



## MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

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This Management’s Discussion and Analysis (“MD&A”) dated May 9, 2018 should be read in conjunction with the unaudited Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for the three-month and nine-month periods ended March 31, 2018 of Ceres Global Ag Corp. (“Ceres”, the “Corporation”, “we”, “our”, and “us”), and the Corporation’s audited Consolidated Financial Statements for the twelve-month period ended June 30, 2017 (the “Annual Consolidated Financial Statements”). Additional information about Ceres filed with Canadian securities regulatory authorities, including the quarterly financial statements and MD&A, and annual report and the annual information form, is available online at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

### Basis of Presentation

Unless otherwise noted, all financial information has been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. Unless otherwise indicated, dollar amounts are expressed in United States dollars (“\$” and “USD”) and references to “CAD” and “C\$” are to Canadian dollars.

### Non-IFRS Financial Measures

This MD&A contains references to certain financial measures, including some that do not have any standardized meaning prescribed by IFRS. These measures include “EBITDA” (Earnings before interest, income tax, depreciation and amortization) and “Return on shareholders’ equity”, neither of which have a standardized meaning under IFRS. See “Non-IFRS Financial Measures and Reconciliations.”

### Risks and Forward Looking Information

The Corporation’s financial and operational performance is potentially affected by a number of factors, including, but not limited to, the factors described in “Key Assumptions & Advisories”.

This MD&A contains forward-looking information based on the Corporation's current expectations, estimates, projections and assumptions. This information is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, including those discussed in this MD&A and the Corporation's other disclosure documents, many of which are beyond the Corporation's control. Users of this information are cautioned that actual results may differ materially. See "Key Assumptions and Advisories" for information on material risk factors and assumptions underlying the Corporation's forward-looking information.

### **Who We Are**

Through our network of commodity logistics centers and team of industry experts, Ceres procures and provides North American agricultural commodities and value added products, industrial products, fertilizer, energy products and reliable supply chain logistics services to customers worldwide.

Ceres operates five locations, Duluth, MN; Minneapolis, MN; Shakopee, MN; Northgate, Saskatchewan; and Port Colborne, Ontario, and is headquartered in Minneapolis, MN. Our facilities throughout North America have an aggregate grain and oilseed storage capacity of approximately 29.7 million bushels after the formation of Savage Riverport, LLC.

Ceres also has a 50% interest in Savage Riverport LLC, a joint venture with Consolidated Grain and Barge Co. ("CGB"), and a 25% interest in Stewart Southern Railway Inc., a short-line railway located in southeast Saskatchewan with a range of 130 kilometers, and a 17% interest in Canterra Seed Holdings Ltd, a Canadian-based seed development company.

### **Grain Division**

The Corporation's grain division is engaged in grain storage, procurement, and merchandising of specialty grains and oilseeds such as oats, barley, rye, hard red spring wheat, durum wheat, canola and pulses through six grain storage and handling facilities in Minnesota, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Two of the grain storage facilities are located at deep-water ports in the Great Lakes, and one is located on the Minnesota River, which is a tributary of the Mississippi River, allowing access for vessels and barges and enabling the efficient import and export of grains globally. Approximately 24.8 million bushels of the Corporation's facilities are "regular" for delivery for both spring wheat against the Minneapolis Grain Exchange futures contract and oats against the Chicago Board of Trade futures contract. In addition, spring wheat and oats sourced by the Corporation out of Canada are eligible for delivery against respective futures contracts.

The majority of the grain division's current storage space supports grain trading, arbitrage and merchandising opportunities. Management determines which of the Corporation'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 customers, the cost of logistics to transport the grain, and the availability of space in the intended elevator. In addition, the Corporation stores and handles grain for third-party customers.

### **Northgate Logistics Center**

Ceres owns approximately 1,300 acres of land at Northgate, Saskatchewan, where it has constructed a commodities logistics centre designed to utilize two rail loops, each capable of handling unit trains of up to 120 railcars. The Northgate Logistics Center ("Northgate" or the "NLC") is an approximately CAD \$100 million state-of-the-art grain, oil, natural gas liquids and fertilizer terminal and is connected to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (the "BNSF") with intentions to further build out infrastructure to support handling of other industrial products and equipment.

