

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This Interim Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") presents management's discussion and analysis of the consolidated financial position of Ceres Global Ag Corp. ("Ceres" or the "Corporation"), the consolidated results of its operations, liquidity and capital resources, business risks and future outlook. This MD&A should be read in conjunction with Ceres' unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements for the three-month periods ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, which are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS").

Riverland Ag Corp. and Riverland Agriculture, Ltd. (collectively, "Riverland Ag") are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Ceres. In discussing the interim results of operations, reference will be made to results on a consolidated basis and to results for Riverland Ag separately.

This MD&A has been prepared as of February 12, 2015. Unless otherwise indicated, all dollar amounts are reported in Canadian dollars ("C\$"). Additional information relating to Ceres, including the Corporation's Annual Information Form for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2014, can be obtained on SEDAR at <a href="https://www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>.

#### FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This interim MD&A contains information that is "forward-looking information", "forward-looking statements" and "future oriented financial information" (collectively herein referred to as "forward-looking statements") within the meaning of applicable securities laws. Forward-looking statements in this document may include, among others, statements regarding future operations and results, anticipated business prospects and financial performance of Ceres and its subsidiaries, expectations or projections about the future, strategies and goals for growth, the action against Ceres initiated by the Scoular Company expected and future cash flows, costs, planned capital expenditures, anticipated capital projects, construction and completion dates, including the plans, costs, timing and capital requirements for the development of the Northgate Commodities Logistics Centre ("NCLC"), operating and financial results, critical accounting estimates and the expected financial and operational consequences of future commitments.

Generally, forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "plans", "expects" or "does not expect", "is expected", "budget", "outlook", "likely", "probably", "going forward", "scheduled", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "anticipates" or "does not anticipate", "believes", "may have implications" or similar words and phrases or statements that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "should", "would", "might", or "will be taken", "occur", or "be achieved". Forward-looking statements in this

document are intended to provide Ceres' shareholders and potential investors with information regarding Ceres and its subsidiaries, including Management's assessment of future financial and operational plans and outlook for Ceres and its subsidiaries.

Forward-looking statements are based on the opinions and estimates of management at the date the information is made, and are based on a number of assumptions and subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. Actual results or events may differ from those predicted in these forward-looking statements. All of the Corporation's forward-looking statements are qualified by the assumptions that are stated or inherent therein, including the assumptions listed below. Although Ceres believes these assumptions are reasonable, this list is not exhaustive of factors that may affect any of the forward-looking statements.

Key assumptions have been made in connection with the forward-looking statements in this interim MD&A. These assumptions include, but are not limited to, the following (in no particular order of importance):

- The expected transition towards more integration in the North American grain commodity markets as a result of the deregulation and privatization of the Canadian Wheat Board, which has effectively dismantled the monopoly in marketing wheat crops in Canada enabling farmers to gain more direct access to open markets;
- Volume and quality of grain held on-farm by producers in North America are expected to increase as a result large old crop carryover inventories and a sizable new crop on the horizon;
- No material change in the regulatory environment in Canada and the United States;
- Supply and demand factors as well as the pricing environment for grains and other agricultural commodities;
- Fluctuation of currency and interest rates;
- General financial conditions for Western Canadian and American agricultural producers;
- Market share that will be achieved by the Corporation;
- The successful regulatory permits and approvals;
- Adequate and timely service from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad at the NCLC;
- The ability of Ceres to successfully build and operate the Northgate grain elevator;
- Ceres and Riverland Ag's ability to successfully defend itself against, or settle, the dispute with The Scoular Company;
- The successful internalization of Ceres' management, processes and procedures;
- Riverland Ag's ability to realize the economic benefits resulting from the synergies with NCLC;
- Riverland Ag's ability to maintain existing customer contracts and relationships;
- Continued compliance by Riverland Ag with its loan covenants; and
- The ability of Stewart Southern Railway Inc. to continue its growth in grain and oil shipments by rail, without service disruption.

The preceding list is not exhaustive of all possible factors. All factors should be considered carefully when making decisions with respect to Ceres. Many such factors and events are not within the control of Ceres. Factors that could cause actual results or events to differ materially from current expectations include, among others, risks related to weather, politics and governments, changes in environmental and other laws and regulations, competitive factors in the agricultural, food processing and feed sectors, construction and completion of capital projects, labour, equipment and material costs, access to capital markets, interest and currency exchange rates, technological developments, global and local economic conditions, the ability of Ceres to successfully implement strategic initiatives and whether such strategic initiatives will yield the expected benefits, the operating performance of the Corporation's assets, the availability and price of commodities, and the regulatory environment, processes and decisions. Ceres has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual actions, events or results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements. However, there may be other factors that might cause actions, events or results that are not anticipated, estimated or intended. There can be no assurance that forward-looking information will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements or information.

By its nature, forward-looking information is subject to various risks and uncertainties, including those risks discussed in other sections of this interim MD&A and in other filings and communications, any of which could cause Ceres' actual results and experience to differ materially from the anticipated results or published expectations. Additional information on these and other factors is available in the reports filed by Ceres with Canadian securities regulators. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on this forward-looking information, which is given as of the date of this interim MD&A or otherwise, and not to use future-oriented information or financial outlooks for anything other than their intended purpose. Ceres undertakes no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements or information, whether as a result of new information, change in management's estimates or opinions, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

# CAUTIONARY STATEMENT AS TO NON-IFRS FINANCIAL MEASURES

Ceres provides a non-IFRS measure as supplementary information, which management believes is useful to users of this MD&A to explain Ceres' financial results. This non-IFRS measure is EBITDA (Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization), which is not a standardized financial measure prescribed by IFRS. However, management believes that most shareholders, creditors, other stakeholders and investment analysts benefit from using this performance measure in analyzing Ceres' results. Ceres also uses this measure internally to monitor the Corporation's performance.

In calculating EBITDA, Ceres excludes its share of the net income (net loss) from investments in associates, the gain (loss) on sale of property, plant and equipment and the loss on impairment of assets held for sale. Ceres may calculate EBITDA differently than other companies; therefore, Ceres' EBITDA may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other issuers. Investors are cautioned that EBITDA should not be construed as an alternative to net income or net loss, or to other standardized financial measures determined in accordance with IFRS, and is not intended to represent cash flows or results of operations in accordance with IFRS.

## **OVERVIEWS**

## Ceres Global Ag Corp.

Ceres is a company that is in two areas of business:

- 1. **Grain Storage, Handling and Merchandising** represented by Riverland Ag, a collection of North American commercial grain storage and handling assets; and
- 2. Commodity Logistics represented by the Northgate commodities logistics centre in Northgate, Saskatchewan, and 25% interest in Stewart Southern Railway Inc. (the "SSR").

## **Riverland Ag**

Riverland Ag is engaged in grain storage, procurement, merchandizing and "process-ready" cleaning of specialty grains such as oats, barley, rye, and durum wheat through nine grain storage and handling facilities in Minnesota, New York, and Ontario, with aggregate storage capacity of approximately 46.6 million bushels. Riverland Ag also manages two facilities in Wyoming on behalf of their owner Briess Industries. Four of the grain storage facilities are located at deepwater ports in the Great Lakes and one on the Minnesota River which is tributary to the Mississippi River, allowing access for vessels and barges, and enabling the efficient import and export of grains globally. 39.5 million bushels of Riverland Ag's facilities are "regular" for delivery for both spring wheat against Minneapolis Grain Exchange futures contract and oats against the Chicago Board of Trade futures contract; in addition, spring wheat sourced by Riverland Ag out of Canada is eligible for delivery against the Minneapolis Grain Exchange futures contract.

The majority of Riverland Ag's current storage space is utilized to benefit from grain trading, arbitrage and merchandising opportunities. Management determines which of Riverland Ag's facilities is to be employed for the storage or throughput of a particular grain shipment based on the source of the grain shipment, the elevator location relative to the end customer(s), the cost of logistics to transport the grain, and the availability of space in the intended elevator. In addition, Riverland Ag stores and handles grain for third-party customers.

