by the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company.

We sell and market the ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil produced at the plant through normal and established markets, including local, regional and national markets. Our products are primarily shipped by rail and by truck in our local market. We have separate marketing agreements with RPMG for our ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil. Whether or not our products are sold in local markets will depend on decisions made by RPMG, except for the MDGS which we internally market locally. Local markets are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

### Ethanol

We have an exclusive marketing agreement with RPMG for the purposes of marketing and distributing all of the ethanol we produce at the ethanol plant. Because we are an owner of RPMG, LLC, our marketing fees are based on RPMG's actual cost

to market our ethanol. Our ethanol marketing agreement provides that we can sell our ethanol either through an index arrangement or at a fixed price agreed to between us and RPMG. The term of our ethanol marketing agreement is perpetual, until it is terminated according to the terms of the agreement. The primary reasons the ethanol marketing agreement would terminate are if we cease to be an owner of RPMG, LLC, if there is a breach of the agreement which is not cured, or if we give advance notice to RPMG that we would like to terminate the agreement. Notwithstanding our right to terminate the ethanol marketing agreement, we may be obligated to continue to market our ethanol through RPMG for a period of time after the termination. Further, following the termination, we agreed to accept an assignment of certain railcar leases which RPMG has secured to service us. If the ethanol marketing agreement is terminated, it would trigger a redemption of our ownership interest in RPMG, LLC.

### Distillers Grains

On August 29, 2013, we executed a distillers grain marketing agreement with RPMG effective starting on October 1, 2013. Pursuant to the marketing agreement, RPMG markets all of the dried distillers grains we produce and we will continue to internally market our modified/wet distillers grains. Due to the fact that we are a part owner of RPMG, LLC, RPMG will only charge us its actual cost of marketing our distillers grains to its customers. The initial term of the marketing agreement was one year and thereafter the agreement renews for additional one year periods unless we elect not to renew the agreement. The agreement may be terminated by either party based on certain events described in the agreement or based on the bankruptcy or insolvency of either party.

We market and sell our MDGS internally. Substantially all of our sales of MDGS are to local farmers and feed lots.

### Corn Oil

In March 2012, we executed a corn oil marketing agreement with RPMG to sell all of the corn oil that we produce. We pay RPMG a commission based on each pound of corn oil that RPMG sells on our behalf. The initial term of the corn oil marketing agreement was one year and the agreement automatically renews for additional one year terms unless either party gives notice that it will not extend the agreement past the current term.

### **New Products and Services**

We did not introduce any new products or services during our 2015 fiscal year.

### **Sources and Availability of Raw Materials**

#### Corn

Our ethanol plant used approximately 19.3 million bushels of corn during our 2015 fiscal year, or approximately 53,000 bushels per day, as the feedstock for its dry milling process. Our commodity manager is responsible for purchasing corn for our operations, scheduling corn deliveries and establishing hedging positions to protect the price we pay for corn.

During 2015, we were able to secure sufficient corn to operate the plant and do not anticipate any problems securing enough corn during 2016. Almost all of our corn is supplied from farmers and local grain elevators in North Dakota and South Dakota. During our 2015 fiscal year, the average price we paid per bushel of corn decreased significantly due to a large corn crop which was harvested in the fall of 2014 and favorable growing conditions during 2015 which led to a large corn crop which was harvested in the fall of 2015. As a result of these large corn crops, we have not had difficulty securing the corn we require for our operations and corn prices have been favorable. While we do not anticipate encountering problems sourcing corn, a shortage of corn could develop, particularly if we experience an extended drought or other production problem during our 2016 fiscal year. Poor weather can be a major factor in increasing corn prices. If the United States were to endure an entire growing season with poor weather conditions, it could result in a prolonged period of higher than normal corn prices.

Corn prices are also impacted by world supply and demand, the price of other commodities, current and anticipated stocks, domestic and export prices and supports and the government's current and anticipated agricultural policy. Corn prices have been volatile in the past and volatility could return to the market in the future. While we have experienced several years of very favorable corn crops with relatively flat corn demand which reduced market corn prices, if poor weather conditions lead to a decrease in the amount of corn we produce in the future, it could result in corn price volatility and increased corn prices.



### Natural Gas

Following our natural gas conversion project which was completed during the second quarter of our 2015 fiscal year, we use natural gas as the fuel source to power our ethanol plant. We are using natural gas to produce process steam and to dry our distillers grain products to a moisture content at which they can be stored for long periods of time, and can be transported greater distances. Due to our close proximity to the Bakken oil field which produces a significant amount of natural gas, we anticipate that natural gas prices in our area will remain lower and the cost to transport the natural gas to our ethanol plant will be low. We entered into a natural gas supply agreement with Rainbow Gas Company which provides a supply of natural gas to the ethanol plant. We do not anticipate any difficulty securing the natural gas we require to operate the ethanol plant.

### Coal

In previous years, we used coal as the fuel source to operate our ethanol plant. However, we converted the ethanol plant to a natural gas fired plant during the second quarter of our 2015 fiscal year. As a result, we do not anticipate using coal to fire the ethanol plant in the future and changes in the price or availability of coal will not impact our operations. However, we maintain the equipment necessary to operate the ethanol plant using coal as the fuel source which management believes could benefit us in the future, especially if natural gas prices increase or natural gas is not available at the ethanol plant.

### Electricity

The production of ethanol uses significant amounts of electricity. We entered into a contract with Roughrider Electric Cooperative to provide our needed electrical energy. This contract is scheduled for renewal in August 2016. This contract automatically renews unless either party gives notice of its intent not to renew the agreement.

### Water

To meet the plant's water requirements, we entered into a ten-year contract with Southwest Water Authority to purchase raw water. Our contract requires us to purchase a minimum of 160 million gallons of water per year. We anticipate receiving adequate water supplies during our 2016 fiscal year.

### **Patents, Trademarks, Licenses, Franchises and Concessions**

We do not currently hold any patents, trademarks, franchises or concessions. We were granted a perpetual and royalty free license by ICM to use certain ethanol production technology necessary to operate our ethanol plant. The cost of the license granted by ICM was included in the amount we paid to Fagen to design and build the plant.

### **Seasonality of Sales**

We experience some seasonality of demand for our ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil. Since ethanol is predominantly blended with gasoline for use in automobiles, ethanol demand tends to shift in relation to gasoline demand. As a result, we experience some seasonality of demand for ethanol in the summer months related to increased driving and, as a result, increased gasoline demand. In addition, we experience some increased ethanol demand during holiday seasons related to increased gasoline demand. We also experience decreased distillers grains demand during the summer months due to natural depletion in the number of animals at feed lots and during times when cattle are turned out to pasture. Finally, corn oil is used for biodiesel production which typically decreases in the winter months due to decreased biodiesel demand. This decrease in biodiesel demand leads to decreased corn oil demand during the winter months.

### **Working Capital**

We primarily use our working capital for purchases of raw materials necessary to operate our ethanol plant and for capital expenditures to maintain and upgrade the plant. Our primary sources of working capital are cash from our operations as well as our revolving line-of-credit with First National bank of Omaha (FNBO). During our 2015 fiscal year we used a portion of our working capital for capital improvements related to our natural gas conversion project. Management anticipates that we will have sufficient working capital to operate at capacity during our 2016 fiscal year without seeking additional sources of equity or debt financing. However, if we experience unfavorable operating conditions during our 2016 fiscal year, it is possible we may need to secure additional sources of working capital.



## Dependence on a Few Major Customers

As discussed above, we rely on RPMG for the sale and distribution of all of our ethanol, DDGS and corn oil. Accordingly, we are highly dependent on RPMG for the successful marketing of most of our products. We anticipate that we would be able to secure alternate marketers should RPMG fail, however, a loss of our relationship with RPMG could significantly harm our financial performance.

## Competition

We are in direct competition with numerous ethanol producers, many of which have greater resources than we have. Larger ethanol producers may be able to take advantage of economies of scale due to their larger size and increased bargaining power with both customers and raw material suppliers. As of October 30, 2015, the Renewable Fuels Association estimates that there are 214 ethanol production facilities in the United States with capacity to produce approximately 15.5 billion gallons of ethanol annually. The RFA also estimates that approximately 3% of the ethanol production capacity in the United States is currently idled. The ethanol industry is continuing to experience consolidation where a few larger ethanol producers are increasing their production capacities and are controlling a larger portion of United States ethanol production. The largest ethanol producers include Archer Daniels Midland, Flint Hills Resources, LP, Green Plains Renewable Energy, Pacific Ethanol, POET, and Valero Renewable Fuels, each of which are capable of producing significantly more ethanol than we produce.

The following table identifies the largest ethanol producers in the United States along with their production capacities.

**U.S. FUEL ETHANOL PRODUCTION CAPACITY BY TOP PRODUCERS**  
**Producers of Approximately 500**  
**million gallons per year (MMgy) or more**

<b>Company</b>	<b>Current Capacity (MMgy)</b>	<b>Under Construction/ Expansions (MMgy)</b>	<b>Percent of Total Industry Capacity</b>
Archer Daniels Midland	1,762	—	11%
POET Biorefining	1,626	—	10%
Valero Renewable Fuels	1,300	—	8%
Green Plains Renewable Energy	1,085	—	7%
Flint Hills Resources	820	—	5%
Pacific Ethanol	550	—	4%

Updated: October 30, 2015

### Ethanol Competition

Ethanol is a commodity product where competition in the industry is predominantly based on price and consistent fuel quality. Larger ethanol producers may be able to realize economies of scale in their operations that we are unable to realize. Further, we have experienced increased competition from oil companies who have purchased ethanol production facilities, including Valero Renewable Fuels and Flint Hills Resources, which are subsidiaries of larger energy companies. These oil companies are required to blend a certain amount of ethanol each year. Therefore, the oil companies may be able to operate their ethanol production facilities at times when it is unprofitable for us to operate our ethanol plant. Further, some ethanol producers own multiple ethanol plants which may allow them to compete more effectively by providing them flexibility to run certain production facilities while they have other facilities shut down. This added flexibility may allow these ethanol producers to compete more effectively, especially during periods when operating margins are unfavorable in the ethanol industry. Finally some ethanol producers who own ethanol plants in geographically diverse areas of the United States may spread the risk they encounter related to feedstock prices. The drought that occurred during 2012 and 2013 led to some areas of the United States with very poor corn crops and other areas with plentiful corn crops. Ethanol producers that own production facilities in different areas of the United States may reduce their risk of experiencing higher feedstock prices due to localized decreased corn crops.

We anticipate increased competition from renewable fuels that do not use corn as the feedstock. Many of the current ethanol production incentives are designed to encourage the production of renewable fuels using raw materials other than corn. One type of ethanol production feedstock that is being explored is cellulose. Cellulose is the main component of plant cell walls and is the most common organic compound on earth. Cellulose is found in wood chips, corn stalks, rice straw, amongst other common plants. Cellulosic ethanol is ethanol produced from cellulose.

A handful of companies have begun construction or completed commercial scale cellulosic ethanol plants. If this technology can be profitably employed on a commercial scale, it could potentially lead to ethanol that is less expensive to produce than corn based ethanol. Cellulosic ethanol may also capture more government subsidies and assistance than corn based ethanol. This could decrease demand for our product or result in competitive disadvantages for our ethanol production process.

A number of automotive, industrial and power generation manufacturers are developing alternative clean power systems using fuel cells, plug-in hybrids, electric cars or clean burning gaseous fuels. Electric car technology has recently grown in popularity, especially in urban areas. While there are currently a limited number of vehicle recharging stations, making electric cars not feasible for all consumers, there has been increased focus on developing these recharging stations to make electric car technology more widely available in the future. Additional competition from these other sources of alternative energy, particularly in the automobile market, could reduce the demand for ethanol, which would negatively impact our profitability.

In addition to domestic producers of ethanol, we face competition from ethanol produced in foreign countries, particularly Brazil. Ethanol imports have been lower in recent years and ethanol exports have been higher which was one of the reasons for improved operating margins in the ethanol industry. As of May 1, 2013, Brazil increased its domestic ethanol use requirement from 20% to 25% which decreased the amount of ethanol available in Brazil for export. However, in the future we may experience increased ethanol imports from Brazil which could put negative pressure on domestic ethanol prices and result in excess ethanol supply in the United States.

Competition among ethanol producers may continue to increase as gasoline demand decreases due to more fuel efficient vehicles being produced. If the concentration of ethanol used in most gasoline does not increase and gasoline demand is lower due to increased fuel efficiency by the vehicles operated in the United States, competition may increase among ethanol producers to supply the ethanol market.

#### Distiller Grains Competition

Our ethanol plant competes with other ethanol producers in the production and sales of distiller grains. Distiller grains are primarily used as an animal feed which replaces corn and soybean meal. As a result, we believe that distiller grains prices are positively impacted by increases in corn and soybean prices. In addition, in recent years the United States ethanol industry has increased exports of distiller grains which management believes has positively impacted demand and prices for distiller grains in the United States. In the event these distiller grains exports decrease, it could lead to an oversupply of distiller grains in the United States which could result in increased competition among ethanol producers for sales of distiller grains and could negatively impact distiller grains prices in the United States.

#### Corn Oil Competition

We compete with many ethanol producers for the sale of corn oil. Many ethanol producers have installed the equipment necessary to separate corn oil from the distiller grains they produce which has increased competition for corn oil sales and has resulted in lower market corn oil prices.

### **Governmental Regulation and Federal Ethanol Supports**

#### Federal Ethanol Supports

The ethanol industry is dependent on several economic incentives to produce ethanol, including federal tax incentives and ethanol use mandates. One significant federal ethanol support is the Federal Renewable Fuels Standard (the "RFS"). The RFS requires that in each year, a certain amount of renewable fuels must be used in the United States. The RFS is a national program that does not require that any renewable fuels be used in any particular area or state, allowing refiners to use renewable fuel blends in those areas where it is most cost-effective. The RFS statutory volume requirement increases incrementally each year until the United States is required to use 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels by 2022. Starting in 2009, the RFS required that a portion of the RFS must be met by certain "advanced" renewable fuels. These advanced renewable fuels include ethanol that is not made from corn, such as cellulosic ethanol and biomass based biodiesel. The use of these advanced renewable fuels increases each year as a percentage of the total renewable fuels required to be used in the United States.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (the "EPA") has the authority to waive the RFS statutory volume requirement, in whole or in part, provided one of the following two conditions have been met: (1) there is inadequate domestic renewable fuel supply; or (2) implementation of the requirement would severely harm the economy or environment of a state, region or the United States. Annually, the EPA is required to pass a rule that establishes the number of gallons of different types of renewable fuels that must be used in the United States which is called the renewable volume obligations.

The RFS statutory volume requirement for corn based ethanol is 14.4 billion gallons in 2014, 15 billion gallons in 2015 and 15 billion gallons in 2016. Previously, the EPA issued proposed renewable volume obligations pursuant to the RFS which were lower than these statutory requirements. On November 30, 2015, the EPA released its final renewable volume obligations for corn-based ethanol for 2014 through 2016. The final renewable volume obligations reduced the corn-based ethanol use requirements pursuant to the RFS below the statutory requirements. Pursuant to the final renewable volume obligation release, the RFS requirement for corn-based ethanol is 13.61 billion gallons for 2014, 14.05 billion gallons for 2015 and 14.5 billion gallons for 2016. The ethanol industry believes that this significant departure from the statutory requirements for the RFS is not supported by the law and will have a significant negative impact on the ethanol industry. Management anticipates that there will be legal challenges to the EPA's final renewable volume obligation release.

In February 2010, the EPA issued new regulations governing the RFS. These new regulations are called RFS2. The most controversial part of RFS2 involves what is commonly referred to as the lifecycle analysis of greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, the EPA adopted rules to determine which renewable fuels provided sufficient reductions in greenhouse gases, compared to conventional gasoline, to qualify under the RFS program. RFS2 establishes a tiered approach, where regular renewable fuels are required to accomplish a 20% greenhouse gas reduction compared to gasoline, advanced biofuels and biomass-based biodiesel must accomplish a 50% reduction in greenhouse gases, and cellulosic biofuels must accomplish a 60% reduction in greenhouse gases. Any fuels that fail to meet this standard cannot be used by fuel blenders to satisfy their obligations under the RFS program. The scientific method of calculating these greenhouse gas reductions has been a contentious issue. Many in the ethanol industry were concerned that corn based ethanol would not meet the 20% greenhouse gas reduction requirement based on certain parts of the environmental impact model that many in the ethanol industry believed was scientifically suspect. However, RFS2 as adopted by the EPA provides that corn-based ethanol from modern ethanol production processes does meet the definition of a renewable fuel under the RFS program. Our ethanol plant was grandfathered into the RFS due to the fact that it was constructed prior to the effective date of the lifecycle greenhouse gas requirement and is not required to prove compliance with the lifecycle greenhouse gas reductions. Many in the ethanol industry are concerned that certain provisions of RFS2 as adopted may disproportionately benefit ethanol produced from sugarcane which could make sugarcane based ethanol, which is primarily produced in Brazil, more competitive in the United States ethanol market. If this were to occur, it could reduce demand for the ethanol that we produce.