The Corporation commenced its initial grain operations at Northgate in October 2014, operating the facility with a grain transloader for six months during the year-ended March 31, 2015. Phase one of the elevator was operational in November 2015 and the elevator was fully operational in May 2016. As part of its grain

operations, the Corporation contracts grain and oilseed purchases from Western Canadian producers that are delivered by truck and unloaded at the NLC grain terminal. Ceres has the option of storing the grain on-site, loading it into outbound railcars to end-users, or shipping to the Corporation's other facilities to take advantage of the value and strategic location of its current asset base.

Concurrent with its grain operations at NLC, in April 2015, the Corporation entered into an agreement with Elbow River Marketing ("ERM"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Parkland Fuel Corporation, to transload propane at Northgate. This provides a direct link and an added access point for propane to enter the US market.

In November 2015, Ceres entered into an agreement with Koch for the storage and handling of dry fertilizer products which brings fertilizer shipments to Northgate. At Northgate, Ceres unloads and warehouses fertilizer in a new, state of the art, 26,000-ton fertilizer storage terminal. The fertilizer is loaded out by Ceres into trucks and distributed to Canadian retailers. The fertilizer operation commenced on April 30, 2017.

## 1. FINANCIAL AND OPERATING SUMMARY

<i>(in thousands of USD except shares and income (loss) per share)</i>	Three months ended March 31		Nine months ended March 31	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Revenues	\$ 98,106	\$ 128,534	\$ 318,314	\$ 416,300
Gross profit	\$ 2,399	\$ 3,048	\$ 9,745	\$ 7,789
Income from operations	\$ (933)	\$ 631	\$ 751	\$ 805
Net income (loss)	\$ (1,802)	\$ (8,104)	\$ (2,382)	\$ (9,613)
Weighted average common shares outstanding	27,934,991	28,030,253	27,920,760	27,402,841
Income (loss) per share - Basic	\$ (0.06)	\$ (0.29)	\$ (0.09)	\$ (0.35)
Income (loss) per share - Diluted	\$ (0.06)	\$ (0.29)	\$ (0.09)	\$ (0.35)
EBITDA (1)	\$ 302	\$ 1,568	\$ 4,162	\$ 4,315
As at:				
Total assets	\$ 208,166	\$ 264,019	\$ 208,166	\$ 264,019
Total bank indebtedness, current (2)	\$ 29,864	\$ 58,448	\$ 29,864	\$ 58,448
Term debt (3)	\$ 11,608	\$ 14,404	\$ 11,608	\$ 14,404
Shareholders' equity	\$ 147,116	\$ 150,958	\$ 147,116	\$ 150,958
Return on shareholders' equity (1)	-1.2%	-5.4%	-1.6%	-6.4%

(1) Non-IFRS measure. See "Non-IFRS Financial Measures and Reconciliations" section.

(2) Includes bank indebtedness and outstanding cheques in excess of cash on hand.

(3) Includes current portion of long-term debt.

## HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2018

- In an environment of low commodity prices with diminished margin opportunities, the Corporation's gross profit decreased \$649 thousand or 21% compared to the same period in 2017 due to the decrease in net trading margin offset by increases in storage and rental income, and logistics and transloading revenue.
- Logistics and transloading revenue increased 224% compared to the same period in 2017.
- Storage and rental income increased 37% compared to the same period in 2017.

The Corporation's revenue is currently generated by its grain and logistics divisions. The revenues are predominantly composed of the sale of grain, storage and rental income, and transloading income. Since a significant portion of revenue is generated through 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.

The Corporation's grain division 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. Accordingly, management believes it is more important to focus on changes in gross profit than on changes in revenue dollars.