To enhance profitability, Management expects to optimize grain elevator capacity and will likely pursue strategic partnerships and longer-term storage agreements with key grain customers. With the NCLC project, Riverland Ag expects to: (i) gain access to key origination markets in Saskatchewan and Manitoba; (ii) attract additional downstream customers; and (iii) improve profit margins.

# The Northgate Commodities Logistics Centre

Ceres owns approximately 1,300 acres of land at Northgate, Saskatchewan, and Northgate, North Dakota, where it is constructing a new commodities logistics centre designed to utilize high-efficiency rail loops, capable of handling unit trains of up to 120 railcars. The NCLC is a \$94.7 million grain, oil, NGL transload terminal and is connected to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (the "BNSF"). The Corporation is currently constructing grain handling and shipping facilities that will benefit from the NCLC's strategic geographic location and position Ceres to maximize the value of the Riverland Ag assets. The Corporation is evaluatingthe development of an oil and natural gas transload facility. Additionally, there is ample land and track capacity for a potential supply handling facility, which would offer unloading and logistic support for supplies used in the area's oil production. The Corporation is currently in the feasibility and planning stage of the supply handling facility initiative.

Ceres completed construction on a grain transloading facility in October 2014 under budget. The BNSF placed 63 cars for loading on January 11, 2015, which were loaded and billed the destinations on January 17 and January 19, 2015. It is expected that the BNSF will continue routine service, placing 50 to 100 cars multiple times per month. In addition, the previously announced high speed elevator, with 2.2 million bushel storage capacity that will be capable of loading a 120-car shuttle train within 15, hours is on schedule. This elevator is expected to be operational in October 2015 and completed in March 2016.

As at December 31, 2014, Ceres has capitalized costs totaling \$38.9 million (March 31, 2014: \$14.8 million) for the NCLC project, including land acquisition costs, environmental costs, mass grading and site preparation, and rail track costs.

# RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE THREE AND NINE-MONTH PERIODS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

The following is a summary of the financial results for the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2014, for Ceres on a consolidated basis. Figures for 2013 are for the quarter ended December 31, 2013, as applicable:

- Revenues of \$69.7 million (2013: \$54.8 million);
- Gross profit of \$5.4 million (2013: \$0.1 million);
- Income from operations of \$3.3 million (2013: loss from operations of \$1.3 million);
- EBITDA was \$3.8 million for the quarter (2013: loss of \$1.6 million);
- Net income of \$2.3 million (2013: net loss of \$2.1 million);
- Basic and fully diluted consolidated earnings per share was \$0.13 (2013: loss \$0.15 per share);

The following is a summary of the financial results for the nine-months ended December 31, 2014, for Ceres on a consolidated basis. Figures for 2013 are for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2013, as applicable:

- Revenues of \$138.3 million (2013: \$198.9 million);
- Gross profit of \$11.9 million (2013: \$0.7 million);
- Income from operations of \$3.5 million (2013: loss from operations of \$15.2 million);
- EBITDA was \$5.2 million (2013: loss of \$15.9 million);
- Net income of \$2.1 million (2013: net loss of \$19.7 million);

• Basic and fully diluted consolidated earnings per share was \$0.14 (2013: loss \$1.38 per share):

## **Revenues and Gross Profit**

Through Riverland Ag, Ceres is principally involved in an agricultural commodity-based business, in which changes in selling prices generally move in relation to changes in purchase prices. Therefore, increases or decreases in prices of the agricultural commodities that the business deals in will have a relatively equal impact on sales and cost of sales and a minimal impact on gross profit. Accordingly, management believes it is more important to focus on changes in gross profit than it is to focus on changes in revenue dollars.

For the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, revenues totalled \$138.3 million (2013: \$198.9 million) and gross profit was \$11.9 million (2013: \$0.7 million). For the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, gross profit percentage was 8.6% (2013: 0.4%).

For the quarter ended December 31, 2014, revenues totalled \$69.7 million (2013: \$54.8 million) while gross profit was \$5.4 million (quarter ended December 31, 2013: \$0.1 million). For the quarter ended December 31, 2014, gross profit percentage was 7.8% (quarter ended December 31, 2013: 0.2%).

The table below represents a summary of the components of gross profit for the quarters and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2014 and 2013:

	3 mo	nths		 9 mo	nth	8
(in millions)	2014		2013	2014		2013
Net trading margin Storage and rental income Operating expenses included in Cost of sales Depreciation expense included in Cost of sales	\$ 8.5 1.4 (3.8) (0.7)	\$	2.8 1.2 (3.2) (0.7)	\$ 19.2 5.0 (10.3) (2.0)	\$	9.5 3.7 (10.4) (2.1)
Gross profit	\$ 5.4	\$	0.1	\$ 11.9	\$	0.7

The increase in gross profit of \$11.2 million for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014 compared to the nine-month period ended December 31, 2013 is due to the two following factors:

- An increase in net trading margin of \$9.7 million, which is attributable to (1) commencing origination activity at NCLC during the three months-ended December 31, 2014, and the market insight it provided; (2) assessing the needs of the marketplace and positioning inventory quality in order to supply the desired quality grain to end-users, and (3) enhanced utilization through the Corporation's strategic facilities located on the Great Lakes to fulfill export and domestic demand in large volumes.
- An increase in storage and rental income of \$1.3 million for storing and handling third-party customers' grain. The increase is due to additional third-party storage agreements along with additional revenue earned on handling third-parties' grain in-and-out of the Corporation's facilities throughout the first nine-month period of the fiscal year compared to the same period in 2013.

The increase in gross profit of \$5.3 million for the quarter ended December 31, 2014 compared to the quarter ended December 31, 2013 is predominantly driven by an increase in the net trading margin of \$5.7 million with a slight increase in storage and rental income of \$0.2 million. These

increases compared to the quarter ended December 31, 2013, were partially offset by additional operating expenses of \$0.6 million.

For the quarter ended December 31, 2014, the Corporation recognized trading gains due to effectively assessing the needs of the market and meeting the qualities needs of the marketplace.

The increase in operating expense was predominantly driven by an increase in number of bushels handled during the quarter compared to the same quarter in the prior year (described further below) in addition to the first full quarter of operating expenses being incurred at the Northgate facility. Operating expenses at Northgate totaled \$0.2 million for quarter. Although origination activities gave the Corporation additional insight to the market, there was no direct net trading margin recognized.

Furthermore and as alluded above, due to the nature of the business, the quantity of bushels handled at the Corporation's facilities can have an effect on operating expenses, net trading margins and storage and rental income.

The table below presents the total number of bushels handled at the Corporation's elevator facilities for the company-owned grains and for grain handled for third-party storage tenants for the quarters and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2014 and 2013:

	3 mont	9 months			
(Bushels in millions)	2014	2013	2014	2013	
Company-owned bushels handled Third-party bushels handled	6.35 3.26	5.49 2.86	14.53 16.00	23.96 6.83	
Total bushels handled	9.61	8.35	30.53	30.79	

The following table represents the net trading margins per bushel relative to company-owned bushels handled; storage and rental income per bushel of third-party owned inventory handled; along with the operating and depreciation expenses per bushel for all bushels handled for the quarter and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

	3 mo	9 months			
(Dollars per bushel handled)	2014	2013	2014	2013	
Net trading margin	\$ 1.34	\$ 0.51	\$ 1.32	\$ 0.39	
Storage and rental income	0.43	0.44	0.32	0.55	
Operating and depreciation expense	(0.46)	(0.47)	(0.40)	(0.41)	

The change in the dollars per bushel handled figures for the nine-month periods and quarters ended December 31, 2014 compared to 2013 is due to the following:

• An increase in net trading margin of \$0.83 and \$0.93 per bushel handled for the quarter and nine-month period ended December 31, 2014 compared to 2013, respectively, is reflective of the increase in realized and unrealized gains recognized on the Corporation's trading positions. These increases were driven by effectively assessing the needs of the market and meeting the qualities needs of the marketplace.