Most ethanol that is used in the United States is sold in a blend called E10. E10 is a blend of 10% ethanol and 90% gasoline. E10 is approved for use in all standard vehicles. Estimates indicate that gasoline demand in the United States is approximately 137 billion gallons per year. Assuming that all gasoline in the United States is blended at a rate of 10% ethanol and 90% gasoline, the maximum demand for ethanol is 13.7 billion gallons per year. This is commonly referred to as the "blend wall," which represents a theoretical limit where more ethanol cannot be blended into the national gasoline pool. This is a theoretical limit because it is believed that it would not be possible to blend ethanol into every gallon of gasoline that is being used in the United States and it discounts the use of higher percentage blends such as E15 or E85. These higher percentage blends may lead to additional ethanol demand if they become more widely available and accepted by the market.

Many in the ethanol industry believe that it will be impossible to meet the RFS requirement in future years without an increase in the percentage of ethanol that can be blended with gasoline for use in standard (non-flex fuel) vehicles. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (the "EPA") has approved the use of E15, gasoline which is blended at a rate of 15% ethanol and 85% gasoline, in vehicles manufactured in the model year 2001 and later. However, there are still state hurdles that need to be addressed in some states before E15 will become more widely available. Many states still have regulatory issues that prevent the sale of E15. Sales of E15 may be limited because it is not approved for use in all vehicles, the EPA requires a label that management believes may discourage consumers from using E15, and retailers may choose not to sell E15 due to concerns regarding liability. In addition, different gasoline blendstocks may be required at certain times of the year in order to use E15 due to federal regulations related to fuel evaporative emissions which may limit E15 sales in these markets. As a result, the approval of E15 by the EPA has not had an immediate impact on ethanol demand in the United States.

### Effect of Governmental Regulation

The government's regulation of the environment changes constantly. We are subject to extensive air, water and other environmental regulations and we have been required to obtain a number of environmental permits to construct and operate the ethanol plant. It is possible that more stringent federal or state environmental rules or regulations could be adopted, which could increase our operating costs and expenses. It also is possible that federal or state environmental rules or regulations could be adopted that could have an adverse effect on the use of ethanol. Plant operations are governed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA"). OSHA regulations may change such that the costs of operating the ethanol plant may increase. Any of these regulatory factors may result in higher costs or other adverse conditions effecting our operations, cash flows and financial performance.

We have obtained all of the necessary permits to operate the ethanol plant. During our 2015 fiscal year, we incurred costs and expenses of approximately \$497,000 complying with environmental laws, including the cost of obtaining permits. Although we have been successful in obtaining all of the permits currently required, any retroactive change in environmental regulations, either at the federal or state level, could require us to obtain additional or new permits or spend considerable resources in complying with such regulations. Management believes converting the plant to use natural gas as the fuel source instead of coal will positively impact our environmental compliance costs.

In late 2009, California passed a Low Carbon Fuels Standard ("LCFS"). The California LCFS requires that renewable fuels used in California must accomplish certain reductions in greenhouse gases which is measured using a lifecycle analysis, similar to the RFS. On December 29, 2011, a federal district court in California ruled that the California LCFS was unconstitutional which halted implementation of the California LCFS. However, the California Air Resources Board ("CARB") appealed this court ruling and on September 18, 2013, the federal appellate court reversed the federal district court finding the LCFS constitutional and remanding the case back to federal district court to determine whether the LCFS imposes a burden on interstate commerce that is excessive in light of the local benefits. On June 30, 2014, the United States Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal of the federal appellate court ruling and CARB recently re-adopted the LCFS with some slight modifications. The LCFS could have a negative impact on demand for corn-based ethanol and result in decreased ethanol prices affecting our ability to operate profitably.

The European Union concluded an anti-dumping investigation related to ethanol produced in the United States and exported to Europe. As a result of this investigation, the European Union imposed a tariff on ethanol which is produced in the United States and exported to Europe. This tariff could result in decreased exports of ethanol to Europe which could negatively impact the market price of ethanol in the United States.

## **Employees**

As of December 18, 2015, we had 44 full-time employees. We anticipate that we will have approximately 45 full-time employees during the next 12 months.

## **Financial Information about Geographic Areas**

All of our operations are domiciled in the United States. All of the products sold to our customers for our 2015, 2014 and 2013 fiscal years were produced in the United States and all of our long-lived assets are domiciled in the United States. We have engaged a third-party professional marketer which decides where our products are marketed and we have limited control over the marketing decisions made by our marketer. Our marketer may decide to sell our products in countries other than the United States. However, we anticipate that our products will primarily be marketed and sold in the United States.

## **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

*You should carefully read and consider the risks and uncertainties below and the other information contained in this report. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones we may face. The following risks, together with additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial could impair our financial condition and results of operation.*

### **Risks Relating to Our Business**

***A decrease in the spread between the price we receive for our products and our raw material costs will negatively impact our profitability.*** Practically all of our revenue is derived from the sale of our ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil. Our primary raw material costs are corn costs and energy costs. Our profitability depends on a positive spread between the market price of the ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil we produce and the raw material costs related to these products. While ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil prices typically change in relation to corn prices, this correlation may not always exist. In the event the prices of our products decrease at a time when our raw material costs are increasing, we may not be able to profitably operate the plant. In the event the spread between the price we receive for our products and the raw material costs associated with producing those products is negative for an extended period of time, we may not be able to maintain liquidity and we may fail which could negatively impact the value of our units.

***Declines in the price of ethanol or distillers grain would significantly reduce our revenues.*** The sales prices of ethanol and distillers grains can be volatile as a result of a number of factors such as overall supply and demand, the price of gasoline and corn, levels of government support, and the availability and price of competing products. We are dependent on a favorable spread between the price we receive for our ethanol and distillers grains and the price we pay for corn and natural gas. Any lowering of

ethanol and distillers grains prices, especially if it is associated with increases in corn and natural gas prices, may affect our ability to operate profitably. We anticipate the price of ethanol and distillers grains to continue to be volatile in our 2016 fiscal year as a result of the net effect of changes in the price of gasoline and corn and increased ethanol supply offset by changes in ethanol demand. Declines in the prices we receive for our ethanol and distillers grains will lead to decreased revenues and may result in our inability to operate the ethanol plant profitably for an extended period of time which could decrease the value of our units.

***Decreasing gasoline prices could negatively impact our ability to operate profitably.*** Discretionary blending is an important secondary market which is often determined by the price of ethanol versus the price of gasoline. In periods when discretionary blending is financially unattractive, the demand for ethanol may be reduced. In recent years, the price of ethanol has been less than the price of gasoline which increased demand for ethanol from fuel blenders. However, recently, low oil prices have driven down the price of gasoline which has reduced the spread between the price of gasoline and the price of ethanol which could discourage discretionary blending, dampen the export market and result in a downwards market adjustment in the price of ethanol. If oil and gasoline prices remain lower for a significant period of time, it could hurt our ability to profitably operate the ethanol plant which could decrease the value of our units.

***Our business is not diversified which could negatively impact our ability to operate profitably.*** Our success depends largely on our ability to profitably operate our ethanol plant. We do not have any other lines of business or other sources of revenue if we are unable to operate our ethanol plant and manufacture ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil. If economic or political factors adversely affect the market for ethanol, distiller's grains or corn oil, we have no other line of business to fall back on. Our business would also be significantly harmed if the ethanol plant could not operate at full capacity for any extended period of time.

***We may violate the terms of our credit agreements and financial covenants which could result in our lender demanding immediate repayment of our loans.*** We have a comprehensive credit facility with FNBO, our primary lender. Our credit agreements with FNBO include various financial and non-financial loan covenants. We are currently in compliance with all of our loan covenants and we anticipate that we will be in compliance with our loan covenants for at least the next 12 months. However, unforeseen circumstances may develop which could result in us violating our loan covenants. If we violate the terms of our credit agreements, including our loan covenants, FNBO could deem us to be in default of our loans and require us to immediately repay the entire outstanding balance of our loans. If we do not have the funds available to repay the loans or we cannot find another source of financing, we may fail which could decrease or eliminate the value of our units.

***Our inability to maintain or secure credit facilities we may require in the future may negatively impact our liquidity.*** While we do not currently require more financing than we have, in the future we may need additional financing. If we require financing in the future and we are unable to secure such financing, or we are unable to secure the financing we require on reasonable terms, it may have a negative impact on our liquidity. This could negatively impact the value of our units.

***We engage in hedging transactions which involve risks that could harm our business.*** We are exposed to market risk from changes in commodity prices, including the prices we pay for our raw materials and the prices we receive for our finished products. We seek to minimize our exposure to fluctuations in the prices of corn, ethanol and distillers grains through the use of hedging instruments. However, our hedging activities may not successfully reduce the risk caused by price fluctuations which may leave us vulnerable to volatility in corn, ethanol and distillers grains prices. Alternatively, we may choose not to engage in hedging transactions in the future and our operations and financial conditions may be adversely affected during periods in which the prices for these commodities fluctuate. Further, using cash for margin calls to support our hedge positions can have an impact on the cash we have available for our operations which could negatively impact our liquidity. The effects of our hedging activities may negatively impact our ability to profitably operate which could reduce the value of our units.

***Changes and advances in ethanol production technology could require us to incur costs to update the ethanol plant or could otherwise hinder our ability to compete in the ethanol industry or operate profitably.*** Advances and changes in the technology of ethanol production are expected to occur. Such advances and changes may make the ethanol production technology installed in our ethanol plant less desirable or obsolete. These advances could allow our competitors to produce ethanol at a lower cost than us. If we are unable to adopt or incorporate technological advances, our ethanol production methods and processes could be less efficient than our competitors, which could cause the ethanol plant to become uncompetitive or completely obsolete. If our competitors develop, obtain or license technology that is superior to ours or that makes our technology obsolete, we may be required to incur significant costs to enhance or acquire new technology so that our ethanol production remains competitive. Alternatively, we may be required to seek third-party licenses, which could also result in significant expenditures. These third-party licenses may not be available or, once obtained, they may not continue to be available on commercially reasonable terms. These costs could negatively impact our financial performance by increasing our operating costs and reducing our net income which could decrease the value of our units.



***We depend on our management and key employees, and the loss of these relationships could negatively impact our ability to operate profitably.*** We are highly dependent on our management team to operate our ethanol plant. We may not be able to replace these individuals should they decide to cease their employment with us, or if they become unavailable for any other reason. While we seek to compensate our management and key employees in a manner that will encourage them to continue their employment with us, they may choose to seek other employment. Any loss of these officers and key employees may prevent us from operating the ethanol plant profitably and could decrease the value of our units.

***We identified a material weakness in our internal controls which could negatively impact our business and financial results.*** As of September 30, 2015, our management identified a material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting. If we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal controls, including any failure to implement required new or improved controls, or if we experience difficulties in their implementation, our business and financial results could be harmed and we could fail to meet our financial reporting obligations. If the new controls being implemented to address the material weakness and to strengthen the overall internal control are not designed or do not operate effectively, if we are unsuccessful in implementing or following these new processes or we are otherwise unable to remediate this material weakness, it may result in untimely or inaccurate reporting of our financial condition or results of operations.

## **Risks Related to the Ethanol Industry**

***Excess ethanol supply in the market could put negative pressure on the price of ethanol which could lead to tight operating margins and may impact our ability to operate profitably.*** In the past the ethanol industry has confronted market conditions where ethanol supply exceeded demand which led to unfavorable operating conditions. Most recently, in 2012, profitability in the ethanol industry was reduced due to increased ethanol imports from Brazil at a time when gasoline demand in the United States was lower and domestic ethanol supplies were higher. This disconnect between ethanol supply and demand resulted in lower ethanol prices at a time when corn prices were higher which led to unfavorable operating conditions. We may experience periods of time when ethanol supply exceeds demand which could negatively impact our profitability. The United States benefited from additional exports of ethanol during our 2015 fiscal year which may not continue to occur during our 2016 fiscal year. We may experience periods of ethanol supply and demand imbalance during our 2016 fiscal year, especially since the corn-based ethanol use requirement in the RFS was reduced by the EPA in November 2015 compared to the statutory requirements. If we experience excess ethanol supply, either due to increased ethanol production or lower gasoline demand, it could negatively impact the price of ethanol which could hurt our ability to profitably operate the ethanol plant.

***If distillers grains exports to China were to be reduced, this could have a negative effect on the price of distillers grains in the U.S. and negatively affect our profitability.*** China, the largest buyer of distillers grains in the world, announced in June 2014 that it would stop issuing import permits for U.S. distillers grains due to the presence of a genetically modified trait not approved by China for import. This announcement was followed in July 2014 by a new requirement by China of a certification by the U.S. government that distillers grains shipments to China are free of the genetically modified trait. These issues virtually closed the export market to China for a portion of 2014. While these issues were eventually resolved and the market to China was successfully reopened in December 2014, a new registration requirement for Chinese importers of distillers grains began on September 1, 2015. This new requirement along with other uncertainties with China may create trade barriers resulting in a decline in demand from this top importer. If export demand of distillers grains is significantly reduced as a result, the price of distillers grains in the U.S. would likely decline which would have a negative effect on our revenue and could impact our ability to profitably operate which could in turn reduce the value of our units.

***Demand for ethanol may not continue to grow unless ethanol can be blended into gasoline in higher percentage blends for standard vehicles.*** Currently, ethanol is primarily blended with gasoline for use in standard (non-flex fuel) vehicles to create a blend which is 10% ethanol and 90% gasoline. Estimates indicate that approximately 137 billion gallons of gasoline are sold in the United States each year. Assuming that all gasoline in the United States is blended at a rate of 10% ethanol and 90% gasoline, the maximum demand for ethanol is 13.7 billion gallons. This is commonly referred to as the "blend wall," which represents a theoretical limit where more ethanol cannot be blended into the national gasoline pool. Many in the ethanol industry believe that the ethanol industry has reached and surpassed this blend wall. In order to expand demand for ethanol, higher percentage blends of ethanol must be utilized in standard vehicles. Such higher percentage blends of ethanol are a contentious issue. Automobile manufacturers and environmental groups have fought against higher percentage ethanol blends. The EPA approved the use of E15 for standard vehicles produced in the model year 2001 and later. The fact that E15 has not been approved for use in all vehicles and the labeling requirements associated with E15 may lead to gasoline retailers refusing to carry E15. Without an increase in the allowable percentage blends of ethanol that can be used in all vehicles, demand for ethanol may not continue to increase which could decrease the selling price of ethanol and could result in our inability to operate the ethanol plant profitably. This could reduce or eliminate the value of our units.

***If exports of ethanol are reduced, including as a result of the imposition by the European Union of a tariff on U.S. ethanol, ethanol prices may be negatively impacted.*** The United States ethanol industry was supported during our 2015 fiscal year with exports of ethanol which increased demand for our ethanol. Management believes these additional exports of ethanol were due to lower market ethanol prices in the United States and increased global demand for ethanol. However, these ethanol exports may not continue. In 2012, the European Union concluded an anti-dumping investigation related to ethanol produced in the United States and exported to Europe. As a result of this investigation, the European Union imposed a tariff on ethanol which is produced in the United States and exported to Europe. While we continue to experience some ethanol exports to Europe due to current low ethanol prices, if ethanol prices increase, these exports to the European Union may cease as a result of the tariff. Further, ethanol exports could potentially be higher without the European Union tariff. In addition, other importers of United States ethanol could reduce their imports which could negatively impact ethanol prices in the United States and could result in an imbalance between ethanol supply and ethanol demand. Any decrease in ethanol prices or demand may negatively impact our ability to profitably operate the ethanol plant.

***Lack of rail transportation infrastructure and delayed rail shipments could negatively impact our financial performance.*** During 2014, the ethanol industry experienced difficulty transporting ethanol by rail, the primary manner in which our ethanol is transported to the market. During winter months, rail transportation can be slowed due to poor weather. If we are unable to transport our ethanol by rail, it may require that we reduce production or cease production altogether. Further, our ethanol inventory may increase due to the difficulty we may experience shipping our ethanol which can impact our financial performance. Management anticipates that slower railcar shipments may reoccur in the future until the rail transportation capacity in the United States increases. Delays in shipping our products could have a negative impact on our financial performance which could negatively impact our ability to operate the ethanol plant profitably.