### For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 and March 31, 2017

#### Overall Performance

The Corporation's net loss was \$1.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2018, compared to a net loss of \$8.1 million in the same period of 2017. The net loss was attributed to seasonality from the closure of The Great Lakes and Mississippi River resulting in lower net trading margin. The prior year net loss was impacted by asset impairments of \$7.7 million. Gross profit was \$2.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2018 compared to a gross profit of \$3.0 million in the same period of 2017. Loss from operations was \$933 thousand for the three months ended March 31, 2018 compared to \$631 thousand of income from operations in the same period of 2017.

#### Revenues and Gross Profit

Total revenue decreased by \$30.4 million in the three months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. The Corporation handled and traded 16.3 million bushels of grain and oilseed sales in the third quarter of fiscal year 2018 compared to 21.9 million bushels in the same period of fiscal year 2017. The decrease was primarily driven by fewer international vessel shipments and a concerted effort to focus on higher margin trades during the three months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period of 2017.

The table below represents a summary of the components of gross profit for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

<i>(in thousands of USD)</i>	Three months ended March 31	
	2018	2017
Net trading margin	\$ 4,284	\$ 5,933
Storage and rental income	1,751	1,278
Logistics and transloading	720	222
Operating expenses included in Cost of sales	(3,082)	(3,328)
Depreciation expense included in Cost of sales	(1,274)	(1,057)
Gross profit (loss)	<u>\$ 2,399</u>	<u>\$ 3,048</u>

Gross profit decreased by \$649 thousand in the three months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. The quarter over quarter decrease in gross profit was driven by the decrease in net trading revenues offset by increase in storage and rental income, and logistics and transloading revenue.

### Net trading margin

Net trading margin decreased \$1.6 million in the three months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017 due to lower trading volumes quarter over quarter.

### Storage and rental income

Storage and rental income increased \$473 thousand in the three months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. The Corporation's storage and rental income increase was a result of a higher volume on third-party storage agreements.

### Logistics and transloading

The Corporation earns a service fee for handling liquefied petroleum gas ("LPG" or "propane"), industrial products and fertilizer at Northgate. Logistics and transloading revenue increased \$498 thousand in the three months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. The increase was due primarily to fertilizer transloading income, whose shipments began in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2017.

### Operating expenses and depreciation

For the three months ended March 31, 2018, operating and depreciation expense included in cost of sales decreased \$29 thousand compared to the same period in 2017.

### **General and Administrative Expenses**

General and administrative expenses totaled \$3.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2018 compared to \$2.4 million for the same period in 2017 due primarily to legal expenses of \$457 thousand related to ongoing litigation and the write-off of a single counterparty's account receivable balance of \$271 thousand.

### **Finance Income (Loss)**

Finance income (loss) is composed of realized and unrealized gains and losses on foreign exchange transactions and currency hedging transactions along with revaluation of portfolio investments. For the three months ended March 31, 2018, finance loss totaled \$56 thousand compared to finance loss of \$141 thousand for the same period in 2017. The finance loss decrease of \$85 thousand was due to foreign exchange gains.

### **Interest Expense**

<i>(in thousands of USD)</i>	Three months ended	
	March 31	
	<b>2018</b>	2017
Revolving credit facility	\$ (461)	\$ (414)
Repurchase obligations	-	(115)
Long-term debt	(205)	(226)
Other financing obligations	(2)	-
Amortization of financing costs paid	(98)	(126)
Total interest expense	<b>\$ (766)</b>	<b>\$ (881)</b>

The decrease in interest expense for the three months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017 of \$115 thousand was due to lower inventory levels during 2018 resulting in lower interest expense from the combination of revolving credit facility and repurchase obligations.

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

For the three months ended March 31, 2018, the Corporation incurred a loss in its net share in investments in associates of \$44 thousand compared to a loss of \$50 thousand for the same period in 2017.