• While storage and rental income increased \$0.2 million and \$1.3 million for the quarter and nine-month period ended December 31, 2014 compared to 2013, respectively, the storage and rental income dollars per bushel handled decreased slightly for the quarter ended December 31, 2014 compared to 2013, while decreasing \$0.23 for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014. The decline was driven by an additional 9.17 million bushels handled for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014 compared to 2013, while storage and rental income only increased \$1.3 million. The disproportionate increase in dollars versus bushels handled is driven by the handling revenue component of third-party storage agreements ranging from \$0.10 to \$0.20 per bushel handled. As the Corporation handle of third-party grain increased in the current fiscal year, the storage and rental income per bushel handled declined.

# **General and Administrative Expenses**

For the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, general and administrative expenses totalled \$8.4 million (2013: \$15.9 million), representing a decrease of \$7.5 million compared to the same period last year.

The reduction for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014 compared to 2013 is most attributable to two provisions recorded in 2013: (1) a \$5.0 million for the management transition payment that was made on October 1, 2013 to Front Street Capital, and; (2) recognition of \$1.4 million for contingent additional payments to Front Street Capital

For the quarter ended December 31, 2014, general and administrative expenses totalled \$2.1 million (2013: \$1.5 million), representing an increase of \$0.6 million compared to the same period last year.

The increase was driven by recoveries realized for the quarter ended December 31, 2013. Specifically, the Corporation, subsequent to the termination of the management agreement on September 30, 2013, realized savings of \$0.82 million relating to recoveries of expenses that were recognized during the quarter ended September 30, 2013. Such recoveries included certain GST/HST paid that was claimed for refund by Ceres and other recoveries for certain expenses in prior quarters.

## **Finance Loss**

Finance loss for the quarter and nine-month period ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 is summarized as follows:

	3 mc	nths		9 months				
(in thousands)	2014		2013		2014	2013		
Interest and other revenues Realized loss on sale of investments Realized/unrealized gain (loss) currency-hedging Realized/unrealized gain (loss) on foreign	\$ - 245.8	\$ (2	4.0 2,974.8)	\$	17.9 - 573.4	\$ 4.0 (2,974.8) (468.9)		
exchange Change in fair value of investments	(395.0)	1	14.2 ,914.8		(887.7)	35.0 513.9		
	\$ (149.2)	\$ (1	,041.8)	\$	(296.4)	\$ (2,890.8)		

Finance loss for the quarter and nine-month period ended December 31, 2014 is attributable to realized and unrealized losses on foreign currency exchange that was partially offset by gains on foreign currency hedging.

The decrease in the finance loss for the nine-month period and quarter ended December 31, 2014 compared to the same nine-month period and quarter ended 2013, is driven by realized losses on the sale of investments during the quarter and nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, which related to various investments that were sold during that nine-month period.

## **Finance Expenses**

For the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, finance expenses included interest on short-term debt plus amortization of related financing transaction costs, which totaled \$2.0 million compared to \$3.6 million for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2013.

For the quarter ended December 31, 2014, finance expenses totaled \$0.8 million compared to \$1.3 million for the quarter ended December 31, 2013.

The decrease in finance expenses for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014 compared to the nine-month period ended December 31, 2013 is reflective of reduced short-term borrowing, which was driven by (a) lower quantities of grain inventories owned, (b) a reduction in the overall grain prices and (c) a reduction in the annual interest rate of over 90 basis points on short-term borrowings.

The decrease in finance expenses for the quarter ended December 31, 2014 compared to the quarter ended December 31, 2013 is primarily driven by reduced short-term borrowing as less inventory quantities were owned for the current year's quarter ended December 31, 2014 coupled with a reduction of 90 basis points in the Corporation's annual interest rate on related borrowings.

# **Income Taxes**

For the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014 the Corporation incurred income tax expense totaling \$0.3 million (2013: recovery of \$1.2 million). For the quarter ended December 31, 2014, the Corporation incurred an income tax expense of less than \$0.1 million (2013: recovery of \$1.0 million).

The income tax expense compared to the recovery in the prior year's periods is due to the realization of loss carrybacks for prior year tax losses, which amounted to approximately \$1.0 million.

Furthermore, the Corporation has a full valuation allowance against its deferred tax assets, which are predominantly composed of net operating loss carryforwards. Income tax expense incurred for the quarter and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2014 are composed of deferred tax expense on the Corporation's investment in associates, and alternative minimum tax incurred from operations in the United States. As a result of its current tax position, the Corporation does not anticipate having to make significant cash payments for income taxes at any point in the foreseeable futures.

## Share of Net Income (Loss) in Investments in Associates

The Corporation's share of net income (loss) in investments in associates relates to unrealized gains (or losses) from two minority investments that the Corporation holds that are accounted for the using the equity method. First, is a 25% minority interest in the SSR, which is a short-line railway extending from Richardson, Saskatchewan, to Stoughton, Saskatchewan. The Corporation's second equity investment is a 25% in Canterra Seeds, a Winnipeg-based pedigreed agriculture seed company that produces and markets seed varieties in Western Canada and the Great Northern Plains of the United States.

For the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, the Corporation's share of net income in its investment in associates was a net loss of less than \$0.05 million (2013: income of \$0.5 million) For the quarter ended December 31, 2014, the Corporation recognized a share of its income in investments in associates totaling \$1.2 million compared to \$0.6 million for the same period ended December 31, 2013.

## **EBITDA Reconciliation**

The following tables is a reconciliation of EBITDA for Ceres on a consolidated basis for the quarter and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2014 and 2013:

	3 mc	onths	9 months			
(in thousands)	2014	2013	2014	2013		
Net income (loss) for the period Add/(Deduct):	\$ 2,293	\$ (2,133)	\$ 2,100	\$ (19,661)		
Finance expenses	802	1,263	1,971	3,587		
Gain on sale or property, plant and equipment	-	(20)	-	(196)		
Income taxes (recovered)	19	(1,015)	306	(1,219)		
Share of net (income) loss in investments in						
asscoiates	29	(481)	(1,220)	(620)		
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment	702	745	2,048	2,211		
	\$ 3,845	\$ (1,641)	\$ 5,205	\$ (15,898)		

# SUMMARY OF SELECTED QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following table summarizes selected financial information for each of the last eight (8) fiscal quarters ended December 31, 2014:

## (in thousands, except per share amounts)

	3	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months		3 months	3 months		3 months		3 months
Reporting dates	1	2/31/2014	9/30/2014	6/30/2014	3/31/2014	1	2/31/2013	9/30/2013	9	6/30/2013	3	3/31/2013
(in millions except per share)		Q3 2015	Q2 2015	Q1 2015	Q4 2014		Q3 2014	Q2 2014		Q1 2014		Q4 2013
Revenues	\$	69.7	\$ 17.1	\$ 51.5	\$ 33.5	\$	54.8	\$ 74.4	\$	69.7	\$	60.4
Gross profit (loss)	\$	5.4	\$ 5.3	\$ 1.2	\$ 3.7	\$	0.1	\$ 2.6	\$	(2.1)	\$	2.0
Income (loss) from operations	\$	3.3	\$ 2.4	\$ (2.2)	\$ 2.4	\$	(1.3)	\$ (8.9)	\$	(5.0)	\$	(1.0)
Net income (loss)	\$	2.3	\$ 1.9	\$ (2.1)	\$ 0.4	\$	(2.1)	\$ (11.7)	\$	(5.8)	\$	0.8
Return on shareholders' equity		1.1%	1.4%	-1.6%	0.3%		-1.6%	-9.1%		-4.1%		0.6%
Weighted-average number of												
common shares for the quarter		17.9	14.2	14.2	14.2		14.2	14.3		14.3		14.3
Basic and fully diluted earnings												
(loss) per share	\$	0.13	\$ 0.13	\$ (0.15)	\$ 0.03	\$	(0.15)	\$ (0.82)	\$	(0.41)	\$	0.06
EBITDA	\$	3.8	\$ 3.2	\$ (1.8)	\$ 3.1	\$	(1.6)	\$ (10.2)	\$	(4.1)	\$	(2.5)
EBITDA per share	\$	0.21	\$ 0.23	\$ (0.13)	\$ 0.22	\$	(0.12)	\$ (0.71)	\$	(0.28)	\$	(0.17)
Cash and portfolio investments,												
at reporting date	\$	86.3	\$ 13.7	\$ 26.4	\$ 12.9	\$	7.3	\$ 15.9	\$	24.1	\$	26.9
Shareholders' equity, as at												
reporting date	\$	214.1	\$ 135.0	\$ 128.1	\$ 134.1	\$	129.3	\$ 128.0	\$	142.8	\$	144.9
Shareholders' equity per common												
share, as at reporting date	\$	7.91	\$ 9.50	\$ 9.01	\$ 9.44	\$	9.10	\$ 9.00	\$	9.96	\$	10.11

The following comments relate to certain variances reported in selected line items above:

Revenues: The Corporation's revenue is currently generated by its 100% owned subsidiary, Riverland Ag. Revenues are predominantly composed of the sale of grain, storage and rental income, and other operating income that is earned. Since a predominant portion of revenue is composed of the sale of grain, as a commercial commodities merchandizing business, revenues can vary from quarter-to-quarter due to fluctuations of agricultural commodity prices. The Corporation has the flexibility to be opportunistic in its decisions to buy, sell or hold inventory based on market conditions such as grain supply, demand and grain values.