***We operate in an intensely competitive industry and compete with larger, better financed entities which could impact our ability to operate profitably.*** There is significant competition among ethanol producers. There are numerous producer-owned and privately-owned ethanol plants operating throughout the Midwest and elsewhere in the United States. We also face competition from outside of the United States. The largest ethanol producers include Archer Daniels Midland, Flint Hills Resources, Green Plains Renewable Energy, Pacific Ethanol, POET, and Valero Renewable Fuels, each of which is capable of producing significantly more ethanol than we produce. Further, many believe that there will be further consolidation occurring in the ethanol industry in the future which will likely lead to a few companies which control a significant portion of the United States ethanol production market. We may not be able to compete with these larger entities. These larger ethanol producers may be able to affect the ethanol market in ways that are not beneficial to us which could negatively impact our financial performance.

***Technology advances in the commercialization of cellulosic ethanol may decrease demand for corn-based ethanol which may negatively affect our profitability.*** The current trend in ethanol production research is to develop an efficient method of producing ethanol from cellulose-based biomass, such as agricultural waste, forest residue, municipal solid waste, and energy crops. This trend is driven by the fact that cellulose-based biomass is generally cheaper than corn, and producing ethanol from cellulose-based biomass would create opportunities to produce ethanol in areas of the country which are unable to grow corn. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and the 2008 Farm Bill offer strong incentives to develop commercial scale cellulosic ethanol. The RFS requires that 16 billion gallons per year of advanced bio-fuels must be consumed in the United States by 2022. Additionally, state and federal grants have been awarded to several companies which are seeking to develop commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol plants. This has encouraged innovation and has led to several companies which are either in the process or have completed construction of commercial scale cellulosic ethanol plants. If an efficient method of producing ethanol from cellulose-based biomass is developed, we may not be able to compete effectively. If we are unable to produce ethanol as cost-effectively as cellulose-based producers, our ability to generate revenue and our financial condition will be negatively impacted.

## **Risks Related to Regulation and Governmental Action**

***On November 30, 2015 the EPA released its final renewable volume obligations for corn-based ethanol under the RFS which is lower than the statutory requirements.*** On November 30, 2015, the EPA released its final renewable volume obligations under the RFS for 2014, 2015 and 2016. The renewable volume obligations for conventional biofuels, including the corn-based ethanol we produce, is significantly lower than the statutory standard set in the RFS. The RFS requires the use of 14.40 billion gallons of conventional biofuels in 2014, 15 billion gallons in 2015 and 15 billion gallons in 2016. Pursuant to the EPA regulation, the requirement for conventional biofuels in 2014 is 13.61 billion gallons, 14.05 billion gallons in 2015 and 14.5 billion gallons in 2016. This is a significant reduction in each of these years compared to the requirements in the RFS. Further, due to the lower price of gasoline, we do not anticipate that renewable fuels blenders will use more ethanol than is required by the RFS which may result in a significant decrease in ethanol demand. This departure by the EPA from the statutory requirements in the RFS is expected to have a negative impact on ethanol prices and demand and is expected to result in reduced operating margins in the future. This reduction in ethanol demand is expected to have a material negative impact on our operating performance and financial condition.



***Government incentives for ethanol production may be eliminated in the future, which could hinder our ability to operate at a profit.*** The ethanol industry is assisted by various federal and state ethanol incentives, the most important of which is the RFS set forth in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The RFS helps support a market for ethanol that might disappear without this incentive. The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has the authority to waive the RFS statutory volume requirement, in whole or in part, provided certain conditions have been met. Annually, the EPA is supposed to pass a rule that establishes the number of gallons of different types of renewable fuels that must be used in the United States which is called the renewable volume obligations. There have also been proposals in Congress to reduce or eliminate the RFS. If the EPA further reduces the RFS requirements for corn-based ethanol such as the ethanol we produce or if the RFS were to be otherwise reduced or eliminated by Congress, the market price and demand for ethanol could decrease which will negatively impact our financial performance.

***Changes in environmental regulations or violations of these regulations could be expensive and reduce our profitability.*** We are subject to extensive air, water and other environmental laws and regulations. In addition, some of these laws require our plant to operate under a number of environmental permits. These laws, regulations and permits can often require expensive pollution control equipment or operational changes to limit actual or potential impacts to the environment. A violation of these laws and regulations or permit conditions can result in substantial fines, damages, criminal sanctions, permit revocations and/or plant shutdowns. In the future, we may be subject to legal actions brought by environmental advocacy groups and other parties for actual or alleged violations of environmental laws or our permits. Additionally, any changes in environmental laws and regulations, both at the federal and state level, could require us to spend considerable resources in order to comply with future environmental regulations. The expense of compliance could be significant enough to reduce our profitability and negatively affect our financial condition.

***The California Low Carbon Fuel Standard may decrease demand for corn based ethanol which could negatively impact our profitability.*** California passed a Low Carbon Fuels Standard ("LCFS") which requires that renewable fuels used in California must accomplish certain reductions in greenhouse gases which reductions are measured using a lifecycle analysis. Management believes that these regulations could preclude corn based ethanol produced in the Midwest from being used in California. California represents a significant ethanol demand market. If the ethanol industry is unable to supply corn based ethanol to California, it could significantly reduce demand for the ethanol we produce. This could result in a reduction of our revenues and negatively impact our ability to profitably operate the ethanol plant.

## **ITEM 2. PROPERTIES**

Our ethanol plant is located just east of the city limits of Richardton, North Dakota, and just north and east of the entrance/exit ramps to Interstate I-94. The plant complex is situated inside a footprint of approximately 25 acres of land which is part of an approximately 135 acre parcel. We acquired ownership of the land in 2004 and 2005. Included in the immediate campus area of the plant are perimeter roads, buildings, tanks and equipment. An administrative building and parking area are located approximately 400 feet from the plant complex. During 2008 we purchased an additional 10 acre parcel of land that is adjacent to our current property. Our coal unloading facility and storage site was built on this property. During our 2012 fiscal year, we purchased an additional approximately 110 acres of land that is adjacent to our current property.

The site also contains improvements such as rail tracks and a rail spur, landscaping, drainage systems and paved access roads. The ethanol plant was placed in service in January 2007 and is in excellent condition and is capable of functioning at 100 percent of its 50 million gallon name-plate production capacity.

All of our tangible and intangible property, real and personal, serves as the collateral for our senior credit facility with FNBO. Our senior credit facility is discussed in more detail under "**ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS - Capital Resources.**"

## **ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

From time to time in the ordinary course of business, we may be named as a defendant in legal proceedings related to various issues, including without limitation, workers' compensation claims, tort claims, or contractual disputes. We are not currently involved in any material legal proceedings.

## **ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

None.

**PART II****ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED MEMBER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES**

There is no established trading market for our membership units. We have engaged FNC Ag Stock, LLC to create a Qualified Matching Service ("QMS") in order to facilitate trading of our units. The QMS consists of an electronic bulletin board that provides information to prospective sellers and buyers of our units. Please see the table below for information on the prices of units transferred in transactions completed via the QMS. We do not become involved in any purchase or sale negotiations arising from the QMS and we take no position as to whether the average price or the price of any particular sale is an accurate measure of the value of our units. As a limited liability company, we are required to restrict the transfers of our membership units in order to preserve our partnership tax status. Our membership units may not be traded on any established securities market or readily traded on a secondary market (or the substantial equivalent thereof). All transfers are subject to a determination that the transfer will not cause the Company to be deemed a publicly traded partnership.

We have no role in effecting the transactions beyond approval, as required under our Operating Agreement and the issuance of new certificates. So long as we remain a publicly reporting company, information about us will be publicly available through the SEC's EDGAR filing system. However, if at any time we cease to be a publicly reporting company, we may continue to make information about us publicly available on our website.

As of December 18, 2015, there were 920 holders of record of our Class A units.

The following table contains historical information by quarter for the past two years regarding the actual unit transactions that were completed by our unit-holders during the periods specified. The information was compiled by reviewing the completed unit transfers that occurred on the QMS bulletin board or through private transfers during the quarters indicated.

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Low Price</b>	<b>High Price</b>	<b>Average Price</b>	<b># of Units Traded</b>
2014 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.51	70,000
2014 2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$ 0.59	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.70	135,000
2014 3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$ 0.90	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.99	85,000
2014 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 0.90	\$ 1.45	\$ 0.98	310,326
2015 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.45	\$ 1.41	288,500
2015 2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$ 1.28	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.29	84,900
2015 3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	—
2015 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	—

**DISTRIBUTIONS**

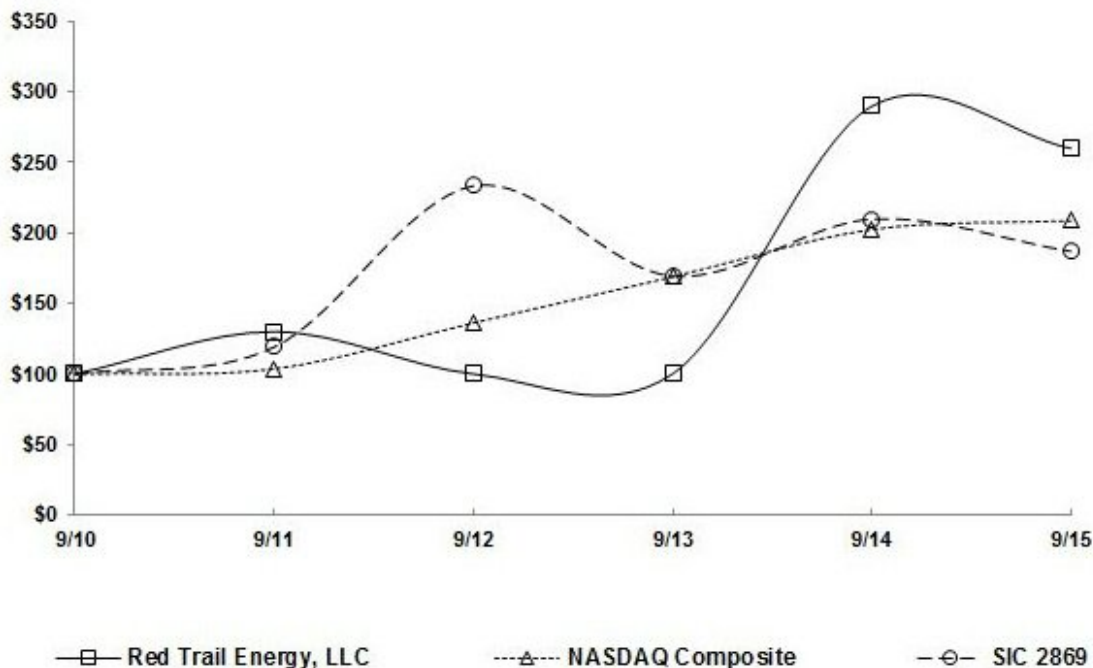
We made a \$0.05 distributions to our members during our 2014 fiscal year for a total distribution of \$2,007,452 and made a \$0.35 per unit distribution for a total distribution of \$14,056,947 during our 2015 fiscal year. Distributions are payable at the discretion of our board, subject to the provisions of the North Dakota Limited Liability Company Act and our Member Control Agreement. Distributions to our unit holders are also subject to certain loan covenants and restrictions that require us to make additional loan payments based on excess cash flow. These loan covenants and restrictions are described in greater detail under **"Item 7 - Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Capital Resources."** A unit holder's distribution is determined based on their pro-rata ownership interest in the Company, by dividing the number of units owned by such unit holder by the total number of units outstanding.

**PERFORMANCE GRAPH**

The following graph shows a comparison of cumulative total member return since September 30, 2010, calculated on a dividend reinvested basis, for the Company, the NASDAQ Composite Index (the "NASDAQ Market Index") and an index of other companies that have the same SIC code as the Company (the "SIC Code Index"). The graph assumes \$100 was invested in each of our units, the NASDAQ Market Index, and the SIC Code Index on September 30, 2010. Data points on the graph are annual. Note that historic unit price performance is not necessarily indicative of future unit price performance.

### COMPARISON OF 5 YEAR CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN\*

Among Red Trail Energy, LLC, the NASDAQ Composite Index, and SIC 2869



\*\$100 invested on 9/30/10 in stock or index, including reinvestment of dividends.  
Fiscal year ending September 30.

Pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the performance graph and the information set forth therein shall not be deemed to be filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

#### ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following table presents selected financial and operating data as of the dates and for the periods indicated. The selected balance sheet financial data as of September 30, 2013, 2012 and 2011 and the selected income statement data and other financial data for the period ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 have been derived from our audited financial statements that are not included in this Form 10-K. The selected balance sheet financial data as of September 30, 2015 and 2014 and the selected statement of operations data and other financial data for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2015, 2014 and 2013 have been derived from the audited Financial Statements included elsewhere in this Form 10-K. You should read the following table in conjunction with "**Item 7. Management Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**" and the financial statements and the accompanying notes included elsewhere in this Form 10-K. Among other things, those financial statements include more detailed information regarding the basis of presentation for the following financial data.

Statement of Operations Data:	Fiscal Year Ended				Nine-Month Transition Period Ended
	September 30, 2015	September 30, 2014	September 30, 2013	September 30, 2012	September 30, 2011
Revenues	\$ 100,795,412	\$ 139,122,644	\$ 154,790,603	\$ 131,458,769	\$ 112,290,222
Cost of Goods Sold	91,984,165	106,047,180	151,588,287	136,013,928	108,137,084
Gross Profit (Loss)	8,811,247	33,075,464	3,202,316	(4,555,159)	4,153,138
General and Administrative	2,471,783	2,200,809	2,145,733	2,224,351	1,972,679
Operating Income (Loss)	6,339,464	30,874,655	1,056,583	(6,779,510)	2,180,459
Other Income (Expense)	2,227,797	(284,321)	(422,420)	2,081,535	1,671,836
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 8,567,261	\$ 30,590,334	\$ 634,163	\$ (4,697,975)	\$ 3,852,295
Weighted Average Units Outstanding - Basic	40,148,160	40,148,160	40,151,941	40,204,971	40,193,973
Weighted Average Units Outstanding - Diluted	40,148,160	40,148,160	40,153,201	40,217,471	40,213,973
Net Income (Loss) Per Unit - Basic and Diluted	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.76	\$ 0.02	\$ (0.12)	\$ 0.10
<b>Balance Sheet Data:</b>	<b>September 30, 2015</b>	<b>September 30, 2014</b>	<b>September 30, 2013</b>	<b>September 30, 2012</b>	<b>September 30, 2011</b>
Current Assets	\$ 23,051,396	\$ 40,622,512	\$ 16,511,489	\$ 17,716,814	\$ 24,318,071
Net Property and Equipment	50,940,083	51,479,515	52,193,186	55,372,225	63,363,997
Total Assets	77,567,266	95,658,429	71,740,861	75,748,166	89,197,878
Current Liabilities	9,940,702	18,756,713	10,958,459	12,184,043	42,060,094
Long-Term Liabilities	1,862,246	5,647,712	18,111,281	21,527,164	361,353
Members' Equity	65,764,317	71,254,004	42,671,121	42,036,959	46,776,431
Book Value Per Unit	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.77	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.05	\$ 1.17
Dividends Declared Per Unit	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.05	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —

\* See **Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations** for further discussion of our financial results.

**Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**
**Results of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2015 and 2014**

The following table shows the results of our operations and the percentages of revenues, cost of goods sold, general and administrative expenses and other items to total revenues in our statements of operations for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2015 and 2014:

<b>Statement of Operations Data</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2015</b>		<b>Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2014</b>	
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>%</b>
Revenues	\$ 100,795,412	100.00	\$ 139,122,644	100.00
Cost of Goods Sold	91,984,165	91.26	106,047,180	76.23
Gross Profit	8,811,247	8.74	33,075,464	23.77
General and Administrative Expenses	2,471,783	2.45	2,200,809	1.58
Operating Income	6,339,464	6.29	30,874,655	22.19
Other Income (Expense)	2,227,797	2.21	(284,321)	(0.20)
Net Income	\$ 8,567,261	8.50	\$ 30,590,334	21.99

The following table shows additional data regarding production and price levels for our primary inputs and products for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2015 and 2014.