## For the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2018 and March 31, 2017

### Overall Performance

The Corporation's net loss was \$2.4 million for the nine months ended March 31, 2018, compared to a net loss of \$9.6 million in the same period of 2017. The net loss was due primarily to ongoing litigation costs, lower net trading margin and non-cash items, which includes a loss on investments in associates and a loss on the revaluation of non-core portfolio investments, leaving our 17% interest in Canterra as our only core portfolio investment. The prior year net loss was impacted by asset impairments of \$7.7 million. Gross profit was \$9.7 million for the nine months ended March 31, 2018 compared to a gross profit of \$7.8 million in the same period of 2017. Income from operations was \$748 thousand for the nine months ended March 31, 2018 compared to a \$805 thousand income from operations in the same period of 2017.

### Revenues and Gross Profit

Total revenue decreased by \$98.0 million in the nine months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. The Corporation handled and traded 60.5 million bushels of grain and oilseed sales in fiscal year 2018 compared to 81.5 million bushels for the fiscal year 2017. The decrease was primarily driven by fewer international vessel shipments and a concerted effort to focus on higher margin trades during the nine months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period of 2017.

The table below represents a summary of the components of gross profit for the nine months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

<i>(in thousands of USD)</i>	Nine months ended March 31	
	2018	2017
Net trading margin	\$ 14,336	\$ 16,349
Storage and rental income	6,418	4,255
Logistics and transloading	2,166	669
Operating expenses included in Cost of sales	(9,445)	(10,123)
Depreciation expense included in Cost of sales	(3,730)	(3,361)
Gross profit (loss)	\$ 9,745	\$ 7,789

Gross profit increased by \$2.0 million in the nine months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. The year over year increase in gross profit was driven by the increase in storage and rental income and logistics and transloading revenue offset by the decrease in net trading volumes.

#### Net trading margin

Net trading margin decreased \$2.0 million in the nine months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017 due to lower trading volumes year over year.

#### Storage and rental income

Storage and rental income increased \$2.2 million in the nine months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. The Corporation's storage and rental income increase was a result of a higher volume on third-party storage agreements.

#### Logistics and transloading

The Corporation earns a service fee for handling liquefied petroleum gas ("LPG" or "propane"), industrial products and fertilizer at Northgate. Logistics and transloading revenue increased \$1.5 million in the nine

months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. The increase was due primarily to fertilizer transloading income. Shipments began in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2017.

#### Operating expenses and depreciation

For the nine months ended March 31, 2018, operating and depreciation expense included in cost of sales decreased \$309 thousand compared to the same period in 2017, as result of the closure and sale of non-strategic assets in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2017 and first quarter of fiscal year 2018 offset by fertilizer storage terminal which began operations in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2017.

#### **General and Administrative Expenses**

General and administrative expenses totaled \$9.0 million for the nine months ended March 31, 2018 compared to \$7.0 million for the same period in 2017 due to increased labor from the buildup of the grain merchandising and finance team, increased legal expenses related to ongoing litigation and bad debt expense. Ongoing litigation totaled \$1.1 million year to date. The write-off of a single counterparty's account receivable balance was \$271 thousand.

#### **Finance Income (Loss)**

Finance income (loss) is composed of realized and unrealized gains and losses on foreign exchange transactions and currency hedging transactions along with revaluation of portfolio investments. For the nine months ended March 31, 2018, finance loss totaled \$376 thousand compared to finance income of \$85 thousand for the same period in 2017. The finance loss increase of \$461 thousand was due primarily to the revaluation of portfolio investments offset by foreign exchange gains.

#### **Interest Expense**

<i>(in thousands of USD)</i>	Nine months ended	
	March 31	
	<b>2018</b>	2017
Revolving credit facility	\$ (1,452)	\$ (1,289)
Repurchase obligations	(37)	(115)
Long-term debt	(699)	(926)
Other financing obligations	(2)	-
Amortization of financing costs paid	(352)	(470)
Total interest expense	\$ (2,542)	\$ (2,800)

The decrease in interest expense for the nine months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017 of \$258 thousand was due to lower inventory levels.

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

For the nine months ended March 31, 2018, the Corporation incurred a loss in its net share in investments in associates of \$212 thousand compared to a loss of \$152 thousand for the same period in 2017.