Gross profit (loss) & Income (loss) from operations: Riverland Ag is principally involved in an agricultural commodity-based business, in which changes in selling prices generally move in relation to changes in purchase prices. Therefore, increases or decreases in prices of the agricultural commodities are expected to have a relatively equal impact on sales and cost of sales, and accordingly a minimal impact on gross profit. Therefore, management believes it is more important to focus on changes in gross profit rather than changes in revenue dollars. Gross profit may vary from quarter to quarter depending on gains from trading, carrying income and basis income against changing inventory levels.

# FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2014

#### Cash on hand

As at December 31, 2014, cash on hand, was \$85.5 million (March 31, 2014: \$12.0 million). The increase in cash on hand of \$73.5 million is due entirely to proceeds received from rights offering net of share issuance costs paid. (Refer to the "Equity Financing" section below for further information on the rights offering.)

## Other assets and liabilities

As at December 31, 2014, the consolidated balance sheet reflects changes in the assets and liabilities of the Corporation since March 31, 2014. During the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, total assets increased by approximately \$162.9 million. The changes in total assets from March 31, 2014 to December 31, 2014 were cause by the following increases (decreases), in millions of dollars:

Cash	\$ 73.5
Portfolio investments, at fair value	-
Due from Brokers	2.1
Derivatives	6.1
Accounts receivable, trade	17.1
Inventories, grains	43.9
GST - HST recoverable	(0.7)
Income taxes recoverable	-
Assets held for sale	(18.2)
Prepaid expenses and sundry assets	(0.7)
Investments in associates	1.0
Intangible assets	-
Investment property	(14.8)
Property, plant and equipment	 53.6
Change in total assets	\$ 162.9

The increase in total assets was predominantly driven by cash, as described above; accounts receivable; inventories; and property, plant and equipment; these increases were partially offset by a reduction in assets held for sale and investment property.

The increase in accounts receivable is attributable to increased sales for the quarter-ended December 31, 2014, particularly sales near the reporting date. Inventories increased \$43.9 million from March 31, 2014, which is attributable to greater quantities of inventories owned as of that reporting date. Increased property, plant and equipment is attributable to:

- (i) capitalized expenditures relating to the NCLC, and;
- (ii) the reclassification of the Savage, Minnesota, facility during the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014

During the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, total liabilities increased \$82.9 million from March 31, 2014. The changes in total liabilities from March 31, 2014 to December 31, 2014 were cause by the following increases (decreases), in millions of dollars:

Bank indebtedness	34.4
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	20.1
Repurchase obligations	(4.7)
Derivatives	3.5
Provision for future payments to Front Street Capital	(0.4)
Warrants	1.6
Long-term debt	28.3
Deferred income taxes	0.1
Change in total liabilities	\$ 82.9

During the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, bank indebtedness, which is composed of the Corporation's revolving line of credit, increased due to greater quantities of grain owned. Increased accounts payable and accrued liabilities is attributable to liabilities for grain purchases as at the reporting date. Long-term debt increased as part of the origination of the five year term debt, which is described in further detail in the "Credit Facilities" section below.

# Effects of changes in the rate of foreign exchange

During the quarter then ended December 31, 2014, the Canadian dollar weakened against the US dollar by 4.2%, going from \$1.1156 to \$1.1627 versus one US dollar (quarter ended December 31, 2013, the Canadian dollar weakened against the US 3.2%). The continued weakening of the Canadian dollar for the quarter led to recognizing a gain on translation of foreign currency for the quarter ended December 31, 2014 totalling \$4.7 million (2013: \$3.5 million), which is recorded to the currency translation account in the equity sections of the consolidated balance sheets.

For the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, the Canadian dollar weakened against the US\$ by 5.2%, going from \$1.1055 to \$1.1627 versus one US dollar (nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, the Canadian dollar weakened by 4.7% against on the US dollar), which to the recognition of a gain on translation of foreign currency for the nine-month period of \$5.8 million (2013: \$5.1 million)

All of the Corporation's revenue, through Riverland Ag, is generated in US dollars. Riverland Ag's exposure to foreign exchange is limited to grain bought in Canadian dollars at NCLC. Any exposure that Riverland Ag has relating to Canadian dollar purchase obligations and sales are hedged to mitigate the risk of any significant gains or losses due to currency fluctuations.

Furthermore, currency risk relating to the accounts of Riverland Ag relate primarily to the net assets of Riverland, which total US\$101.1 million as at December 31, 2014, that are translated from US dollars into Canadian dollars (net assets at March 31, 2014 totalled \$95.0 million). As at a specific reporting date, all of the assets and liabilities of Riverland Ag are translated into Canadian dollar using the spot rate as at the reporting date. All revenues and expenses are translated at the average rate for the period. The resulting difference between the spot rate as of the reporting date and the average rate for the period is recorded to the currency translation account within the stockholders' equity section of the interim consolidated balance sheets.

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

As noted above, as at December 31, 2014, the Corporation had \$85.5 million of cash available cash (March 31, 2014: \$12.0 million) due entirely to proceeds received from rights offering net of

share issuance costs paid. The Corporation has approximately \$0.8 million (March 31, 2014: \$0.8 million) invested in a minority position in a private company. Ceres continues to monitor market opportunities and plans to complete the process of liquidating this remaining non-core portfolio investment. The Corporation's cash requirements include operating costs at the corporate level, funding the corporate growth strategies, which include the build out of NCLC. Cash raised from the rights offering and cash flows generated by Riverland's operations are available to support the continued growth of Riverland and the development of NCLC.

Furthermore, as previously reported, on May 23, 2014, the Corporation, through Riverland Ag, closed on the sale of the Manitowoc, Wisconsin, grain storage facility. The gross proceeds from the sale were US\$6.2 million (C\$6.8 million). Pursuant to the purchase and sales agreement, Riverland Ag is leasing back from the purchaser one million bushels of storage capacity at the Manitowoc grain facility for a three-year term.

## **Working Capital**

The Corporation defines working capital as its current assets (excluding assets held for sale) less current liabilities. As at December 31, 2014, the Corporation's working capital totalled \$132.4 million compared to working capital of \$45.5 million as at March 31, 2014, representing an increase of \$88.5 million. The increase in working capital over the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, is predominantly driven by the following factors:

- (i) Proceeds from the rights offering, net of share issuance costs totalling \$73.6 million;
- (ii) Origination of long-term debt with proceeds received of \$29.1 million;
- (iii) Net income for the period of \$2.1 million;
- (iv) Acquisition of property, plant, and equipment during the period of \$21.5 million.

## **Credit Facilities**

The Corporation utilizes its revolving credit facility to finance its grain trading operations, which primarily consist purchases of grain inventories, financing of accounts receivable, hedging activities, less accounts payable. Levels of short-term debt fluctuate based on changes in underlying commodity prices and the timing of grain purchases.

## Revolving Credit Facility

On December 30, 2014, the Corporation amended and extended its syndicated uncommitted US\$120,000,000, 364-day revolving credit agreement with Macquarie Bank Ltd. ("Macquarie Bank"). The short-term obligation is guaranteed by Ceres Canada Holding Corp., Ceres U.S. Holding Corp., Riverland Ag Corp., and Riverland Canada. The credit agreement is subject to borrowing base limitations, and the revolver is secured by predominantly all assets of the Corporation, including cash but excluding other property, plant and equipment.