	<b>Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2015</b>		<b>Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2014</b>	
<b>Production:</b>				
Ethanol sold (gallons)		53,448,822		51,533,962
Dried distillers grains sold (tons)		111,425		105,896
Modified distillers grains sold (tons)		69,847		54,202
Corn oil sold (pounds)		8,297,930		10,197,970
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Ethanol average price per gallon (net of hedging)	\$	1.52	\$	2.19
Dried distillers grains average price per ton		123.09		172.52
Modified distillers grains average price per ton		49.83		81.73
Corn oil average price per pound		0.22		0.27
<b>Primary Inputs:</b>				
Corn ground (bushels)		19,259,081		18,487,062
<b>Costs of Primary Inputs:</b>				
Corn average price per bushel (net of hedging)	\$	3.38	\$	4.24
<b>Other Costs (per gallon of ethanol sold):</b>				
Chemical and additive costs	\$	0.107	\$	0.113
Denaturant cost		0.037		0.054
Electricity cost		0.052		0.051
Direct labor cost		0.064		0.057

**Revenue**

For our 2015 fiscal year, ethanol sales comprised approximately 81% of our revenues, distillers grains sales comprised approximately 17% of our revenues and corn oil sales comprised approximately 2% of our revenues. For our 2014 fiscal year, ethanol sales comprised approximately 81% of our revenues, distillers grains sales comprised approximately 17% of our revenues and corn oil sales comprised approximately 2% of our revenues.

Our total revenue for our 2015 fiscal year was less compared to our 2014 fiscal year due to lower average prices for our products. Operating margins were less favorable during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year because the reduction in our revenue which resulted from lower prices for our products was not offset by corresponding decreases in our raw material costs. During our 2014 fiscal year there were rail shipping delays which restricted the supply of ethanol in the market and resulted in significantly higher ethanol prices. These higher ethanol prices came at a time when corn prices were relatively lower which resulted in very favorable operating margins during our 2014 fiscal year which did not continue into our 2015 fiscal year.

### Ethanol

The average price we received for our ethanol was approximately 31% less for our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year. Management attributes this decrease in the average price we received for our ethanol during our 2015 fiscal year with lower corn and gasoline prices, both of which have an impact on the market price of ethanol. In addition, due to supply interruptions during our 2014 fiscal year, we experienced unusually high ethanol prices which persisted for most of our 2014 fiscal year. Ethanol supplies returned to more traditional levels during our 2015 fiscal year and prices were lower as a result. Further, management believes that ethanol prices were negatively impacted by uncertainty over the impact of the proposed renewable volume obligations for 2014, 2015 and 2016 which reduced the corn-based ethanol requirements under the RFS. This concern was realized after the end of our 2015 fiscal year when the EPA issued its final renewable volume obligations for 2014, 2015 and 2016. Management believes that this reduction has had a negative impact on ethanol demand and prices which may continue through the next two years. This negative impact is especially pronounced due to current low gasoline prices. In the past, many fuel blenders used ethanol because of the difference in price between gasoline and ethanol. This voluntary use of ethanol in excess of the requirements in the RFS has been decreased due to the fact that the spread between the price of ethanol and gasoline is smaller. Management believes that ethanol prices will remain at their current levels unless gasoline prices increase or we experience an increase in ethanol demand. Ethanol exports have provided some support for ethanol prices. However, the recent increase in ethanol exports is mainly driven by lower domestic ethanol prices and these exports may not continue at their current levels, especially if ethanol prices increase.

Management anticipates that ethanol prices will remain lower during our 2016 fiscal year, especially if corn and gasoline prices remain lower. In addition, due to the lower proposed RVOs for 2015 and 2016, there may be additional renewable fuels credits available in the market which may reduce demand for the corn-based ethanol we produce. If ethanol exports were to be reduced during 2016, it could result in excess ethanol supply in the United States which could further reduce the market price of ethanol.

We sold approximately 4% more gallons of ethanol during our 2015 fiscal year compared our 2014 fiscal year due to increased ethanol production capacity due to our switch from coal as the fuel source for our ethanol plant to natural gas. Management anticipates that we will continue to produce and sell more ethanol due to this increased production capacity. However, if operating margins in the ethanol industry are reduced, we may reduce production in order to improve our operating efficiency and maximize the amount of ethanol we can produce per bushel of corn used.

We experienced a loss of approximately \$275,000 in our ethanol derivative instruments which decreased our revenue and a loss of approximately \$876,000 in soybean oil derivative instruments which also decreased our revenue during our 2015 fiscal year. We experienced a loss of approximately \$7.9 million in our ethanol derivative instruments during our 2014 fiscal year which decreased our revenue and a gain of approximately \$3.0 million in soybean oil derivative instruments which increased our revenue.

### Distillers Grains

The average price we received for our distillers grains during our 2015 fiscal year was significantly less than the average price we received during our 2014 fiscal year primarily due to significantly lower corn prices and increased corn supplies. Since distillers grains are typically used as an animal feed substitute for corn, when corn prices are lower and corn is more readily available in the market, it leads to a reduction in distillers grains demand and ultimately prices. The average price we received for our dried distillers grains was approximately 29% less during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year. The average price we received for our modified distillers grains was approximately 39% less during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year. Management anticipates that distillers grains prices will continue to track corn prices and will remain relatively lower due to the large corn crop which was harvested in the fall of 2015. Further, distillers grains prices could be negatively impacted in the future in the event distillers grains exports are reduced. The United States ethanol industry relies on distillers grains exports in order to maintain distillers grain prices. If these distillers grains exports are reduced, it could result in an oversupply of distillers grains in the United States which could negatively impact distillers grains prices.



We produced approximately 5% more tons of dried distillers grains and approximately 29% more tons of modified distillers grains during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year primarily because of our increased production of ethanol. In addition, we separated less corn oil from our distillers grains during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year which increases the total tons of distillers grains we have available for sale. Each pound of corn oil we produce has the effect of correspondingly reducing the tons of distillers grains we produce. We decide whether to produce dried distillers grains versus modified distillers grains based on market conditions and the relative cost of producing each form of distillers grains. Management anticipates that distillers grains production will continue to mirror our total ethanol production. However, if we increase or decrease the amount of corn oil we remove from our distillers grains, it will have a corresponding effect on our total distillers grains production.

### Corn Oil

The average price we received for our corn oil was approximately 19% less during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year primarily due to lower corn oil demand and lower corn prices. Corn oil demand was lower during our 2015 fiscal year due to decreased demand from biodiesel production. Biodiesel producers were negatively impacted by the expiration of the biodiesel blenders' tax credit and uncertainty regarding biodiesel demand in light of anticipated changes to the biodiesel use requirement under the Federal RFS. In addition, corn oil prices are typically impacted by corn prices which were lower during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year. Following the end of our 2015 fiscal year, management anticipates increased corn oil demand from biodiesel production due to the anticipated reinstatement of the biodiesel blenders' tax credit which management believes will result in more biodiesel production. While management believes this increase in biodiesel production will increase corn oil demand, it is difficult to determine how significant of an impact it will have on corn oil prices since management believes there is excess corn oil supply in the market. Due to current low prices, some corn oil users outside of the biodiesel industry have increased their demand for corn oil which may not continue if the price of corn oil increases.

Our corn oil sales decreased by approximately 19% during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year due to increased downtime for our corn oil extraction equipment and less corn oil in the corn we were using to produce ethanol during our 2015 fiscal year. Management anticipates that corn oil production will be higher during our 2016 fiscal year compared to our 2015 fiscal year as we anticipate less downtime for our corn oil extraction equipment. However, as other producers have experienced, the amount of corn oil contained in the corn we use in the ethanol production process can greatly impact the amount of corn oil we can extract from our distillers grains which can have an impact on our corn oil production. Management believes it is too early to say how much corn oil we will be able to extract from the corn we will be using in the ethanol production process during our 2016 fiscal year.

### Cost of Goods Sold

Our cost of goods sold is primarily made up of corn and energy expenses. During our 2015 fiscal year we completed the conversion of our ethanol plant from a coal fired plant to using natural gas as the fuel source for our plant. This project was completed during the second quarter of our 2015 fiscal year. As a result, in the future our operating margins will be impacted by the cost of natural gas that we will use in the production process instead of coal. Further, we expect that the conversion will allow us to operate the ethanol plant at a higher capacity which we anticipate will increase our total production. Our total cost of goods sold was approximately 13% less for our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year due to significantly lower market corn prices during the 2015 period.

### Corn Costs

Our cost of goods sold related to corn was approximately 17% less during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year due to significantly lower market corn prices during our 2015 fiscal year. The average price we paid per bushel of corn was approximately 20% less during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year. Management attributes this decrease in corn prices with increased corn supplies in the market and relatively stable corn demand. In addition, management believes that the EPA's proposed RVOs for corn-based ethanol had a negative impact on market corn prices as ethanol production is a major source of corn demand. Management anticipates that corn prices will remain lower during our 2016 fiscal year. Management believes that without a significant increase in export demand for corn, the United States corn supply will exceed demand in the near term. We consumed approximately 4% more bushels of corn during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year due to our increased production. Management anticipates that we will continue to grind more corn due to our natural gas conversion project which increased our ethanol production capacity.

From time to time we enter into forward purchase contracts for our commodity purchases and sales. At September 30, 2015, we had forward corn purchase contracts for various delivery periods through June 2016 for a total commitment of approximately \$8.6 million for a total of approximately 2.3 million bushels of corn. We had a gain of approximately \$39,000



related to our corn derivative instruments which decreased our cost of goods sold during our 2015 fiscal year. We had a gain of approximately \$8.6 million related to our corn derivative instruments during our 2014 fiscal year which decreased our cost of goods sold. We recognize the gains or losses that result from the changes in the value of our derivative instruments from corn in cost of goods sold as the changes occur. As corn prices fluctuate, the value of our derivative instruments is impacted, which affects our financial performance.

Energy Costs

For the first quarter of our 2015 fiscal year, we used coal as the fuel source for our ethanol plant. We purchased the coal needed to power our ethanol plant from a supplier under a long-term contract. However, during the second quarter of our 2015 fiscal year, we converted the energy source for our ethanol plant to natural gas. Management believes that our location near the Bakken oil field, a major source of natural gas, will provide us very favorable natural gas prices. Further, the cost to transport the natural gas to our ethanol production facility is smaller due to our proximity to the Bakken oil field. Market natural gas prices have been low in recent years due to increased market supply of natural gas along with relatively stable natural gas supply. Further, the price of natural gas has been stable over the last few years with very little volatility. Management expects that the current low natural gas prices will continue into our 2016 fiscal year.

General and Administrative Expenses

Our general and administrative expense was slightly higher during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year due primarily to additional consulting fees and increased property taxes during the 2015 period.

Other Income/Expense

We had less interest income during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year due to having less cash on hand during the 2015 period. Our interest expense was lower during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year due to having lower balances on our loans during the 2015 period. Our other income was significantly higher during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year due to a capital account refund we received from RPMG.

**Comparison of the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2014 to the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2013**

The following table shows the results of our operations and the percentages of revenues, cost of goods sold, general and administrative expenses and other items to total revenues in our statements of operations for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2014 and 2013:

Statement of Operations Data	Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2014		Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2013	
	Amount	%	Amount	%
Revenues	\$ 139,122,644	100.00	\$ 154,790,603	100.00
Cost of Goods Sold	106,047,180	76.23	151,588,287	97.93
Gross Profit	33,075,464	23.77	3,202,316	2.07
General and Administrative Expenses	2,200,809	1.58	2,145,733	1.39
Operating Income	30,874,655	22.19	1,056,583	0.68
Other Expense	(284,321)	(0.20)	(422,420)	(0.27)
Net Income	\$ 30,590,334	21.99	\$ 634,163	0.41

The following table shows additional data regarding production and price levels for our primary inputs and products for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2014 and 2013.

	<b>Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2014</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2013</b>
<b>Production:</b>		
Ethanol sold (gallons)	51,533,962	51,528,405
Dried distillers grains sold (tons)	105,896	91,304
Modified distillers grains sold (tons)	54,202	83,052
Corn oil sold (pounds)	10,197,970	7,988,680
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Ethanol average price per gallon (net of hedging)	\$ 2.19	\$ 2.31
Dried distillers grains average price per ton	172.52	240.78
Modified distillers grains average price per ton	81.73	122.08
Corn oil average price per pound	0.27	0.31
<b>Primary Inputs:</b>		
Corn ground (bushels)	18,487,062	18,556,113
<b>Costs of Primary Inputs:</b>		
Corn average price per bushel (net of hedging)	\$ 4.24	\$ 6.80
<b>Other Costs (per gallon of ethanol sold):</b>		
Chemical and additive costs	\$ 0.113	\$ 0.088
Denaturant cost	0.054	0.051
Electricity cost	0.051	0.053
Direct labor cost	0.057	0.050

Revenue

For our 2014 fiscal year, ethanol sales comprised approximately 81% of our revenues, distillers grains sales comprised approximately 17% of our revenues and corn oil sales comprised approximately 2% of our revenues. For our 2013 fiscal year, ethanol sales comprised approximately 77% of our revenues, distillers grains sales comprised approximately 21% of our revenues and corn oil sales comprised approximately 2% of our revenues.

Our total revenue for our 2014 fiscal year was less compared to our 2013 fiscal year due to lower average prices for our products, particularly our distillers grains. However, due to the fact that our cost of goods sold decreased even more than our revenues, we experienced favorable operating margins during our 2014 fiscal year. These favorable operating margins resulted in significantly greater net income during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year.

Ethanol

The average price we received for our ethanol was approximately 5% less for our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year. Management attributes this decrease in the average price we received for our ethanol during our 2014 fiscal year with lower corn and gasoline prices and uncertainty regarding ethanol demand due to the proposed change to the 2014 corn-based ethanol renewable volume obligation (RVO) under the Federal RFS. However, ethanol prices were positively impacted by several factors during our 2014 fiscal year, mainly shipping logistics issues which constricted the supply of ethanol in the market and increased ethanol prices along with increased ethanol exports during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year. Management attributes these increases in ethanol exports with the lower market ethanol prices which made United States ethanol more cost competitive in the global market. We sold a comparable number of gallons of ethanol during our 2014 fiscal year and our 2013 fiscal year.

We experienced a loss of approximately \$7.9 million in our ethanol derivative instruments which decreased our revenue and a gain of approximately \$3.0 million in soybean oil derivative instruments which increased our revenue during our 2014 fiscal year. We had no gains or losses on derivative instruments during our 2013 fiscal year which impacted our revenue.

### Distillers Grains

The average price we received for our distillers grains during our 2014 fiscal year was significantly less than the average price we received during our 2013 fiscal year primarily due to significantly lower corn prices and increased corn supplies. Since distillers grains are typically used as an animal feed substitute for corn, when corn prices are lower and corn is more readily available in the market, it leads to a reduction in distillers grains demand and ultimately prices. The average price we received for our dried distillers grains was approximately 28% less during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year. The average price we received for our modified/wet distillers grains was approximately 33% less during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year. We produced less total tons of distillers grains during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year primarily because of our increased production of corn oil. Each pound of corn oil we produce has the effect of reducing the tons of distillers grains we produce.

### Corn Oil

The average price we received for our corn oil was approximately 13% less during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year primarily due to lower corn oil demand and lower corn prices. Corn oil demand was lower due to decreased demand from biodiesel producers who were negatively impacted by the expiration of the biodiesel blenders' tax credit and uncertainty regarding biodiesel demand in light of anticipated changes to the 2014 RVO under the Federal RFS. In addition, corn oil prices are typically impacted by corn prices which were lower during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year. We significantly increased our corn oil sales by approximately 28% during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year due to increased production efficiency in our corn oil extraction process.

### Cost of Goods Sold

Our cost of goods sold is primarily made up of corn and energy expenses. Our total cost of goods sold was approximately 30% less for our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year due to significantly lower corn costs during the 2014 period.

### Corn Costs

Our cost of goods sold related to corn was approximately 38% less during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year due to significantly lower market corn prices during our 2014 fiscal year. We used a comparable number of bushels of corn during our 2014 fiscal year and our 2013 fiscal year, however the average price we paid per bushel of corn was approximately 38% less during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year. Market corn prices were lower during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year due to the record corn crop which was harvested in the fall of 2013 and favorable growing conditions which led to a large corn crop during the fall of 2014. This increase in the supply of corn in the United States was not met by comparable demand which has resulted in a significant reduction in corn prices. Exports of corn to China all but ceased during our 2014 fiscal year when China commenced rejecting loads of corn from the United States which contained a corn hybrid trait which is not approved in China. The reduction in corn exports to China increased the domestic supply of corn and has resulted in lower prices. Further, rail shipping logistics issues negatively impacted some corn producer's ability to ship corn by rail which resulted in localized lower corn prices, especially in North Dakota which has favorably impacted the price we paid per bushel of corn.