## 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA

	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
Reporting dates	<u>3/31/2018</u>	<u>12/31/2017</u>	<u>9/30/2017</u>	<u>6/30/2017</u>	<u>3/31/2017</u>	<u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>9/30/2016</u>	<u>6/30/2016</u>	
(in thousands of USD except per share)	Q3 2018	Q2 2018	Q1 2018	Q4 2017	Q3 2017	Q2 2017	Q1 2017	Q5 2016	
Revenues	\$ 98,106	\$ 89,569	\$ 130,638	\$ 112,178	\$ 128,534	\$ 131,838	\$ 155,927	\$ 115,762	
Gross profit	\$ 2,399	\$ 4,283	\$ 3,063	\$ 52	\$ 3,048	\$ 2,870	\$ 1,871	\$ 1,863	
Income (loss) from operations	\$ (933)	\$ 1,162	\$ 519	\$ (2,522)	\$ 631	\$ 779	\$ (605)	\$ (335)	
Net income (loss)	\$ (1,802)	\$ 224	\$ (806)	\$ (4,040)	\$ (8,104)	\$ (153)	\$ (1,356)	\$ (1,480)	
Return on shareholders' equity <sup>1</sup>	-1.2%	0.1%	-0.5%	-2.7%	-5.4%	-0.1%	-0.9%	-0.9%	
Weighted-average number of common shares for the quarter	27,935	27,917	27,910	27,947	28,030	27,303	26,889	26,940	
Basic and fully diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$ (0.06)	\$ 0.01	\$ (0.03)	\$ (0.14)	\$ (0.29)	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.05)	\$ (0.05)	
EBITDA <sup>1</sup>	\$ 302	\$ 2,333	\$ 1,524	\$ (1,720)	\$ 1,568	\$ 2,002	\$ 744	\$ 539	
EBITDA per share	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.08	\$ 0.05	\$ (0.06)	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.02	
Shareholders' equity, as at reporting date	\$ 147,116	\$ 150,761	\$ 151,094	\$ 148,759	\$ 150,958	\$ 158,367	\$ 155,062	\$ 157,598	
Shareholders' equity per common share, as at reporting date	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.40	\$ 5.41	\$ 5.33	\$ 5.40	\$ 5.64	\$ 5.77	\$ 5.86	
<b>Volumes</b>									
Elevator bushels handled	11,495	14,342	22,874	26,099	16,055	20,021	25,030	18,726	
Direct ship bushels	4,797	2,610	4,363	3,580	5,809	4,641	9,912	9,405	

<sup>1</sup>Non-IFRS measurement. See "Non-IFRS Financial Measures and Reconciliations" section below for further information.



### 3. LIQUIDITY & CASH FLOW

<i>(in thousands of USD)</i>	Nine months ended	
	March 31	
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Net Cash Provided by (Used in)		
Operating activities	\$ 34,078	\$ 4,579
Investing activities	<u>(2,830)</u>	<u>(9,686)</u>
Net Cash Provided Before Financing Activities	31,248	(5,107)
Financing Activities	<u>(29,776)</u>	<u>6,056</u>
Foreign Exchange Cash Flow Adjustment on Accounts Denominated in a Foreign Currency	9	9
Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 1,481</u>	<u>\$ 958</u>

#### Operating Activities

Cash provided by operating activities was \$34.1 million for the nine months ended March 31, 2018. The \$29.5 million increase in cash provided by operating activities was primarily a result of lower inventory levels.

#### Investing Activities

During the nine months ended March 31, 2018, cash used in investing activities was \$2.8 million, which comprised of additions of property, plant and equipment. The \$6.9 million decrease in cash used in investing activities was primarily due to the completion of asset purchases for the fertilizer facility at Northgate in the prior year.

#### Financing Activities

During the nine months ended March 31, 2018, the Corporation used \$29.8 million in cash from financing activities. The \$35.8 million increase of cash used in financing activities was primarily due to the decrease of borrowings on the revolving line of credit as a result of cash generated from operations.