Borrowings bear interest at 2.875% plus overnight LIBOR. Interest is calculated and paid on a monthly basis. Amounts under the credit agreement that remain undrawn are not subject to a commitment. The credit facility has certain covenants pertaining to the accounts of the Corporation, and as at December 31, 2014, the Corporation was in compliance with all debt covenants.

Prior to this agreement, Riverland had a revolving credit agreement that was substantially identical as it was syndicated and for US\$120,000,000 with borrowing bearing interest at 2.875% plus overnight LIBOR.

## Term Debt

On June 27, 2014, Ceres entered into a senior secured term loan facility agreement (the "Loan") for US\$20,000,000 with Macquarie Bank to finance further development and early stage construction of Northgate. This Loan was for an initial term of six months maturing on December 29, 2014, with an ability to extend the term of the facility for a further six months at the request of Ceres and subject to the approval of the lender. For the first six months bearing an interest rate of 7.25%.

The Corporation paid an arrangement fee of 2.0% for the Loan, plus legal fees and other related borrowing costs. As reported in Note 8 (Property, Plant and Equipment) under *IAS 23 – Borrowing Costs*, Ceres has capitalized all borrowing costs directly attributable to the construction and development of the assets at Northgate.

In conjunction with amending and extending the syndicated uncommitted credit agreement described above, on December 30, 2014, the Corporation entered into a senior secured term loan facility agreement (the "New Loan") for US\$25,000,000 with Macquarie Bank. This New Loan is for a term of 5 years with an interest rate of one month LIBOR plus 5.25%. This New Loan extinguished and replaced the previous loan originated on June 27, 2014.

Both, the New Loan and the revolving credit agreement disclosed above, are secured by the following: (i) a security interest in substantially all of the personal property of Ceres and its guarantors; (ii) a charge and mortgage over substantially all of the real property and elevator assets held by Riverland Ag and Riverland Canada, and its guarantors; and (iii) a pledge of substantially all of the equity interests and investment property held by Ceres Canada Holding Corp. and each guarantors.

In connection with the New Loan, which has an effective interest rate of 6.30%, the Corporation paid transaction costs relating the loan closure in the amount of \$973,814, which includes legal fees and other related borrowing costs. Transaction costs directly attributable to the issuance of the New Loan are recognized as a reduction in the balance of the New Loan, and will be amortized over the term of the loan using the effective interest rate method.

# **Equity Financing**

# Rights Offering

On December 4, 2014, the Corporation successfully completed a fully backstopped rights offering (the "Offering"). The Offering was fully subscribed at a price of \$5.84. The Corporation issued 12,842,465 common shares for aggregate gross proceeds of approximately \$75 million. Costs incurred relating to the issuance of shares totaled \$1,357,272.

Upon completion of the Offering, the three stand-by purchasers, VN Capital Management, Whitebox Advisors and Highbridge Capital Management, will each control or own, through their affiliates, approximately 39.9%, 8.8% and 6.0%, respectively, of the Corporation's outstanding

common shares while other shareholders have subscribed for an aggregate of approximately \$19.5 million of the Offering.

As previously reported, the net proceeds received by the Corporation will be used to fund the NCLC project and in the following order:

# (Dollars in millions)

Description	Amount	Timing						
Rail Tracks and Site Preparation	\$ 8.9	Completed October 2014						
Grain Transload Facility	2.4	Completed October 2014						
Grain Elevator	40.0	Finalize design and begin construction, with target Phase 1 completion by October 2015 and Phase 2 completion by March 2016.						
Oil & Gas Transload Facility	5.0	Complete feasibility study and initiate design proposals and construction, with preliminary target completion by October 2016.						
Other NCLC projects and general corporate expenses	17.1	Complete feasibility study and initiate design proposals and construction, with preliminary target completion by October 2016.						
Total Use of Net Proceeds	\$ 73.4							

Using a combination of long-term debt proceeds and funds from the rights offering, subsequent to December 31, 2014, the Corporation paid down approximately US\$63 million on its revolving credit facility. Based on projected cash outflow associated with the permanent grain elevator and other NCLC projects and expenditures, the Corporation anticipates to realize savings of \$1.5 million over the next twelve months in finance expenses.

#### Normal Course Issuer Bids

As discussed in the following paragraphs, except for additional warrants issued by Ceres on the acquisition of Riverland Ag, the 2013-2014 NCIB (as defined below) and the Deferred Share Units (as defined below), there has been no change in the authorized capital of Ceres since March 31, 2008.

On September 11, 2013 all 150,000 common share purchase warrants issued, as part of the consideration paid for the acquisition of Riverland Ag, expired. On the expiration of these warrants, Ceres allocated the aggregate stated capital value of the warrants of \$0.2 million to contributed surplus.

During the three-month periods ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, and during the year ended March 31, 2014, no stock options were granted. As at December 31, 2014 and March 31, 2014, no stock options were outstanding.

During the quarter ended December 31, 2014, Ceres did not purchase any Shares under any Normal Course Issuer Bid.

On July 9, 2013, Ceres announced a normal course issuer bid (the "2013-2014 NCIB") commencing on July 11, 2013, the purpose of which was to provide Ceres with a mechanism to

decrease the potential spread between the net asset value per Share and the market price of the Shares. The 2013-2014 NCIB has concluded on July 10, 2014.

For the period from July 11, 2013 to October 15, 2013, Ceres purchased 126,020 Shares under the 2013-2014 NCIB for aggregate cash consideration of \$1.0 million. The stated capital value of these repurchased Shares was \$1.2 million. The excess of the stated capital value of the repurchased Shares over the cost thereof, being \$0.2 million was allocated to Retained Earnings in the year ended March 31, 2014. The Corporation made no purchases under the 2013-2014 NCIB after October 15, 2013.

## **Deferred Share Units**

Effective January 1, 2014, Ceres has a Directors' Deferred Share Unit Plan, whereby deferred share units ("DSU") are issued to Eligible Directors, in lieu of cash, for a portion of Directors' fees otherwise payable to Directors. The Fair Market Value of the DSUs on the date such units are calculated and issued represents the volume-weighted average trading price of Ceres' common shares for the five trading days immediately preceding the date of issuance of the DSUs. Each DSU entitles the director to receive payment after the end of the director's term in the form of common shares of the Corporation. Under the plan, the aggregate number of common shares issuable by Ceres under this Plan is limited to 450,000 common shares. Certain insider restrictions and annual dollar limits per Eligible Director exist. Dividends, if any, otherwise payable on the common shares represented by the DSUs are converted into additional DSUs based on the Fair Market Value as of the date on which any such dividends would be paid. The Plan also provides for the Board to award additional DSUs (referred to in the Plan agreement as "Matching DSUs") to an Eligible Director who has elected to receive DSUs pertaining to his/her Annual Cash Remuneration amount (as defined by the Plan).

The Corporation intends to settle all DSUs with shares through the issuance of treasury shares. Compensation expense is included as part of Directors' fees classified with general and administrative expenses, and is recognized in the accounts as and when services are rendered to the Corporation. DSUs outstanding as at a reporting period-end are revalued at the fair market value as at that period and changes in the fair market value are recognized to Directors' fees in the period in which the changes occur.