At September 30, 2014, we had forward corn purchase contracts for various delivery periods through July 2015 for a total commitment of approximately \$19.3 million for a total of approximately 4.5 million bushels of corn. We had a gain of approximately \$8.6 million related to our corn derivative instruments which decreased our cost of goods sold during our 2014 fiscal year. We had a gain of approximately \$779,000 related to our corn derivative instruments during our 2013 fiscal year which decreased our cost of goods sold.

### Coal Costs

We purchased the coal needed to power our ethanol plant from a supplier under a long-term contract. Our coal costs were higher during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year due to higher coal costs per ton during the 2014 period. We used a comparable number of tons of coal during our 2014 fiscal year and our 2013 fiscal year.

### General and Administrative Expenses

Our general and administrative expense was slightly higher during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year due primarily to additional bank fees related to a letter of credit we established during the 2014 period.

Other Income/Expense

We had more interest income during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year due to having more cash on hand during the 2014 period. Our interest expense was lower during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year due to having lower balances on our loans during the 2014 period. Our other income was lower during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year due to a decrease in our grant income related to an alternative fuel tax credit.

**Changes in Financial Condition for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2015 and 2014**

Current Assets. We had less cash and equivalents on our balance sheet at September 30, 2015 compared to September 30, 2014 due to our decreased net income along with additional payments made on our long term debt and distributions we paid during our 2015 fiscal year. We had approximately \$2.2 million in restricted cash at September 30, 2015 which is funds we deposit in our margin account with our commodities broker related to our risk management positions. We had more accounts receivable at September 30, 2015 compared to September 30, 2014 due primarily to timing issues related to our fiscal year end and the amount of gallons of ethanol we had sold for which we had not yet received payment. Our other receivables was higher at September 30, 2015 compared to September 30, 2014 due to an open receivable for the boiler insurance claim. The value of our inventory was lower at September 30, 2015 compared to September 30, 2014 due to having less finished goods inventory and work in process at September 30, 2015. We had an unrealized gain on our risk management positions as of September 30, 2014 but no unrealized gain as of September 30, 2015.

Property, Plant and Equipment. The gross value of our property, plant and equipment was higher at September 30, 2015 compared to September 30, 2014 due primarily to our natural gas conversion project. However, the net value of our property, plant and equipment was lower at September 30, 2015 compared to September 30, 2014 due to depreciation. We had a significant amount of construction in progress at September 30, 2014 primarily due to our natural gas conversion project which was put into service during our 2015 fiscal year.

Other Assets. Our other assets were comparable at September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2014 with increased patronage equity related to our electric provider which is a cooperative.

Current Liabilities. Our accounts payable was lower at September 30, 2015 compared to September 30, 2014 due to decreased corn payables primarily because of lower market corn prices. Our accrued expenses were lower at September 30, 2015 compared to September 30, 2014 due to decreased corn purchases we made which were not yet priced. We had a small unrealized loss on our derivative instruments as of September 30, 2015 related primarily to our corn derivative instruments. We had a much smaller loss on firm purchase commitments as of September 30, 2015 compared to September 30, 2014 because market corn prices as of September 30, 2015 were closer to the price we agreed to pay on our forward corn purchases. As of September 30, 2014 the market price of corn was significantly less than the price we agreed to pay on our forward corn purchases which resulted in the approximately \$3.3 million loss at September 30, 2014. We had less current maturities of long-term debt at September 30, 2015 compared to September 30, 2014 because we will not be required to make the same large excess cash flow payment on our loan following the end of our 2015 fiscal year as we made following the end of our 2014 fiscal year. Our loan requires us to make an additional loan payment in the event we generate a significant amount of excess cash flow. Due to the fact that we generated a significant amount of net income during our 2014 fiscal year, we were required to make a large excess cash flow payment which was included in the current maturities of our long-term debt as of September 30, 2014.

Long-term Liabilities. Our long-term liabilities were lower at September 30, 2015 compared to September 30, 2014, due to scheduled quarterly loan payments we made during our 2015 fiscal year, payments we made on our long-term revolving loan and the excess cash flow payment we made during our 2015 fiscal year. In addition, we repaid \$275,000 in grant proceeds we received from the State of North Dakota during our 2015 fiscal year which reduced our contracts payable as of September 30, 2015.

**Critical Accounting Policies**

Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing our financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and the reported revenues and expenses. Of the significant accounting policies described in the notes to our financial statements, we believe that the following are the most critical.

### Inventory Valuation

The Company values inventory at the lower of cost or market. Our estimates are based upon assumptions believed to be reasonable, but which are inherently uncertain and unpredictable. These valuations require the use of management's assumptions which do not reflect unanticipated events and circumstances that may occur. In our analysis, we consider future corn costs and ethanol prices, break-even points for our plant and our risk management strategies in place through our derivative instruments. A 10% change in management's valuation of the Company's inventory as of September 30, 2015 could impact the Company's net income by approximately \$866,000 for its 2015 fiscal year.

### Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

Management's estimate of the Allowance for Doubtful Accounts is based on management's estimate of the collectability of identified receivables, as well as the aging of customer accounts. A 10% change in management's estimate regarding the Allowance for Doubtful Accounts as of September 30, 2015 could impact net income by approximately \$59,000 for its 2015 fiscal year.

### Long Lived Assets

Property, plant, and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation is provided over estimated useful lives by use of the straight line method. Maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. Major improvements and betterments are capitalized. The present values of capital lease obligations are classified as long-term debt and the related assets are included in property, plant and equipment. Amortization of equipment under capital leases is included in depreciation expense. Management does not believe it is reasonably likely that the valuation of its property, plant and equipment will change in any material manner in future estimates.

## **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Based on financial forecasts performed by our management, we anticipate that we will have sufficient cash from our current credit facilities and cash from our operations to continue to operate the ethanol plant for the next 12 months. Should we experience unfavorable operating conditions in the future, we may have to secure additional debt or equity sources for working capital or other purposes. We do not have any planned capital projects for which we anticipate requiring additional borrowing.

The following table shows cash flows for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2015 and 2014:

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 10,109,102	\$ 36,631,968
Net cash (used in) investing activities	(3,838,623)	(3,399,172)
Net cash (used in) financing activities	(23,132,076)	(11,281,537)
Net (decrease) increase in cash	\$ (16,861,597)	\$ 21,951,259
Cash and equivalents, end of period	\$ 5,090,662	\$ 21,952,259

### Cash Flow from Operations

Our operations provided less cash during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year due to decreased net income during the 2015 period. We experienced very favorable operating margins during our 2014 fiscal year which led to a significant increase in net income during that period. These very favorable operating margins did not continue in our 2015 fiscal year.

### Cash Flow from Investing Activities

We used more cash for capital expenditures during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year primarily related to more capital expenditures for our natural gas conversion project which was completed during our 2015 fiscal year. During our 2014 fiscal year we had capital expenditures related to regular repair and replacement of equipment at the plant as well as costs associated with our natural gas conversion project.

### Cash Flow from Financing Activities

We used significantly more cash for financing activities during our 2015 fiscal year compared to our 2014 fiscal year, primarily due to increased debt repayments and distributions to our members during the 2015 period compared to the 2014 period. During our 2014 fiscal year, we used cash to reduce the amount of checks we had issued in excess of our bank balances which are paid from our revolving loan. We also repaid the balance of our short-term revolving loan during our 2014 fiscal year. We made a smaller distribution to our members during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2015 fiscal year. We also had less payments on our long term debt during our 2014 fiscal year due to a smaller excess cash flow payment during our 2014 fiscal year compared to the excess cash flow payment we made during our 2015 fiscal year.

Our liquidity, results of operations and financial performance will be impacted by many variables, including the market price for commodities such as, but not limited to, corn, ethanol and other energy commodities, as well as the market price for any co-products generated by the facility and the cost of labor and other operating costs. Assuming future relative price levels for corn, ethanol and distillers grains remain consistent, we expect operations to generate adequate cash flows to maintain operations.

The following table shows cash flows for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2014 and 2013:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 36,631,968	\$ 2,744,252
Net cash (used in) investing activities	(3,399,172)	(838,549)
Net cash (used in) financing activities	(11,281,537)	(1,905,703)
Net increase in cash	\$ 21,951,259	\$ —
Cash and equivalents, end of period	\$ 21,952,259	\$ 1,000

### Cash Flow from Operations

Our operations provided more cash during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year due to improved operating margins which resulted in a significant increase in our net income during the 2014 period. Volatility in the commodities markets also impacted our cash flows for our 2014 fiscal year more than during our 2013 fiscal year.

### Cash Flow from Investing Activities

We used more cash for capital expenditures during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year related to ordinary repair and replacement of equipment at the ethanol plant and due to our natural gas conversion project. We also sold a residence adjacent to the ethanol plant during the 2013 period which provided cash from investing activities.

### Cash Flow from Financing Activities

We used significantly more cash for financing activities during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year, primarily due to increased debt repayments during the 2014 period compared to the 2013 period. As of the end of our 2014 fiscal year, we no longer had any disbursements in excess of our bank balances which decreased cash during the 2014 period. We also repaid more of our short-term loan during our 2014 fiscal year compared to our 2013 fiscal year which used more cash during the 2014 period. Finally, we paid a distribution during our 2014 fiscal year and we did not pay a distribution during our 2013 fiscal year.

### **Capital Expenditures**

The Company had approximately \$89,000 in construction in progress as of September 30, 2015 related to costs incurred for a project to widen the road into the plant. During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015, the Company placed in service approximately \$3.8 million in capital projects with the majority of these costs related to our natural gas conversion project.



## Capital Resources

### Short-Term Debt Sources

The Company has a revolving line-of-credit of \$10,000,000 with \$0 drawn on this line-of-credit as of September 30, 2015. This revolving line-of-credit matures on March 20, 2016. The variable interest rate on this line-of-credit is 3.0% over the one-month LIBOR with a rate of 3.20% as of September 30, 2015.

### Long-Term Debt Sources

In March of 2015, we refinanced our outstanding debt with our senior lender. As of September 30, 2015, our long-term debt consisted of a term loan. The following table summarizes our long-term debt instruments with our senior lender.

Term Note	Outstanding Balance (Millions)		Interest Rate		Estimated Quarterly Principal and Interest Payment Amounts	Notes
	September 30, 2015	September 30, 2014	September 30, 2015	September 30, 2014		
Term Note	\$ 5.8	\$ 14.6	4.96%	3.74%	\$ 345,243	1, 2

#### Notes

1 - Maturity date extended to March 2020 from April 2017.

2 - Variable interest rate of 3.5% over the three-month LIBOR was replaced by a fixed per annum interest rate equal to 4.96%.

### Restrictive Covenants

We are subject to a number of covenants and restrictions in connection with our credit facilities, including:

- Providing FNBO with current and accurate financial statements;
- Maintaining certain financial ratios including minimum working capital and debt service coverage ratio;
- Maintaining adequate insurance;
- Making, or allowing to be made, any significant change in our business or tax structure;
- Limiting our ability to make distributions to members; and
- Maintaining a threshold of capital expenditures.

### Excess Cash Flow Payments

We are required to make a prepayment on our Term Loan within 120 days of the end of each of our fiscal years in an amount equal to 25% of our excess cash flow. Excess cash flow is defined in our loan agreement as our adjusted EBITDA earnings less scheduled payments which are due on our loans. Our adjusted EBITDA is calculated by reducing our EBITDA by approved capital expenditures and distributions we make during our fiscal year. Due to our profitability during our 2015 fiscal year, the excess cash flow payment will be approximately \$2.8 million for our 2015 fiscal year which will reduce the amount of our long-term loan.

As of September 30, 2015, we were in compliance with our loan covenants.

## Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments

We have the following contractual obligations as of September 30, 2015:



Contractual Obligations:	Total	Less than 1 Yr	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	More than 5 Yrs
Long-term debt obligations *	\$ 5,807,253	\$ 3,953,142	\$ 1,854,111	\$ —	\$ —
Corn purchases **	31,695,204	31,695,204	—	—	—
Water purchases	212,000	212,000	—	—	—
Operating lease obligations	787,196	307,036	446,560	33,600	—
Capital leases	31,674	23,539	8,135	—	—
Total	<u>\$ 38,533,327</u>	<u>\$ 36,190,921</u>	<u>\$ 2,308,806</u>	<u>\$ 33,600</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

\* - We used the variable interest rates in effect as of September 30, 2015 (see Note 5 to our audited financial statements)

\*\* - Amounts determined assuming prices, including freight costs, at which corn had been contracted for cash corn contracts and current market prices as of September 30, 2015 for basis contracts that had not yet been fixed.

## Industry Support

### North Dakota Grant

In 2006, we entered into a contract with the State of North Dakota through the Industrial Commission for a lignite coal grant not to exceed \$350,000. We received \$275,000 from this grant during 2006. Because we did not meet the minimum lignite usage requirements specified in the grant, we repaid the \$275,000 during the third quarter of our 2015 fiscal year.

## Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements.

## Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

We are exposed to the impact of market fluctuations associated with commodity prices as discussed below. We have no exposure to foreign currency risk as all of our business is conducted in U.S. Dollars and we have no exposure to interest rate risk as we have no amounts outstanding on variable interest debt. We use derivative financial instruments as part of an overall strategy to manage market risk. We use cash, futures and option contracts to hedge changes to the commodity prices of corn and ethanol. We do not enter into these derivative financial instruments for trading or speculative purposes, nor do we designate these contracts as hedges for accounting purposes pursuant to the requirements of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP").

### Commodity Price Risk

We expect to be exposed to market risk from changes in commodity prices. Exposure to commodity price risk results from our dependence on corn in the ethanol production process and the sale of ethanol.

We enter into fixed price contracts for corn purchases on a regular basis. It is our intent that, as we enter into these contracts, we will use various hedging instruments (puts, calls and futures) to maintain a near even market position. For example, if we have 1 million bushels of corn under fixed price contracts we would generally expect to enter into a short hedge position to offset our price risk relative to those bushels we have under fixed price contracts. Because our ethanol marketing company (RPMG) is selling substantially all of the gallons it markets on a spot basis we also include the corn bushel equivalent of the ethanol we have produced that is inventory but not yet priced as bushels that need to be hedged.

Although we believe our hedge positions will accomplish an economic hedge against our future purchases, they are not designated as hedges for accounting purposes, which would match the gain or loss on our hedge positions to the specific commodity purchase being hedged. We use fair value accounting for our hedge positions, which means as the current market price of our hedge positions changes, the gains and losses are immediately recognized in our cost of sales. The immediate recognition of hedging gains and losses under fair value accounting can cause net income to be volatile from quarter to quarter and year to year due to the timing of the change in value of derivative instruments relative to the cost of the commodity being hedged. However, it is likely that commodity cash prices will have the greatest impact on the derivatives instruments with delivery dates nearest the current cash price.

As of September 30, 2015, we had approximately 2.3 million bushels of corn under fixed price contracts. As of September 30, 2015 some of these contracts were priced above current market prices so an accrual for a loss on firm purchase commitments of \$61,000 was recorded.

It is the current position of our ethanol marketing company, RPMG, that under current market conditions selling ethanol in the spot market will yield the best price for our ethanol. RPMG will, from time to time, contract a portion of the gallons they market with fixed price contracts.

We estimate that our expected corn usage will be between 19 million and 21 million bushels per calendar year for the production of approximately 55 million to 60 million gallons of ethanol. As corn prices move in reaction to market trends and information, our income statements will be affected depending on the impact such market movements have on the value of our derivative instruments.

**ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**



**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Board of Governors  
Red Trail Energy, LLC  
Richardton, North Dakota

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Red Trail Energy, LLC as of September 30, 2015 and 2014 and the related statements of operations, changes in members' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended September 30, 2015. Red Trail Energy, LLC's management is responsible for these financial statements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Red Trail Energy, LLC as of September 30, 2015 and 2014, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended September 30, 2015, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eide Bailly LLP'.

Fargo North Dakota  
December 18, 2015

**RED TRAIL ENERGY, LLC**  
**Balance Sheets**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>September 30, 2015</b>	<b>September 30, 2014</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 5,090,662	\$ 21,952,259
Restricted cash	2,179,011	—
Accounts receivable, primarily related party	2,228,150	1,011,411
Other receivables	1,790,770	617,955
Commodities derivative instruments, at fair value	—	3,615,151
Inventory	11,692,322	13,318,724
Prepaid expenses	70,481	107,012
Total current assets	23,051,396	40,622,512
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
Land	836,428	836,428
Land improvements	4,127,372	4,127,372
Buildings	7,807,148	5,498,862
Plant and equipment	82,500,249	77,739,946
Construction in progress	89,453	3,326,725
	95,360,650	91,529,333
Less accumulated depreciation	44,420,567	40,049,818
Net property, plant and equipment	50,940,083	51,479,515
<b>Other Assets</b>		
Debt issuance costs, net of amortization	27,879	45,962
Investment in RPMG	605,000	605,000
Patronage equity	2,902,908	2,865,440
Deposits	40,000	40,000
Total other assets	3,575,787	3,556,402
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$ 77,567,266	\$ 95,658,429

Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this Statement.

