

Green Plains Inc.
Form 8-K
September 05, 2017

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d)

of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

September 5, 2017

GREEN PLAINS INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Iowa

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

001-32924
(Commission file number)

84-1652107
(IRS employer identification no.)

1811 Aksarben Drive, Omaha, Nebraska
(Address of principal executive offices)

68106
(Zip code)

(402) 884-8700

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter). Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangement of Certain Officers.

(b) Green Plains Inc. (the Company) announced today that Jerry Peters will retire as chief financial officer of the Company and Green Plains Partners LP effective September 11, 2017. Mr. Peters will continue to be a member of the board of directors of Green Plains Holdings LLC, the general partner of Green Plains Partners.

(c) Mr. John Neopl, 51, has been appointed as chief financial officer effective September 11, 2017. Mr. Neopl most recently served as chief financial officer of The Gavilon Group, LLC, an agriculture and energy commodities management firm with an extensive global footprint.

Previously, Mr. Neopl held senior financial management positions at ConAgra Foods, Inc., including senior financial officer of ConAgra Trade Group and Commercial Products division as well as assistant corporate controller. Prior to ConAgra, Mr. Neopl was corporate controller at Guarantee Life Companies. He began his career as an auditor with Deloitte & Touche. He is a member of the Creighton University Heider College of Business Dean's Advisory Board, as well as its Accounting Department Advisory Board. In addition, he is on the Board of Directors of Marian High School and Chair of its Finance Committee. Mr. Neopl earned his Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with a major in accounting from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. He is also a certified public accountant (inactive status).

Mr. Neopl will be paid a salary of \$400,000 per year. On September 11, 2017, Mr. Neopl will receive a one-time stock award of \$600,000, which will vest over the next three years. He is eligible to participate in the Company's STIP and LTIP. Both plans are described in the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement filed on March 28, 2017. Under the STIP, his target award is 80%.

Mr. Neopl has no family relationships with any current director or executive officer of the Company, and there are no transactions or proposed transactions to which the Company is a party, or intended to be a party, in which Mr. Neopl has, or will have, a material interest subject to disclosure under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K. Mr. Neopl was not chosen to succeed Mr. Peters as the Company's chief financial officer pursuant to any arrangement or understanding with any other person.

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.

On September 5, 2017, the Company issued a press release announcing this transition, which is included as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits. The following exhibits are filed as part of this report.

Number	Description
10.1	<u>Employment agreement with Mr. Neopl</u>
99.1	<u>Press release, dated September 5, 2017</u>

SIGNATURES

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

Green Plains Inc.

Date: September 5, 2017

By: /s/ Michelle Mapes
Michelle Mapes
EVP - General Counsel and Corporate Secretary