The following is a summary of the changes in the number of DSUs issued and outstanding for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014 and for the year ended March 31, 2014:

	<u>Decembe</u>	2014	March 31, 2014			
	number of	number of Fair Market		number of	<u>I</u>	Fair Market
	<u>units</u>		<b>Value</b>	<u>units</u>		<u>Value</u>
Balance, beginning of period	8,912.73	\$	7.01	-	\$	-
Units redeemed	(2,673.83)	\$	7.00	-	\$	-
Units issued	32,428.54	\$	5.66	8,912.73	\$	7.01
Balance, end of period	38,667.44	\$	5.66	8,912.73	\$	7.01

# Summary of contractual maturities of financial liabilities

As at December 31, 2014, the consolidated contractual maturities of all financial liabilities:

<u>December 31, 2014</u>	Carrying	Contractual			3 to	More than
	<u>amount</u>	cash flows	1 year	2 years	5 years	5 years
Bank indebtedness	106.2	107.0	107.0	-	-	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	27.7	27.7	27.7	-	-	-
Repurchase obligations	11.2	11.2	11.2			
Derivatives	5.3	5.3	5.3	-	-	-
Provision for future payments to Front Street Capital	0.6	0.6	0.6	-	-	-
Long-term debt	28.3	29.1	-	3.5	25.6	
	\$ 179.3	\$ 180.9	\$ 151.8 \$	3.5 \$	25.6	\$ -

During the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, Ceres entered into contract with a Canadian railroad contractor to furnish and install the rail system at the NCLC. The total contract price is \$5,325,527 and as at December 31, 2014, \$4,937,431 has been incurred. The remaining commitment is expected to be completed during the fourth quarter.

During the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, Ceres entered into a contract with a Canadian contractor to design and build an inland grain terminal at the NCLC. The design and build process commenced in early September 2014 with substantial completion of the project expected to be in March 2016. The total contract price is \$39,955,000 and as at December 31, 2014, \$7,678,204 has been incurred. The remaining commitment is expected to be met over the term of the contract.

Future expected operational cash flows and sufficient current assets are available to fund the settlement of these obligations in the normal course of business. In addition, the following factors allow for the substantial mitigation of liquidity risk: (i) prompt settlement of amounts due from brokers; (ii) active management of trade accounts receivable; and (iii) the lack of concentration risk related thereto. Management believes the Corporation's cash flow management activities and the continued likelihood of its operations further minimize liquidity risk.

#### MARKET OUTLOOK

Ceres is focused on expanding its commodity logistics assets and improving the effectiveness of its grain handling and storage assets.

# NCLC - Commodity Logistics

As reported above, construction of the NCLC is well underway. The Corporation has received all material regulatory approvals and permits, including approvals from the Canadian and U.S. customs authorities on the border crossing to be used in connection with the NCLC. The NCLC is designed to utilize high-efficiency rail loops, capable of handling unit trains of up to 120 railcars. In January 2015, the tracks were inspected and approved by the BNSF Railroad. Subsequent to December 31, 2014, through the date of this preparation the Corporation has loaded 163 railcars. A grain handling and shipping facility is the initial focus of management, followed by transloading facility(s) to facilitate exports from Western Canada's energy sector and or a

potential supply handling facility that would offer unloading and logistic support for supplies used in oil and gas production.

Currently, Canadian grain and oil and gas producers in the region are primarily dependent on the two Canadian national rail carriers, Canadian Pacific ("CP") and Canadian National Railway ("CN"), both with rail networks that have limited reach in the United States and as a result struggle to facilitate an efficient southbound movement of products into the United States. To deliver to customers in United States, Canadian producers must first ship with CP or CN, which will in turn interchange the railcars with a U.S. rail carrier (such as BNSF or Union Pacific) through interline rail connections. The operational and administrative inefficiencies in switching carriers have created a north-south bottleneck across the border, which Management believes could be significantly alleviated if Canadian producers have a more direct access to a U.S. national rail carrier.

Geographically, the NCLC is located in a prime area to facilitate the movement of grain and oil and natural gas from Canada to the United States. The direct connection to BNSF's 32,000-mile network presents a unique opportunity to secure Canadian-origin grain bushels for southbound movement in large consist trains. BNSF's railcar management system includes car auctions where shippers are allowed to bid for Certificates of Transportation. These certificates represent the right to empty rail cars and have priority placement over tariff car orders. Certificates of Transportation are traded in the open market amongst shippers and grain elevators, allowing all shippers equal access to rail equipment. This system is unique to BNSF and Union Pacific and is not available on the CP or CN systems. The NCLC is expected to provide Canadian shippers with direct access to customers in 28 American states, to numerous ports along the Pacific and Gulf coasts for shipment to overseas markets, and to Mexico, including over 45 "crude-by-rail" destinations. Access to many other strategic interior locations in the Eastern United States and Atlantic ports are also available through BNSF's interline rail connections with other large carriers such as CSX Corporation, providing more options to Canadian farmers and oil and gas exporters. Aside from a low grade single lane track owned by CP at Portal, North Dakota, and the NCLC is the only north-south rail connection between the Red River on the North Dakota border and Sweetwater, Montana.

There are currently only two direct access points to BNSF's network from Canada – Winnipeg and Vancouver. BNSF has recently made a significant upgrade to its rail network on the U.S. side of the border crossing at Northgate. In February 2014, Ceres received approval from the Canadian and U.S. customs authorities on the border crossing to be used in connection with the NCLC, with rail tracks connected across the border in early May 2014. The construction of the remaining rail tracks were completed during the quarter ended December 31, 2014. Furthermore, a customs border protection facility has been built to facilitate cross-border customs and security.

## *NCLC* – *Grain Opportunities*

The NCLC is located in an important wheat and oat production region in Canada. There are approximately 450 million bushels of grain production annually (including, among other grains, wheat, canola, oats, barley, rye, flax, peas and lentils) within 100 miles of Northgate, Saskatchewan. Its location allows farmers in the surrounding regions the ability to buy freight transport on the BNSF rail network, to which no other grain elevator in Western Canada has direct access.

With the repeal of the Canadian Wheat Board Act and the commencement of the privatization of the Canadian Wheat Board on August 1, 2012, Canadian farmers are now able to directly sell their grain locally, nationally and internationally. This has encouraged greater supply-chain cooperation among farms, elevators, handlers, trucks, trains and ports. While farmers can now reap the benefit of potentially selling their harvests at higher prices, they are responsible for promoting and marketing their grains on the international market, including the United States.

Despite these new opportunities, the transition to an open market in Canada for wheat and barley has been slower than originally expected, as Canadian farmers have been unable to move grain off their farms in the quantities originally anticipated. However, Ceres management anticipates that the flow of Canadian grain will continue to increase over time and that the NCLC will benefit from this deregulation by providing transportation options to Canadian farmers and grain handlers.

Management expects that the new north-south connection to BNSF through NCLC will be especially attractive to farmers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Western Canada produced a record 76 million tonnes of grains in 2013, and nearly 60 million tonnes were trapped on the Canadian Prairies, sitting in elevators that are already full, or on farmer's fields, awaiting empty railcars from Canadian rail carriers to ports on the West Coast or to Thunder Bay to access the St. Lawrence Seaway. This bottleneck has contributed to the delay of the movement of this year's harvested wheat and other Canadian grains.

Management expects that NCLC's BNSF-served elevator will give Canadian grain producers and handlers increased access to the United States and other international markets, allowing them to turn over their inventory faster and increasing annual handling volume and revenue as a result.

The grain elevator at the NCLC is expected to become a significant originator of grains from Saskatchewan and Manitoba producers. Management expects that the NCLC elevator will contribute to and accelerate the repositioning of Riverland Ag. Management believes grain origination at the NCLC will significantly enhance the profitability of Riverland Ag by lowering grain purchasing costs, enhancing merchandising opportunities and improving existing elevator utilization. Riverland Ag sells grain bushels to a wide range of customers, including those in the human consumption milling space, exporters and oilseed processors. Management believes that grain origination at the NCLC will catapult Riverland Ag into a better position of a value-added supplier for multiple markets and allow it to compete in a broader track trading initiative.

# NCLC – Oil & Natural Gas Liquids Opportunities

Besides being in close proximity to Canada's grain production regions, the NCLC is also positioned in the heart of a growing oil and gas industry. Regional midstream operators, gas processors and crude oil producers could potentially be customers of the NCLC to transload oil and gas products for rail shipment directly into the U.S. market.

Approximately 160,000 barrels of crude oil are produced per day in the Northgate area. In addition to crude oil, a significant amount of natural gas is produced as a byproduct of oil production that is currently being wasted through "flaring". Due to environmental and safety concerns, there are regulations pending that would deter this practice, which may lead to more opportunities for Ceres to move natural gas in the region. Ceres is evaluating the feasibility of various opportunities in the oil and natural gas sectors and is planning to start with a small

transload operation capable of loading 15,000 barrels of oil and 29,000 gallons of natural gas liquids per day.