**RED TRAIL ENERGY, LLC**  
**Balance Sheets**

<b>LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>September 30, 2015</b>	<b>September 30, 2014</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,676,888	\$ 3,052,375
Accrued expenses	2,946,772	3,167,994
Commodities derivative instruments, at fair value	279,362	—
Accrued loss on firm purchase commitments (see note 4)	61,000	3,270,000
Current maturities of long-term debt	3,976,681	9,266,343
Total current liabilities	<u>9,940,703</u>	<u>18,756,712</u>
<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>		
Notes payable	1,862,246	5,372,713
Contracts payable	—	275,000
Total long-term liabilities	<u>1,862,246</u>	<u>5,647,713</u>
<b>Members' Equity (40,148,160 Class A Membership Units issued and outstanding)</b>	<u>65,764,317</u>	<u>71,254,004</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Members' Equity</b>	<u><u>\$ 77,567,266</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 95,658,429</u></u>

Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this Statement.

**RED TRAIL ENERGY, LLC**  
Statements of Operations

	Twelve-Month Period Ended September 30, 2015	Twelve-Month Period Ended September 30, 2014	Twelve-Month Period Ended September 30, 2013
<b>Revenues, primarily related party</b>	\$ 100,795,412	\$ 139,122,644	\$ 154,790,603
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>			
Cost of goods sold	91,633,726	101,578,180	149,831,987
Lower of cost or market inventory adjustment	304,439	1,199,000	665,300
Loss on firm purchase commitments	46,000	3,270,000	1,091,000
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<u>91,984,165</u>	<u>106,047,180</u>	<u>151,588,287</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	8,811,247	33,075,464	3,202,316
<b>General and Administrative Expenses</b>	<u>2,471,783</u>	<u>2,200,809</u>	<u>2,145,733</u>
<b>Operating Income</b>	6,339,464	30,874,655	1,056,583
<b>Other Income (Expense)</b>			
Interest income	23,911	94,770	61,780
Other income	2,559,077	235,255	456,859
Interest expense	(355,191)	(614,346)	(941,059)
<b>Total other income (expense), net</b>	<u>2,227,797</u>	<u>(284,321)</u>	<u>(422,420)</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>\$ 8,567,261</u>	<u>\$ 30,590,334</u>	<u>\$ 634,163</u>
<b>Weighted Average Units Outstanding</b>			
<b>Basic</b>	<u>40,148,160</u>	<u>40,148,160</u>	<u>40,151,941</u>
<b>Diluted</b>	<u>40,148,160</u>	<u>40,148,160</u>	<u>40,153,201</u>
<b>Net Income Per Unit</b>			
<b>Basic</b>	<u>\$ 0.21</u>	<u>\$ 0.76</u>	<u>\$ 0.02</u>
<b>Diluted</b>	<u>\$ 0.21</u>	<u>\$ 0.76</u>	<u>\$ 0.02</u>

Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this Statement.

**RED TRAIL ENERGY, LLC**  
 Statements of Changes in Members' Equity  
 Twelve-Month Periods Ended September 30, 2015, 2014 and 2013

	<u>Class A Member Units</u>		<u>Additional Paid in Capital</u>	<u>Accumulated Deficit/ Retained Earnings</u>	<u>Treasury Units</u>		<u>Total Member Equity</u>
	<u>Units (a)</u>	<u>Amount</u>			<u>Units</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
<b>Balance - September 30, 2012</b>	40,178,160	\$ 37,810,408	\$ 34,225	\$ 4,396,363	195,813	\$(204,037)	\$ 42,036,959
Unit-based compensation	20,000	—	(22,800)	—	(20,000)	22,800	—
Units repurchased	(50,000)	—	29,800	—	50,000	(29,800)	—
Net Income	—	—	—	634,163	—	—	634,163
<b>Balance - September 30, 2013</b>	40,148,160	37,810,408	41,225	5,030,526	225,813	(211,037)	42,671,122
Units repurchased	—	(85,813)	34,316	—	(85,813)	51,497	—
Distribution	—	—	—	(2,007,452)	—	—	(2,007,452)
Net Income	—	—	—	30,590,334	—	—	30,590,334
<b>Balance - September 30, 2014</b>	40,148,160	37,724,595	75,541	33,613,408	140,000	(159,540)	71,254,004
Distribution	—	—	—	(14,056,947)	—	—	(14,056,947)
Net Income	—	—	—	8,567,261	—	—	8,567,261
<b>Balance - September 30, 2015</b>	<u>40,148,160</u>	<u>\$ 37,724,595</u>	<u>\$ 75,541</u>	<u>\$ 28,123,722</u>	<u>140,000</u>	<u>\$(159,540)</u>	<u>\$ 65,764,318</u>

(a) - Amounts shown represent member units outstanding.

Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this Statement.



**RED TRAIL ENERGY, LLC**

## Statements of Cash Flows

	Twelve-Month Period Ended September 30, 2015	Twelve-Month Period Ended September 30, 2014	Twelve-Month Period Ended September 30, 2013
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
Net income	\$ 8,567,261	\$ 30,590,334	\$ 634,163
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	4,388,831	4,130,927	4,057,965
Loss (gain) on disposal of fixed assets	7,305	—	(22,353)
Change in fair value of derivative instruments	3,894,514	(3,663,789)	228,748
Lower of cost or market inventory adjustment	(304,439)	1,199,000	665,300
Loss on firm purchase commitments	61,000	3,270,000	1,091,000
Noncash patronage equity	(37,468)	(539,799)	(382,415)
Change in operating assets and liabilities:			
Restricted cash - commodities derivatives account including settlements	(2,179,011)	153,210	(146,306)
Accounts receivable	(1,216,739)	2,461,792	(298,385)
Other receivables	(1,172,815)	—	(2,403)
Inventory	1,869,841	(5,598,031)	(295,085)
Prepaid expenses and deposits	36,531	(30,584)	11,095
Other assets	—	1,500	(1,350)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(596,709)	1,590,408	(2,998,722)
Accrued purchase commitment losses	(3,209,000)	3,067,000	203,000
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>10,109,102</b>	<b>36,631,968</b>	<b>2,744,252</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>			
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets	2,100	—	160,950
Capital expenditures	(3,840,723)	(3,399,172)	(999,499)
<b>Net cash (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(3,838,623)</b>	<b>(3,399,172)</b>	<b>(838,549)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>			
Disbursements in excess of bank balances	—	(3,126,883)	1,397,952
Dividends paid	(14,056,947)	(2,007,452)	—
Loan fees	—	—	(11,321)
Net advances on revolving lines-of-credit	—	(3,708,000)	(909,000)
Debt repayments	(9,075,129)	(2,439,202)	(2,383,334)
<b>Net cash (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(23,132,076)</b>	<b>(11,281,537)</b>	<b>(1,905,703)</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Equivalents</b>	<b>(16,861,597)</b>	<b>21,951,259</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Cash and Equivalents - Beginning of Period</b>	<b>21,952,259</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Cash and Equivalents - End of Period</b>	<b>\$ 5,090,662</b>	<b>\$ 21,952,259</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>
<b>Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information</b>			
Interest paid net of swap settlements	376,504	634,752	954,575
<b>Noncash Investing and Financing Activities</b>			
Assets acquired under capital lease	\$ —	\$ 13,247	\$ 81,160
Capital expenditures in accounts payable	\$ 5,000	\$ 724,075	—

Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this Statement.

**RED TRAIL ENERGY, LLC**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 and 2014**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

*Nature of Business*

Red Trail Energy, LLC, a North Dakota limited liability company (the "Company"), owns and operates a 50 million gallon annual name-plate production ethanol plant near Richardton, North Dakota (the "Plant"). The plant commenced production on January 1, 2007. Fuel grade ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil are the Company's primary products. All products are marketed and sold primarily within the continental United States.

*Accounting Estimates*

Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing these financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities and the reported revenues and expenses. Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include the useful lives of property, plant and equipment, inventory and allowance for doubtful accounts. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

*Cash and Equivalents*

The Company considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with an initial maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The carrying value of cash and equivalents approximates fair value.

*Accounts Receivable and Concentration of Credit Risk*

The Company generates accounts receivable from sales of ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil. The Company has entered into agreements with RPMG, Inc. ("RPMG") for the marketing and distribution of the Company's ethanol, corn oil and dried distiller's grains. Under the terms of the marketing agreement, RPMG bears the risk of loss of nonpayment by their customers. The Company markets its modified distiller's grains internally.

For sales of modified distiller's grains, credit is extended based on evaluation of a customer's financial condition and collateral is not required. Accounts receivable are due 30 days from the invoice date. Accounts outstanding longer than the contractual payment terms are considered past due. Internal follow up procedures are followed accordingly. Interest is charged on past due accounts.

All receivables are stated at amounts due from customers net of any allowance for doubtful accounts. The Company determines its allowance by considering a number of factors, including the length of time trade accounts receivable are past due, the Company's previous loss history, the customer's perceived current ability to pay its obligation to the Company, and the condition of the general economy and the industry as a whole. The Company writes off accounts receivable when they become uncollectible, and payments subsequently received on such receivables are credited to the allowance for doubtful accounts. The Company has an allowance for doubtful accounts of approximately \$278,123 and \$72,880 at September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

*Inventory*

Corn is the primary raw material and, along with other raw materials and supplies, is stated at the lower of cost or market on a first-in, first-out (FIFO) basis. Work in process and finished goods, which consists of ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil produced, is stated at the lower of average cost or market. Spare parts inventory is valued at lower of cost or market on a FIFO basis.

*Patronage Equity*

The Company receives, from certain vendors organized as cooperatives, patronage dividends, which are based on several criteria, including the vendor's overall profitability and the Company's purchases from the vendor. Patronage equity typically represents the Company's share of the vendor's undistributed current earnings which will be paid in either cash or equity interests to the Company at a future date. Investments in cooperatives are stated at cost, plus unredeemed patronage refunds received in the form of capital stock and are included in Other Assets on the Company's balance sheet.

**RED TRAIL ENERGY, LLC**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 and 2014**

*Derivative Instruments*

The Company enters into derivative transactions to hedge its exposure to commodity and interest rate price fluctuations. The Company is required to record these derivatives in the balance sheet at fair value.

In order for a derivative to qualify as a hedge, specific criteria must be met and appropriate documentation maintained. Gains and losses from derivatives that do not qualify as hedges, or are undesignated, must be recognized immediately in earnings. If the derivative does qualify as a hedge, depending on the nature of the hedge, changes in the fair value of the derivative will be either offset against the change in fair value of the hedged assets, liabilities, or firm commitments through earnings or recognized in other comprehensive income until the hedged item is recognized in earnings. Changes in the fair value of undesignated derivatives related to corn are recorded in costs of goods sold within the statements of operations. Changes in the fair value of undesignated derivatives related to ethanol are recorded in revenue within the statements of operations. Changes of fair value of undesignated interest rate swaps are recorded in interest expense within the statement of operations.

Additionally the Company is required to evaluate its contracts to determine whether the contracts are derivatives. Certain contracts that literally meet the definition of a derivative may be exempted as "normal purchases or normal sales." Normal purchases and normal sales are contracts that provide for the purchase or sale of something other than a financial instrument or derivative instrument that will be delivered in quantities expected to be used or sold over a reasonable period in the normal course of business. Certain corn, ethanol and distiller's grain contracts that meet the requirement of normal purchases or sales are documented as normal and exempted from the accounting and reporting requirements, and therefore, are not marked to market in our financial statements.

*Firm Purchase Commitments*

The Company typically enters into fixed price contracts to purchase corn to ensure an adequate supply of corn to operate its plant. The Company will generally seek to use exchange traded futures, options or swaps as an offsetting economic hedge position. The Company closely monitors the number of bushels hedged using this strategy to avoid an unacceptable level of margin exposure. Contract prices are analyzed by management at each period end and, if necessary, valued at the lower of cost or market in the balance sheets.

*Allowance for Doubtful Accounts*

Management's estimate of the Allowance for Doubtful Accounts is based on management's estimate of the collectability of identified receivables, as well as the aging of customer accounts.

*Revenue Recognition*

The Company generally sells ethanol and related products pursuant to marketing agreements. Revenues are recognized when the customer has taken title, which occurs when the product is shipped, has assumed the risks and rewards of ownership, prices are fixed or determinable and collectability is reasonably assured.

Revenues are shown net of any fees incurred under the terms of the Company's agreements for the marketing and sale of ethanol and related products.

*Long-lived Assets*

Property, plant, and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation is provided over estimated useful lives by use of the straight line method. Maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. Major improvements and betterments are capitalized. The present values of capital lease obligations are classified as long-term debt and the related assets are included in property, plant and equipment. Amortization of equipment under capital leases is included in depreciation expense.

Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

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	<b>Minimum Years</b>	<b>Maximum Years</b>
Land improvements	15	30
Buildings	10	40
Plant and equipment	7	40

Long-lived assets, such as property, plant, and equipment, and purchased intangible assets subject to amortization, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. If circumstances require a long-lived asset be tested for possible impairment, the Company first compares undiscounted cash flows expected to be generated by an asset to the carrying value of the asset. If the carrying value of the long-lived asset is not recoverable on an undiscounted cash flow basis, impairment is recognized to the extent that the carrying value exceeds its fair value. Fair value is determined through various valuation techniques including, but not limited to, discounted cash flow models, quoted market values and third-party independent appraisals.

#### Fair Value Measurements

The Company has adopted guidance for accounting for fair value measurements of financial assets and financial liabilities and for fair value measurements of nonfinancial items that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis. The Company has adopted guidance for fair value measurement related to nonfinancial items that are recognized and disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a nonrecurring basis. The guidance establishes 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 measurements involving significant unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements).

The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

- Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.
- Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which a fair measurement in its entirety falls is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

Except for those assets and liabilities which are required by authoritative accounting guidance to be recorded at fair value in our balance sheets, the Company has elected not to record any other assets or liabilities at fair value. No events occurred during the fiscal years ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 that required adjustment to the recognized balances of assets or liabilities, which are recorded at fair value on a nonrecurring basis.

#### Grants

The Company recognizes grant proceeds as other income for reimbursement of expenses incurred upon complying with the conditions of the grant. For reimbursements of capital expenditures, the grants are recognized as a reduction of the basis of the asset upon complying with the conditions of the grant. In addition, the Company considers production incentive payments received to be economic grants and includes such amounts in other income when received, as this represents the point at which they are fixed and determinable.

#### Shipping and Handling

The cost of shipping products to customers is included in cost of goods sold. Amounts billed to a customer in a sale transaction related to shipping and handling is classified as revenue.

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Income Taxes

The Company is treated as a partnership for federal and state income tax purposes and generally does not incur income taxes. Instead, its earnings and losses are included in the income tax returns of the members. Therefore, no provision or liability for federal or state income taxes has been included in these financial statements.

Differences between financial statement basis of assets and tax basis of assets is primarily related to depreciation, derivatives, inventory, compensation and capitalization and amortization of organization and start-up costs for tax purposes, whereas these costs are expensed for financial statement purposes.

The Company has evaluated whether it has any significant tax uncertainties that would require recognition or disclosure. Primarily due to its partnership tax status, the Company does not have any significant tax uncertainties that would require recognition or disclosure. The Company's policy is to recognize interest expense and penalties related to uncertain tax positions within its provision for income taxes.

The Company files income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and various states. The Company is no longer subject to income tax examinations by U.S. federal tax authorities or the states where the Company files tax returns for tax years ended on or prior to September 30, 2012.

Net Income (Loss) Per Unit

Net income (loss) per unit is calculated on a basic and fully diluted basis using the weighted average units outstanding during the period.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

Revenue from Contracts with Customers

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-09, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers" which supersedes the guidance in "Revenue Recognition (Topic 605)" and requires entities to recognize revenue in a way that depicts the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services. ASU 2014-09 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within that reporting period and is to be applied retrospectively, with early application not permitted. We are evaluating the new standard, but do not at this time expect this standard to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

Environmental Liabilities

The Company's operations are subject to environmental laws and regulations adopted by various governmental entities in the jurisdiction in which it operates. These laws require the Company to investigate and remediate the effects of the release or disposal of materials at its location. Accordingly, the Company has adopted policies, practices and procedures in the areas of pollution control, occupational health and the production, handling, storage and use of hazardous materials to prevent material, environmental or other damage, and to limit the financial liability which could result from such events. Environmental liabilities, if any, are recorded when the liability is probable and the costs can reasonably be estimated. The Company is not aware of any environmental liabilities identified as of September 30, 2015.