# Grain Handling and Storage

While the movement of grain continued to be a challenge due to rail logistics throughout much of the quarter ended December 31, 2014, much of the rail challenges improved in the last third of the quarter. As a result, this saw movement of the last portion of the quarter of last year's harvested grain and some overall reduction in cash prices of grain, relative to the nearby futures price of grain. In addition, while logistical challenges in the current fiscal year have offered arbitrage opportunities to strengthen the Corporation's rail freight position, rail movement and logistical flow of grain offer arbitrage opportunities for the grain merchandising position. Management expects rail logistics to continue to improve throughout much of the Corporation's fiscal fourth quarter, and for the Corporation to realize arbitrage opportunities grain merchandising as a result.

During the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, the Corporation added an international and domestic durum wheat trading platform. Serving as diversification to its already-existing wheat portfolio, durum wheat trading has enhanced gross profit and increased utilization of the Corporation's main elevator in Duluth, Minnesota, without any significant increases in operating expenses. As part of its durum program, the Corporation has acquired durum from the Southwestern and Great Northern Plans of the United States and Canada, including NCLC.

Furthermore, during the 2014 shipping season, the Corporation loaded nine vessels out of its main Duluth, Minnesota, facility (compared to four for the 2013 shipping season). In addition to the vessels loaded in the current year, management expects incremental growth in outbound vessels shipped out of its main Duluth facility, with the growth of vessel shipments being driven by grain originated and acquired at NCLC.

## *Use of derivatives*

As described above concerning commodity risk, Riverland Ag generally uses exchange-traded futures and options contracts in managing risk. Changes to the market price of inventories of merchandisable agricultural commodities, forward cash purchase and sales contracts, and exchange-traded futures contracts are recognized in the interim condensed consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) as a component of cost of sales. Unrealized gains and losses on these derivative contracts are recognized on the balance sheet and included in due from broker at and as derivative assets or derivative liabilities, as applicable, in unrealized net gains (losses) on open cash contracts.

Ceres may use certain derivative instruments to manage its exposure to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates on assets denominated in currencies other than C\$. For the nine-month period ended December 31, 2014, the realized and unrealized gain on foreign currency hedging transactions totaled \$0.6 million (2013: loss of \$0.5 million) while realized and unrealized loss foreign currency exchange was \$0.9 million (2013: gain of \$0.03 million).

# **OUTSTANDING SHARE DATA**

As at December 31, 2014 and the date of this MD&A, the issued and outstanding equity securities of the Corporation consisted of 27,050,673 common shares.

## RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Front Street Capital 2004 and certain affiliates (collectively referred to as "Front Street Capital") were related parties to Ceres by virtue of a management agreement, pursuant to which Front Street Capital provided certain services to Ceres (the "Management Agreement"). The Management Agreement was terminated on November 30, 2013.

On August 23, 2013, Ceres announced it entered into a management transition agreement (the "Transition Agreement") with Front Street Capital, which provided, among other things, for the early termination of the Management Agreement. The Transition Agreement was approved by the shareholders at the annual and special meeting held on September 27, 2013. Under the terms of the Transition Agreement:

- The Management Agreement was terminated effective November 30, 2013;
- Monthly management fee payments to Front Street Capital ceased at the end of September 2013;
- On October 1, 2013, Ceres paid Front Street Capital \$5.0 million plus HST of \$0.65 million:
- Front Street Capital will be paid an additional \$1.0 million if the five-day volume-weighted average price of Ceres' common shares on the TSX (the "5-day VWAP") reaches \$10 within five years, and a further \$1.0 million if the 5-day VWAP reaches \$11. These payments will become immediately payable if there occurs prior to the fifth anniversary of the date of the Transition Agreement either a change in control or a going private transaction (at a price in excess of \$7.85 per share);
- Ceres will deposit into an escrow fund 5% of any gross sale proceeds in excess of net book value and direct transaction costs from the sale of any of Ceres' assets, to a maximum amount of \$1.0 million and such escrow fund shall be paid to Front Street Capital if the 5-day VWAP does not reach \$10 within five years;

As at December 31, 2014, management has determined the fair value of the potential additional payments provided for under the Transition Agreement is \$551,000 (March 31, 2014: \$970,000), and a provision for this amount is reported separately in current liabilities as at that date. As at December 31, 2014, the fair value of each additional payment was determined using the binomial options pricing model, with a remaining term to December 31, 2018, using volatility of 32% and a risk-free interest rate of 1.36% (March 31, 2014: remaining term to December 31, 2018, volatility of 35% and risk-free interest rate of 1.71%). Management recalculates the fair value of such potential additional payments as at each quarter-end and adjusts the provision recognized in the accounts in the quarter such adjustment would be necessary.

## Management fees and incentive fees

For the quarters ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, management fees and a provision for future payments to Front Street Capital are charged to operations and are included with general and administrative expenses, as follows:

	3 months			9 months				
(in thousands)		2014		2013		2014	2013	
Management fees (adjustments) and related HST Provision for management transition payment and related HST Adjustment to the provision for future payments	\$		\$	(30.8)	\$		\$ 1,512.4 5,650.0	
to Front Street Capital		(313.0)				(419.0)	1,582.0	
	\$	(313.0)	\$	(30.8)	\$	(419.0)	\$ 8,744.4	

The amount reported in the current quarter as an adjustment to the provision for future payments to Front Street Capital represents the reduction of the estimated fair value of the provision from the provisional amount of \$1.0 million estimated as at March 31, 2014.

In addition, the Corporation has defined key management personnel as senior executive officers, as well as the members of the Board of Directors, as they collectively have the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Corporation and its subsidiaries. The table in Footnote 16 of the Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements summarizes total compensation for key management personnel for the quarter and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2014.

As at December 31, 2014, one director of the Corporation, through a controlled entity, beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, or exercises control or direction over 39.9% of the outstanding Common Shares of the Corporation. Other than the one director, officers and directors of the Corporation do not beneficially own, directly or indirectly, or exercise control or direction over any Common Shares as at December 31, 2014.

## SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The preparation of Ceres' interim condensed consolidated financial statements, in conformity with IFRS, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities as at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results may vary from current estimates. Management reviews these estimates periodically and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Loss) in the period in which they become known.

The following significant accounting policies involve the use of estimates.

#### Financial instruments

Trade accounts receivable are classified as loans and receivables. All other financial assets are held-for-trading and classified at fair value through profit or loss. Current liabilities are classified as other liabilities, except Derivative liabilities and the Provision for future additional payments to Front Street Capital. Derivative liabilities include unrealized losses on open cash contracts, which are held-for-trading and classified at fair value through profit or loss. The Provision for future additional payments to Front Street Capital is revalued at fair value as at each reporting period-end and classified at fair value through profit or loss. The carrying value of financial

assets classified as current assets and the carrying fair value of financial liabilities classified as current liabilities approximate the fair value thereof given their short-term maturities.

# Valuation of investments

Portfolio investments are held for trading, and are measured and reported at fair value. Securities and ownership interests over which the Corporation exercises significant influence or control are accounted for using the equity-accounting model or through consolidation, as appropriate.

As at a reporting date, the fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets (primarily equity securities of public companies and related derivative instruments, if any) is based on the bid price for investments held by the Corporation, and on the asking price for investments sold short, if any. The fair value of financial instruments not traded in an active market (including but not limited to securities in private companies, warrants and restricted securities) is determined using valuation techniques. Depending on various circumstances, the Corporation may use several methods and makes assumptions based on market conditions existing at each reporting date. Valuation techniques may include, without limitation, the use of comparable recent arm's length transactions, discounted cash flow analysis, option-pricing models and other valuation techniques commonly used by market participants.