**2. CONCENTRATIONS**

Coal and Natural Gas

Coal was an important input to our manufacturing process. During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015, we used approximately 24,000 tons of coal. We have entered into a one year agreement with Westmoreland Coal Sales Company ("Westmoreland") to supply PRB coal through December 2015. During the second quarter of our 2015 fiscal year we converted the energy source for our ethanol plant to natural gas. The Company signed a sales agreement with Rainbow Gas Company to supply natural gas to the

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plant through October 2015. The Company's intentions are to run the plant on natural gas and renew the supply agreement with its current natural gas supplier.

*Sales*

We are substantially dependent upon RPMG for the purchase, marketing and distribution of our ethanol, DDGS and corn oil. RPMG purchases 100% of the ethanol, DDGS and corn oil produced at our plant, all of which is marketed and distributed to its customers. Therefore, we are highly dependent on RPMG for the successful marketing of our ethanol, DDGS and corn oil. In the event that our relationship with RPMG is interrupted or terminated for any reason, we believe that we could locate another entity to market the ethanol, DDGS and corn oil. However, any interruption or termination of this relationship could temporarily disrupt the sale and production of ethanol, DDGS and corn oil and adversely affect our business and operations and potentially result in a higher cost to the Company. Amounts due from RPMG represent approximately 69% and 59% of the Company's outstanding trade receivables balance at September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Approximately 96%, 97%, and 79% of revenues are comprised of sales to RPMG for the year ended September 30, 2015, the year ended September 30, 2014 and the year ended September 30, 2013, respectively.

**3. DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS**

*Commodity Contracts*

As part of its hedging strategy, the Company may enter into ethanol, soybean oil, and corn commodity-based derivatives in order to protect cash flows from fluctuations caused by volatility in commodity prices in order to protect gross profit margins from potentially adverse effects of market and price volatility on ethanol sales, corn oil sales, and corn purchase commitments where the prices are set at a future date. These derivatives are not designated as effective hedges for accounting purposes. For derivative instruments that are not accounted for as hedges, or for the ineffective portions of qualifying hedges, the change in fair value is recorded through earnings in the period of change. Ethanol derivative and soybean oil derivative fair market value gains or losses are included in the results of operations and are classified as revenue and corn derivative changes in fair market value are included in cost of goods sold.

<b>As of:</b>	<b>September 30, 2015</b>				<b>September 30, 2014</b>			
<b>Contract Type</b>	<b># of Contracts</b>	<b>Notional Amount (Qty)</b>		<b>Fair Value</b>	<b># of Contracts</b>	<b>Notional Amount (Qty)</b>		<b>Fair Value</b>
Corn futures	638	3,190,000	bushels	\$ (67,787)	1,377	6,885,000	bushels	\$ 7,162,638
Corn options	500	2,500,000	bushels	\$ (196,875)	250	1,250,000	bushels	\$ (745,313)
Soybean oil options	—	—	gal	\$ —	200	1,000,000	gal	\$ 2,618,750
Soybean oil futures	10	420,000	gal	\$ (14,700)	77	46,200	gal	\$ 370,446
Ethanol futures	—	—	gal	\$ —	90	3,780,000	gal	\$ 506,436
<b>Total fair value</b>				<b>\$ (279,362)</b>				<b>\$ 9,912,957</b>

The following tables provide details regarding the Company's derivative financial instruments at September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2014:



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**Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments:**

<b>Balance Sheet - as of September 30, 2015</b>	<b>Asset</b>	<b>Liability</b>
Commodity derivative instruments, at fair value	\$ —	\$ 279,362
<b>Total derivatives not designated as hedging instruments for accounting purposes</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 279,362</b>

<b>Balance Sheet - as of September 30, 2014</b>	<b>Asset</b>	<b>Liability</b>
Commodity derivative instruments, at fair value	\$ 3,615,151	\$ —
<b>Total derivatives not designated as hedging instruments for accounting purposes</b>	<b>\$ 3,615,151</b>	<b>\$ —</b>

<b>Statement of Operations Income/ (expense)</b>	<b>Location of gain (loss) in fair value recognized in income</b>	<b>Amount of gain (loss) recognized in income during the year ended September 30, 2015</b>	<b>Amount of gain (loss) recognized in income during the year ended September 30, 2014</b>	<b>Amount of gain (loss) recognized in income during the year ended September 30, 2013</b>
Corn derivative instruments	Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 39,250	\$ 8,642,639	\$ 778,559
Ethanol derivative instruments	Revenue	(274,512)	(7,938,101)	—
Soybean oil derivative instruments	Revenue	(875,961)	2,957,823	—
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ (1,111,223)</b>	<b>\$ 3,662,361</b>	<b>\$ 778,559</b>

**4. INVENTORY**

Inventory is valued at lower of cost or market. Inventory values as of September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2014 were as follows:

<b>As of</b>	<b>September 30, 2015</b>	<b>September 30, 2014</b>
Raw materials, including corn, chemicals and supplies	\$ 8,237,494	\$ 9,962,057
Work in process	862,327	893,141
Finished goods, including ethanol and distillers grains	649,524	661,159
Spare parts	1,942,977	1,802,367
<b>Total inventory</b>	<b>\$ 11,692,322</b>	<b>\$ 13,318,724</b>

Lower of cost or market adjustments for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2015, and 2014 and 2013 were as follows:

	<b>For the year ended September 30, 2015</b>	<b>For the year ended September 30, 2014</b>	<b>For the year ended September 30, 2013</b>
Loss on firm purchase commitments	\$ 46,000	\$ 3,270,000	\$ 1,091,000
Loss on lower of cost or market adjustment for inventory on hand	304,439	1,199,000	665,300
<b>Total loss on lower of cost or market adjustments</b>	<b>\$ 350,439</b>	<b>\$ 4,469,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,756,300</b>

The Company has entered into forward corn purchase contracts under which it is required to take delivery at the contract price. At the time the contracts were created, the price of the contract approximated market price. Subsequent changes in market conditions could cause the contract prices to become higher or lower than market prices. As of September 30, 2015, the average price of corn purchased under certain fixed price contracts, that had not yet been delivered, was greater than approximated market price. Based on this information, the Company has an estimated loss on firm purchase commitments of \$46,000 and \$3,270,000 for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The loss is recorded in "Loss on firm purchase commitments" on the

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statements of operations. The amount of the loss was determined by applying a methodology similar to that used in the impairment valuation with respect to inventory. Given the uncertainty of future ethanol prices, this loss may or may not be recovered, and further losses on the outstanding purchase commitments could be recorded in future periods.

The Company recorded inventory valuation impairments of \$304,439 and \$1,199,000 for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The impairments, as applicable, were attributable primarily to decreases in market prices of corn and ethanol. The inventory valuation impairment was recorded in “Lower of cost or market adjustment” on the statements of operations.

**5. BANK FINANCING**

<b>As of</b>	<b>September 30, 2015</b>	<b>September 30, 2014</b>
Long-term notes payable under loan agreement to bank	\$ 5,807,253	\$ 14,579,000
Capital lease obligations (Note 7)	31,674	60,056
<b>Total Long-Term Debt</b>	<b>5,838,927</b>	<b>14,639,056</b>
Less amounts due within one year	3,976,681	9,266,343
<b>Total Long-Term Debt Less Amounts Due Within One Year</b>	<b>\$ 1,862,246</b>	<b>\$ 5,372,713</b>

The Company's notes payable consist of a term loan. As of September 30, 2015, the fixed interest rate on the term loan was 4.96%. This loan matures on March 20, 2020.

The Company also has a \$10,000,000 operating line-of-credit that matures on March 20, 2016. At September 30, 2015, the Company had \$0 drawn on this line-of-credit leaving a balance of \$10,000,000 available. The variable interest rate was 3.20% for amounts drawn on the operating line of credit.

The Company's loans are secured by a lien on substantially all of the assets of the Company.

<b>Scheduled debt maturities for the twelve months ending September 30</b>	<b>Totals</b>
2016	\$ 3,976,681
2017	1,171,172
2018	688,153
2019	2,921
2020	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,838,927</b>

As of September 30, 2015, the Company was in compliance with all of its debt covenants.

<b>Interest Expense</b>	<b>For the year ended September 30, 2015</b>	<b>For the year ended September 30, 2014</b>	<b>For the year ended September 30, 2013</b>
Interest expense on long-term debt	\$ 355,191	\$ 614,346	\$ 941,059
Total interest expense	<b>\$ 355,191</b>	<b>\$ 614,346</b>	<b>\$ 941,059</b>

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**6. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

The following table provides information on those assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2014, respectively.

	Carrying Amount as of September 30, 2015	Fair Value as of September 30, 2015	Fair Value Measurement Using		
			Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Commodities derivative instruments	\$ 279,362	\$ 279,362	\$ 279,362	\$ —	\$ —
<b>Assets</b>					
	Carrying Amount as of September 30, 2014	Fair Value as of September 30, 2014	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Commodities derivative instruments	\$ 3,615,151	\$ 3,615,151	\$ 3,615,151	\$ —	\$ —

The fair value of the corn, ethanol and soybean oil derivative instruments is based on quoted market prices in an active market.

*Financial Instruments Not Measured at Fair Value*

The estimated fair value of the Company's long-term debt, including the short-term portion, at September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2014 approximated the carrying value of approximately \$5.8 million and \$14.6 million, respectively. Fair value was estimated using estimated variable market interest rates as of September 30, 2015. The fair values and carrying values consider the terms of the related debt and exclude the impacts of debt discounts and derivative/hedging activity.

**7. LEASES**

The Company leases equipment under operating and capital leases through January 2020. The Company is generally responsible for maintenance, taxes, and utilities for leased equipment. Equipment under operating lease includes a locomotive and rail cars. Rent expense for operating leases was approximately \$494,000 for the year ended September 30, 2015, \$527,000 for the year ended September 30, 2014 and \$503,000 for the year ended September 30, 2013. Equipment under capital leases consists of office equipment and plant equipment.

Equipment under capital leases is as follows at:

As of	September 30, 2015	September 30, 2014
Equipment	\$ 564,648	\$ 564,648
Less accumulated amortization	(111,604)	(73,906)
Net equipment under capital lease	\$ 453,044	\$ 490,742

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At September 30, 2015, the Company had the following minimum commitments, which at inception had non-cancelable terms of more than one year. Amounts shown below are for the 12 months period ending September 30:

	<u>Operating Leases</u>	<u>Capital Leases</u>
2016	\$ 307,036	\$ 23,539
2017	208,920	2,597
2018	136,840	2,617
2019	100,800	2,921
2020	33,600	—
Thereafter	—	—
Total minimum lease commitments	<u>\$ 787,196</u>	<u>31,674</u>
Less amount representing interest		—
Present value of minimum lease commitments included in current maturities of long-term debt on the balance sheet		<u>\$ 31,674</u>

## 8. MEMBERS' EQUITY

The Company has one class of membership units outstanding (Class A) with each unit representing a pro rata ownership interest in the Company's capital, profits, losses and distributions. As of September 30, 2015 and 2014 there were 40,148,160 and 40,148,160 units issued and outstanding, respectively. The Company held a total of 140,000 and 140,000 treasury units as of September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Total units authorized are 40,373,973 as of September 30, 2015 and 2014.

## 9. GRANTS

In 2006, the Company entered into a contract with the State of North Dakota through the Industrial Commission for a lignite coal grant not to exceed \$350,000. The Company received \$275,000 from this grant during 2006 with this amount shown in the liability section of the Company's Balance Sheet as Contracts Payable. Because the Company had not met the minimum lignite usage requirements specified in the grant for any year in which the plant has operated, the Company repaid the grant during the third quarter of their 2015 fiscal year.

The Company has entered into an agreement with Job Service North Dakota for a new jobs training program. This program provides incentives to businesses that are creating new employment opportunities through business expansion and relocation to the state. The program provides no-cost funding to help offset the cost of training. The Company is eligible to receive up to approximately \$270,000 over ten years. The Company received and earned approximately \$0, \$9,300 and \$39,000 for the years ended September 30, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.

The Company received a safety grant from North Dakota Workforce Safety and Insurance during their 2014 fiscal year for \$20,000. The grant was used to install platforms in the energy building.

## 10. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

### Firm Purchase Commitments for Corn

To ensure an adequate supply of corn to operate the Plant, the Company enters into contracts to purchase corn from local farmers and elevators. At September 30, 2015, the Company had various fixed price contracts for the purchase of approximately 2.3 million bushels of corn. Using the stated contract price for the fixed price contracts, the Company had commitments of approximately \$8.6 million related to the 2.3 million bushels under contract.

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**11. DEFINED CONTRIBUTION RETIREMENT PLAN**

The Company established a 401k retirement plan for its employees effective January 1, 2011. The Company matches employee contributions to the plan up to 4% of employee's gross income. The Company contributed approximately \$99,000, \$86,000, and \$73,000 to the 401k plan for the years ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, and 2013, respectively.

**12. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Company has balances and transactions in the normal course of business with various related parties for the purchase of corn, sale of distillers grains and sale of ethanol. The related parties include unit holders, members of the board of governors of the Company, and RPMG, Inc. ("RPMG"). Significant related party activity affecting the financial statements is as follows:

	September 30, 2015	September 30, 2014
<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
Accounts receivable	\$ 2,783,821	\$ 1,476,130
Accounts payable	402,732	482,046

	For the twelve months ended September 30, 2015	For the twelve months ended September 30, 2014	For the twelve months ended September 30, 2013
<b>Statement of Operations</b>			
Revenues	\$ 98,635,060	\$ 136,922,512	\$ 128,293,885
Realized gain on corn hedge	925,400	827,500	—
Cost of goods sold	100,814	1,470,961	3,058,668
General and administrative	78,565	78,884	101,506
Other income /expense	1,190,501	—	—
<b>Inventory Purchases</b>	\$ 13,377,243	\$ 11,397,236	\$ 28,905,391

**13. INCOME TAXES**

As of September 30, 2015, the book basis of assets exceeded the estimated tax basis of assets by approximately \$44.1 million and as of September 30, 2014, the book basis of assets exceeded the estimated tax basis of assets by approximately \$48.4 million. As of September 30, 2015, there was no difference between the book basis of liabilities and the estimated tax basis of liabilities. As of September 30, 2014, there was no difference between the book basis of liabilities and the estimated tax basis of liabilities.

**14. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Management evaluated all other activity of the Company and concluded that no subsequent events have occurred that would require recognition in the financial statements or disclosure in the notes to the financial statements.

**15. UNCERTAINTIES IMPACTING THE ETHANOL INDUSTRY AND OUR FUTURE OPERATIONS**

The Company has certain risks and uncertainties that it experiences during volatile market conditions, which can have a severe impact on operations. The Company's revenues are derived from the sale and distribution of ethanol and distillers grains to customers primarily located in the United States. Corn for the production process is supplied to the plant primarily from local agricultural producers and from purchases on the open market. The Company's operating and financial performance is largely driven by prices at which the Company sells ethanol and distillers grains and by the cost at which it is able to purchase corn for operations. The price of ethanol is influenced by factors such as prices, supply and demand, weather, government policies and programs, and unleaded gasoline and the petroleum markets, although since 2005 the prices of ethanol and gasoline began a divergence with ethanol selling for less than gasoline at the wholesale level. Excess ethanol supply in the market, in particular, puts downward pressure on the price of ethanol. The Company's largest cost of production is corn. The cost of corn is generally impacted by

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factors such as supply and demand, weather, government policies and programs. The Company's risk management program is used to protect against the price volatility of these commodities.

The Company's financial performance is highly dependent on the Federal Renewable Fuels Standard ("RFS") which requires that a certain amount of renewable fuels must be used each year in the United States. Corn based ethanol, such as the ethanol the Company produces, can be used to meet a portion of the RFS requirement. In November 2013, the EPA issued a proposed rule which would reduce the RFS for 2014, including the RFS requirement related to corn based ethanol. The EPA proposed rule was subject to a comment period which expired in January 2014. The EPA released its final proposed rule for the RFS on May 29, 2015 which reduced the ethanol use requirement for 2014, 2015 and 2016 for corn-based ethanol. On November 30, 2015, the EPA released its final ethanol use requirements for 2014, 2015 and 2016 which are lower than the statutory requirements in the RFS which could have a significant negative impact on the Company's financial performance.