## Derivative commodity contracts

To reduce price risk caused by commodities market fluctuations, Riverland Ag generally follows a policy of using exchange-traded futures and options contracts to minimize its net position of merchandisable agricultural commodity inventories and forward cash purchase and sales contracts. Riverland Ag will also use exchange-traded futures and options contracts as components of merchandising strategies designed to enhance margins. The results of these strategies may be significantly influenced by factors such as the volatility of the relationship between the value of exchange-traded commodities futures contracts and the cash prices of the underlying commodities, and volatility of freight markets. Derivative contracts have not been designated, and are not accounted for, as fair value hedges. Management determines fair value based on exchange-quoted prices, and in the case of its forward purchase and sales contracts, estimated fair value is adjusted for differences in local markets. Realized and unrealized gains and losses in the value of inventories of merchandisable agricultural commodities, forward cash purchase and sales contracts, and exchange-traded futures contracts are recognized in the condensed consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) as a component of cost of sales. Unrealized gains and losses on these derivative contracts are recognized in earnings and classified on the balance sheet as due from broker, derivative assets or derivative liabilities, as applicable.

# Recognition of Revenues

Riverland Ag follows a policy of recognizing sales revenue at the time of delivery of the product and when all of the following have occurred: (i) a sales agreement is in place; (ii) title and risk of loss have passed; (iii) pricing is fixed or determinable, and; (iii) collection is reasonably assured. Grain storage, rental and other operating income are recorded as earned on an accrual basis. Freight costs and handling charges related to sales are presented gross in revenues and cost of sales. Other direct and indirect costs associated with inventory and storage, including payroll and benefits of elevator employees, depreciation of buildings, silos and elevators, utilities and other similar costs are classified with cost of sales.

#### Inventories

Inventories represent agricultural grain commodities owned by Riverland Ag, such as oats, spring wheat, durum wheat, barley, corn, and soybeans. Inventories are stated primarily at fair value less costs to sell. Certain other inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market, with cost determined using the average cost method. Fair value is primarily determined from market prices quoted on public commodity exchanges, adjusted for expected freight costs to normal delivery points and a price premium or discount to cover local supply and demand factors as estimated by management. Changes in the fair value less costs to sell inventories of agricultural grain commodities are charged to operations as and when they occur, and such changes are included as a component of cost of sales.

## Assets held for sale

Assets are classified as held for sale when all of the following criteria are met:

- Management commits to a plan to sell a property;
- It is unlikely that the disposal plan will be significantly modified or discontinued;
- The property is available for immediate sale in its present condition;
- Actions required to complete the sale of the property have been initiated;
- Sale of the property is highly probable and management expects the completed sale will occur within one year; and
- The property is actively being marketed for sale at a price that is reasonable given its current market value.

Upon designation as an asset held for sale, the Corporation records the carrying value of each property held for sale at the lesser of its carrying value or its fair value less costs to sell, and depreciation is no longer recognized.

# Property, plant, and equipment

Property, plant, and equipment are stated at their fair value as at the date of the acquisition, plus the cost of property, plant and equipment acquired thereafter, less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses, if any.

Cost includes expenditures that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset and to bringing the asset to a working condition for its intended use.

If parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of property, plant and equipment.

Gains or losses related to the disposition of property, plant and equipment are recognized in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as other income.

Depreciation is determined over the depreciable amount, being the cost of the asset or other amount substituted for cost, less its residual value, if any. Depreciation is recognized in net income and is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the respective classes of assets as follows:

Buildings, silos/elevators, and improvements

Machinery and equipment

Furniture, fixtures, office equipment,

computer software and other property, plant and equipment

7 years

Depreciation methods, useful lives of the assets and their residual values are reviewed at fiscal year-end and adjusted if appropriate.

Riverland Ag reviews property, plant, and equipment for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the expected fair value of such assets might not be sufficient to support the carrying amount of the assets.

#### Income taxes

Income tax expense comprises current and deferred taxes. Current tax and deferred tax are recognized in profit or loss, except to the extent that it relates to a business combination, or to items recognized directly in equity or in other comprehensive income.

Current tax is the expected tax payable or receivable on the taxable income or loss for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

Deferred tax is recognized in respect of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. Deferred tax is not recognized for the following temporary differences: the initial recognition of assets or liabilities in a transaction that is not a business combination and that affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss, and differences relating to investments in subsidiaries and jointly controlled entities to the extent that it is probable that they will not reverse in the foreseeable future. In addition, deferred tax is not recognized for taxable temporary differences arising on the initial recognition of goodwill. Deferred tax is measured at the tax rates that are expected to be applied to temporary differences when they reverse, based on the laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted as at the reporting date. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset to the extent that they relate to income taxes levied on the same taxable entity by the same taxation authority.

A deferred tax asset is recognized for unused tax losses, tax credits and deductible temporary differences, to the extent that it is probable that future taxable income will be available against which they can be utilized. A valuation allowance is established, if necessary, to reduce any deferred tax asset to an amount that is probable to be realized.

Share-based payments, Deferred Share Unit Plan

The Corporation has established the DSU Plan, which became effective on March 10, 2014 and is an equity-settled share-based payment plan. Under the DSU Plan, a director who is not an employee of the Corporation or any affiliate and who is a non-executive Chair of the Board is an eligible director. Any eligible director may elect to receive some or all the Annual Cash Remuneration amount (as defined in the DSU Plan) for that director in the form of DSUs. DSUs are settled by the issuance of common shares on the Entitlement Date (as defined under the DSU Plan), which is a date after the end of a director's term of service with the Board.

As at the dates on which DSUs are calculated under the DSU Plan, the Corporation recognizes as an expense the amount of directors' fees for the portion of such fees represented by the fair value of the DSUs issued to the directors, and increases shareholders' equity by an equal amount. The Corporation revalues the DSUs as at the end of each reporting period, based on the volume-weighted-average trading price per common share of the Corporation on the Toronto Stock Exchange during the immediately preceding five (5) trading days. Revaluation adjustments are recognized as an increase or decrease in the expense for Directors' fees during the reporting period, with a corresponding increase or decrease in shareholders' equity.

## **CONTINGENT LIABILITY**

During the year ended March 31, 2014, Ceres terminated its arrangements and ongoing discussions with a potential development partner with respect to the development and construction of a grain facility at NCLC. The termination of discussions with the potential partner may have implications for any amounts to be collected from the potential partner and amounts previously paid to Ceres by the potential partner in respect to its portion of NCLC site preparation costs under the Cost-Sharing Agreement. The recovery and/or reimbursement of such amounts, if any, will be subject to resolution of the claim described below.

During the nine-month ended December 31, 2014, the potential partner initiated an action against the Corporation for injunctive relief and unspecified damages relating to the development and construction of a grain facility at the Corporation's NCLC.

As of the date hereof, management intends to defend the complaint vigorously and is examining all of its procedural and substantive options. The outcome of this complaint is difficult to assess or quantify. The plaintiff may seek recovery of large or indeterminate amounts, and the magnitude of the potential loss may remain unknown for substantial periods of time. The cost to defend this complaint may be significant. In addition, this complaint, if decided adversely to the Corporation or settled by the Corporation, may result in liability material to the Corporation's financial statements as a whole or may materially and adversely affect the Corporation's business, financial position, cash flow, and/or results of operations.

## CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure controls and procedures

Ceres maintains appropriate information systems, procedures and controls to ensure that new information disclosed externally is complete, reliable and timely. National Instrument 52-109 *Certification of Disclosure in Issuers' Annual and Interim Filings* ("NI 52-109") requires the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer to certify that they are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures ("DC&P") and that they have, as at December 31, 2014, designed DC&P (or have caused such DC&P to be designed under their supervision) to provide reasonable assurance that material information relating to Ceres is made known to them by others, particularly during the period in which Ceres' annual filings are being prepared, and that information required to be disclosed by Ceres in its annual filings, interim filings or other reports filed or submitted by Ceres under applicable securities legislation is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in applicable securities legislation.

# Internal control over financial reporting

NI 52-109 also requires the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer to certify that they are responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting ("ICFR") and that they have, as at December 31, 2014, designed ICFR (or have caused such ICFR to be designed under their supervision) to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The control framework used by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer to design Ceres' ICFR is the Risk Management and Governance: Guidance on Control (COCO Framework) published by The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. While there was a change in the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer during the quarter ended December 31, 2014, during the period beginning on April 1, 2014 and ended on December 31, 2014, there have been no changes in Ceres' ICFR that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, Ceres' ICFR.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015