The Company anticipates that the results of operations during fiscal 2016 will be affected by volatility in the commodity markets. The volatility is due to various factors, including uncertainty with respect to the availability and supply of corn, increased demand for grain from global and national markets, speculation in the commodity markets, demand for corn from the ethanol industry and drought conditions currently being experienced by much of the United States.

#### 16. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (UNAUDITED)

Summary quarter results are as follows:

<b>Year Ended September 30, 2015</b>	<b>First Quarter</b>	<b>Second Quarter</b>	<b>Third Quarter</b>	<b>Fourth Quarter</b>
Revenues	\$ 29,612,851	\$ 16,991,326	\$ 28,571,787	\$ 25,635,027
Gross profit	1,831,271	1,544,009	274,491	5,177,055
Operating income	1,286,504	955,723	(196,778)	4,309,594
Net income	1,173,920	2,147,814	11,987	5,233,540
Net income per unit-basic and diluted	0.03	0.05	—	0.13

<b>Year Ended September 30, 2014</b>	<b>First Quarter</b>	<b>Second Quarter</b>	<b>Third Quarter</b>	<b>Fourth Quarter</b>
Revenues	\$ 33,785,964	\$ 41,922,206	\$ 35,011,137	\$ 28,403,337
Gross profit	4,622,659	4,214,753	16,607,117	7,630,935
Operating income	4,151,572	3,648,169	16,089,431	6,985,483
Net income	4,067,720	3,538,555	15,975,873	7,008,186
Net income per unit-basic and diluted	0.10	0.09	0.40	0.17

<b>Year Ended September 30, 2013</b>	<b>First Quarter</b>	<b>Second Quarter</b>	<b>Third Quarter</b>	<b>Fourth Quarter</b>
Revenues	\$ 42,258,878	\$ 37,514,330	\$ 43,669,509	\$ 31,365,622
Gross profit (loss)	547,252	2,545,703	1,461,626	(1,334,529)
Operating income (loss)	21,005	2,007,135	965,239	(1,919,060)
Net income (loss)	(171,309)	1,790,968	749,392	(1,734,888)
Net income (loss) per unit-basic and diluted	—	0.04	0.02	(0.04)

The above quarterly financial data is unaudited, but in the opinion of management, all material adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of the selected data for these periods presented have been included.



**ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

None.

**ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

The Company has established disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in reports filed or submitted under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the Securities and Exchange Commission and, as such, is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including our Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"), Gerald Bachmeier, and Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"), Jodi Johnson, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Management, together with our CEO and CFO, evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) of the Exchange Act, as of September 30, 2015. Based on their evaluation, the CEO and CFO concluded that, due to a material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting as described below, our disclosure controls and procedures were not effective as of September 30, 2015. In light of the material weakness in internal control over financial reporting, we completed substantive procedures prior to filing this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

These additional procedures have allowed us to conclude that, notwithstanding the material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting, the consolidated financial statements included in this report fairly present, in all material respects, the Company's financial position, results of operations and cash flows for the periods presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

The Company's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f). Internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including the CEO and CFO, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of September 30, 2015 based upon Internal Control-Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO").

A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Company's annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis.

As of September 30, 2015, we did not maintain effective monitoring and oversight of controls over the month-end payables accrual. Specifically, there were errors in the reconciliation of the accrual for unpaid corn scale tickets at September 30th. These errors resulted in adjustments to our financial statements as of and for the year ended September 30, 2015.

The errors arising from the underlying deficiency are not material to the financial statements reported in any interim or annual period and therefore, did not result in a revision to previously filed financial statements. However, this control deficiency could result in misstatements of the aforementioned accounts and disclosures that would result in a material misstatement to the annual or interim consolidated financial statements that would not be prevented or detected in a timely manner. Accordingly, we have determined that this control deficiency constitutes a material weakness.

Because of this material weakness, management concluded that we did not maintain effective internal control over financial reporting as of September 30, 2015, based on criteria described in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013) issued by COSO.

This annual report does not include an attestation report of our registered public accounting firm regarding internal control over financial reporting. As we are a non-accelerated filer, management's report is not subject to attestation by our registered public accounting firm pursuant to Section 404(c) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 that permits us to provide only management's report in this annual report.

### **Remediation of the Material Weakness**

The Company is evaluating the material weakness and developing a plan of remediation to strengthen our overall internal control. The remediation plan will include the following actions:

- A review and updating of month-end standard operating procedures.
- An additional step was added to review that all items are posted prior to running the month-end report.
- An additional step was added for the Controller or CFO to perform an additional review of the report that is printed by the accounts payable clerk.
- Lastly there was a review and updating of the daily operating procedures to ensure all batches from the prior day are posted at the beginning of each day.

The Company is committed to maintaining a strong internal control environment and believes that these remediation efforts will represent significant improvements in our controls. The Company has started to implement these steps. Additional controls may also be required over time. Until the remediation steps set forth above are fully implemented and tested, the material weakness described above will continue to exist.

### **Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended September 30, 2015, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

### **Inherent Limitations on Effectiveness of Controls**

The Company's management, including the Company's CEO and CFO, does not expect that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures or the Company's internal control over financial reporting will prevent or detect all error and all fraud. A control system, regardless of how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system will be met. These inherent limitations include the following:

- Judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and control and process breakdowns can occur because of simple errors or mistakes.
- Controls can be circumvented by individuals, acting alone or in collusion with each other, or by management override.
- The design of any system of controls is based in part on certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions.
- Over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or deterioration in the degree of compliance with policies or procedures.

Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, have been detected.

### **ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION**

None.

### **PART III**

#### **ITEM 10. GOVERNOR, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The information required by this Item is incorporated by reference in the definitive proxy statement from our 2016 Annual Meeting of Members to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days of our 2015 fiscal year end. This proxy statement is referred to in this report as the "2016 Proxy Statement."

#### **ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.**

The information required by this Item is incorporated by reference to the 2016 Proxy Statement.

#### **ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED MEMBER MATTERS.**

The information required by this Item is incorporated by reference to the 2016 Proxy Statement.

#### **ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND GOVERNOR INDEPENDENCE**

The information required by this Item is incorporated by reference to the 2016 Proxy Statement.

#### **ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES.**

The information required by this Item is incorporated by reference to the 2016 Proxy Statement.

### **PART IV**

#### **ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES.**

##### **Exhibits Filed as Part of this Report and Exhibits Incorporated by Reference.**

The following exhibits and financial statements are filed as part of, or are incorporated by reference into, this report:

(1) **Financial Statements**

The financial statements appear beginning at page 32 of this report.

(2) **Financial Statement Schedules**

All supplemental schedules are omitted as the required information is inapplicable or the information is presented in the financial statements or related notes.

(3) **Exhibits**

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Filed Herewith</u>	<u>Incorporated by Reference</u>
3.1	Articles of Organization, as filed with the North Dakota Secretary of State on July 16, 2003.		Filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the registrant's registration statement on Form 10-12G (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
3.2	Amended and Restated Operating Agreement of Red Trail Energy, LLC.		Filed as exhibit 3.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K on August 6, 2008. (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
4.1	Membership Unit Certificate Specimen.		Filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the registrant's registration statement on Form 10-12G (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
4.2	Member Control Agreement of Red Trail Energy, LLC.		Filed as Exhibit 4.2 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006. (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.1	The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company Lease of Land for Construction/ Rehabilitation of Track made as of May 12, 2003 by and between The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company and Red Trail Energy, LLC.		Filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant's registration statement on Form 10-12G (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.2	Agreement for Electric Service made the dated August 18, 2005, by and between West Plains Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Red Trail Energy, LLC.		Filed as Exhibit 10.10 to the registrant's registration statement on Form 10-12G (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.3	Lump Sum Design-Build Agreement between Red Trail Energy, LLC, and Fagen, Inc. dated August 29, 2005.		Filed as Exhibit 10.12 to the registrant's registration statement on Form 10-12G/A-3 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.4	License Agreement between Red Trail Energy, LLC and ICM, Inc. dated September 9, 2005.		Filed as Exhibit 10.12 at Exhibit D to the registrant's registration statement on Form 10-12G/A-3 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.5	Security Agreement and Deposit Account Control Agreement made December 16, 2005, by and among First National Bank of Omaha, Red Trail Energy, LLC, and Bank of North Dakota.		Filed as Exhibit 10.19 to the registrant's registration statement on Form 10-12G (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.6	Security Agreement given as of December 16, 2005, by Red Trail Energy, LLC, to First National Bank of Omaha.		Filed as Exhibit 10.20 to the registrant's registration statement on Form 10-12G (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.7	Control Agreement Regarding Security Interest in Investment Property, made as of December 16, 2005, by and between First National Bank of Omaha, Red Trail Energy, LLC, and First National Capital Markets, Inc.		Filed as Exhibit 10.21 to the registrant's registration statement on Form 10-12G (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.8	Southwest Pipeline Project Raw Water Service Contract, executed by Red Trail Energy, LLC, on March 8, 2006, by the Secretary of the North Dakota State Water Commission on March 31, 2006, and by the Chairman of the Southwest Water Authority on April 2, 2006.		Filed as Exhibit 10.28 to the registrant's registration statement on Form 10-12G (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.9	Contract dated April 26, 2006, by and between the North Dakota Industrial Commission and Red Trail Energy, LLC.		Filed as Exhibit 10.29 to the registrant's second amended registration statement on Form 10-12G/A (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.10	Subordination Agreement, dated May 16, 2006, among the State of North Dakota, by and through its Industrial Commission, First National Bank and Red Trail Energy, LLC.		Filed as Exhibit 10.30 to the registrant's second amended registration statement on Form 10-12G/A (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.11	Firm Gas Service Extension Agreement, dated June 7, 2006, by and between Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Red Trail Energy, LLC.		Filed as Exhibit 10.31 to the registrant's second amended registration statement on Form 10-12G/A (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.

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10.12	Security Agreement and Deposit Account Control Agreement effective August 16, 2006 by and among First National Bank of Omaha and Red Trail Energy, LLC.	Filed as Exhibit 10.34 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006. (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.13	Option to Purchase 200,000 Class A Membership Units of Red Trail Energy, LLC by Red Trail Energy, LLC from North Dakota Development Fund and Stark County dated December 11, 2006.	Filed as Exhibit 10.36 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006. (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.14	Audit Committee Charter adopted April 9, 2007.	Filed as Exhibit 10.37 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006. (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.15	Senior Financial Officer Code of Conduct adopted March 28, 2007.	Filed as Exhibit 10.38 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006. (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.16	Member Ethanol Fuel Marketing agreement by and between Red Trail Energy, LLC and RPMG, Inc dated January 1, 2008.	Filed as Exhibit 10.41 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.17	Contribution Agreement by and between Red Trail Energy, LLC and Renewable Products Marketing Group, LLC dated January 1, 2008.	Filed as Exhibit 10.42 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.18	Distillers Grain Marketing Agreement by and between Red Trail Energy, LLC and CHS, Inc dated March 10, 2008.	Filed as Exhibit 10.44 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.19	Assignment and Assumption Agreement dated April 1, 2008, by and between Commodity Specialist Company and Red Trail Energy, LLC.	Filed as Exhibit 10.1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2008 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.20	Employment Agreement dated August 8, 2008 by and between Red Trail Energy, LLC and Mark Klimpel.	Filed as exhibit 99.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on August 13, 2008 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.21	Amended and Restated Member Control Agreement of Red Trail Energy, LLC.	Filed as exhibit 4.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 1, 2009 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.22	Amended and Restated Management Agreement made and entered into as of September 10, 2009 by and between Red Trail Energy, LLC, and Greenway Consulting, LLC.	Filed as Exhibit 10.2 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2009 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.23	Employment Agreement between Red Trail Energy, LLC and Gerald Bachmeier dated July 8, 2010.	Filed as Exhibit 10.1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2010 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.24	Mediated Settlement Agreement between Red Trail Energy, LLC, Fagen, Inc. and Fagen Engineering, LLC, and ICM, Inc. dated November 8, 2010. +	Filed as Exhibit 99.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 20, 2010 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.25	Letter Agreement between Greenway Consulting, LLC and Red Trail Energy, LLC dated January 13, 2011.	Filed as Exhibit 10.56 to our Current Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.26	First Amended and Restated Revolving Promissory Note dated June 1, 2011 by and between Red Trail Energy, LLC and First National Bank of Omaha.	Filed as Exhibit 99.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 1, 2011 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.27	Equity Grant Agreement between Kent Anderson and Red Trail Energy, LLC dated July 1, 2011.	Filed as Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2011 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.28	Corn Oil Separation System Agreement between Solution Recovery Services, LLC and Red Trail Energy, LLC dated October 6, 2011. +	Filed as Exhibit 10.60 to our Current Report on Form 10-K for the transition period ended September 30, 2011 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.

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10.29	First Amended and Restated Construction Loan Agreement between First National Bank of Omaha and Red Trail Energy, LLC dated April 16, 2012.		Filed as Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.30	Amended and Restated Ethanol Marketing Agreement between RPMG, Inc. and Red Trail Energy, LLC dated August 27, 2012. +		Filed as Exhibit 10.62 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2012 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.31	Member Corn Oil Marketing Agreement between RPMG, Inc. and Red Trail Energy, LLC dated March 21, 2012. +		Filed as Exhibit 10.63 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2012 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.32	First Amendment of First Amended and Restated Construction Loan Agreement between First National Bank of Omaha and Red Trail Energy, LLC dated October 31, 2012.		Filed as Exhibit 10.64 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2012 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.33	Distillers' Grain Marketing Agreement between RPMG, Inc and Red Trail Energy, LLC dated October 1, 2013.+		Filed as Exhibit 10.31 to our Annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2013 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.34	Rainbow Gas Asset Management Agreement, Dated September 3, 2014		Filed as Exhibit 10.32 to our Annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.35	Fourth Amendment of First Amended and Restated Construction Loan Agreement between First National Bank of Omaha and Red Trail Energy, LLC dated March 7, 2015		Filed as Exhibit 10.1 to our Quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 30, 2015 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.36	First Amended and Restated Term Note between First National Bank of Omaha and Red Trail Energy, LLC dated March 20, 2015		Filed as Exhibit 10.2 to our Quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 30, 2015 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.37	Second Amendment of First Amended and Restated Mortgage, Security Agreement, Assignment of Leases and Rents and Fixture Financing Statement between First National Bank of Omaha and Red Trail Energy, LLC dated March 20, 2015		Filed as Exhibit 10.3 to our Quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 30, 2015 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.38	Third Amended and Restated Revolving Credit Note between First National Bank of Omaha and Red Trail Energy, LLC dated March 20, 2015		Filed as Exhibit 10.4 to our Quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 30, 2015 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
10.39	Fifth Amendment of First Amended and Restated Construction Loan Agreement between First National Bank of Omaha and Red Trail Energy, LLC dated March 20, 2015		Filed as Exhibit 10.5 to our Quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 30, 2015 (000-52033) and incorporated by reference herein.
31.1	Certificate Pursuant to 17 CFR 240.13a-14(a)	X	
31.2	Certificate Pursuant to 17 CFR 240.13a-14(a)	X	
32.1	Certificate Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350	X	
32.2	Certificate Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350	X	
101	The following financial information from Red Trail Energy, LLC's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015, formatted in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Condensed Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2015 and 2014, (ii) Statements of Operations for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2015, 2014, and 2013, (iii) Statement of Changes in Members' Equity; (iv) Statements of Cash Flows for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2015, 2014, and 2013, and (v) the Notes to Financial Statements.**		

(+) Confidential Treatment Requested.

(X) Filed herewith.

(\*\*) Furnished herewith



**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 thereunto duly authorized.

**RED TRAIL ENERGY, LLC**

Date: December 18, 2015

/s/ Gerald Bachmeier

Gerald Bachmeier  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: December 18, 2015

/s/ Jodi Johnson

Jodi Johnson  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Date: December 18, 2015

/s/ Gerald Bachmeier

Gerald Bachmeier, Chief Executive Officer and President  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: December 18, 2015

/s/ Jodi Johnson

Jodi Johnson, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: December 18, 2015

/s/ Sid Mauch

Sid Mauch, Chairman and Governor

Date: December 18, 2015

/s/ Anthony Mock

Anthony Mock, Governor

Date: December 18, 2015

/s/ Ambrose Hoff

Ambrose Hoff, Secretary and Governor

Date: December 18, 2015

/s/ Ron Aberle

Ron Aberle, Governor

Date: December 18, 2015

/s/ Mike Appert

Mike Appert, Governor

Date: December 18, 2015

/s/ Frank Kirschenheiter

Frank Kirschenheiter, Governor

Date: December 18, 2015

/s/ William A. Price

William A. Price, Governor