#### Available Sources of Liquidity

The Corporation's sources of liquidity as at March 31, 2018 include available funds under its revolving credit facility (the "Credit Facility"). Management believes that cash flow from operations will be adequate to fund operating expenditures, maintenance capital, interest, and any income tax obligations. Growth capital expenditures in the next twelve months are expected to be funded by cash on hand and borrowing against the Credit Facility. Any additional debt incurred is expected to be serviced by the anticipated increases in cash flow and will only be borrowed within the Corporation's debt covenant limits.

In addition, the Credit Facility, as at March 31, 2018, contains certain covenants, including a covenant that the Corporation maintain minimum working capital of not less than \$30.0 million. As at March 31, 2018 the Corporation's working capital – defined as current assets less current liabilities – totaled \$35.6 million. In addition to working capital, the covenants include the maintenance of "consolidated debt" to "consolidated tangible net worth" (as defined in the agreement) of not more than 4.0 to 1.0 and consolidated tangible net worth of not less than \$120.0 million. As at March 31, 2018, the Corporation was in compliance with all of the above mentioned financial covenants.

## Liquidity risk

As at March 31, 2018 and June 30, 2017, the following are the contractual maturities of financial liabilities, excluding interest payments:

<i>(in thousands of USD)</i> <u>March 31, 2018</u>	<u>Carrying amount</u>	<u>Contractual cash flows</u>	<u>1 year</u>	<u>2 years</u>	<u>3 to 5 years</u>	<u>More than 5 years</u>
Bank indebtedness	\$ 29,864	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	16,998	16,998	16,998	-	-	-
Unrealized losses on open cash contracts	2,580	2,580	2,580	-	-	-
Long-term debt	11,608	12,000	5,000	7,000	-	-
Operating lease obligations	-	1,283	501	385	397	-

<i>(in thousands of USD)</i> <u>June 30, 2017</u>	<u>Carrying amount</u>	<u>Contractual cash flows</u>	<u>1 year</u>	<u>2 years</u>	<u>3 to 5 years</u>	<u>More than 5 years</u>
Bank indebtedness	\$ 56,443	\$ 56,595	\$ 56,595	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	22,560	22,560	22,560	-	-	-
Unrealized losses on open cash contracts	14,066	14,066	14,066	-	-	-
Long-term debt	14,454	15,000	3,000	5,000	7,000	-
Operating lease obligations	-	1,652	517	456	679	-

Future expected operational cash flows and sufficient 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: the prompt settlement of amounts due from brokers, the active management of trade accounts receivable and the lack of concentration risk related thereto. The Corporation's cash flow management activities and the continued likelihood of its operations further minimize liquidity risk.

## **4. CAPITAL RESOURCES**

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

### **Credit Facility**

As disclosed in the Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for the three months and nine months ended March 31, 2018, on December 28, 2017 the Corporation renewed and amended its uncommitted credit facility to a maximum revolving facility amount of \$67.5 million. The agreement is set to expire on December 27, 2018. Borrowings bear an interest rate of overnight LIBOR plus 3.875% per annum, calculated and paid on a monthly basis. The Credit Facility is subject to borrowing base limitations. Amounts under the Credit Facility that remain undrawn are not subject to a commitment fee. The Credit Facility has certain covenants pertaining to the accounts of the Corporation, and as at March 31, 2018, the Corporation was in compliance with all covenants.

### **Term Loan**

In accordance with the Corporation's senior secured term loan facility agreement with Macquarie Bank entered into on December 30, 2014 and subsequently amended, a principal payment of \$3.0 million was paid on December 29, 2017. The next principal payment is payable on December 28, 2018 for the amount of \$5.0

million and the final principal payment is due on December 27, 2019 in the amount of \$7.0 million. The term loan has an interest rate of one month LIBOR plus 5.25%.

## **5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES**

### **Changes in Accounting Policies and Standards Issued But Not Yet Effective**

Refer to Note 4 of the Unaudited Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for information pertaining to accounting changes and information on standards issued but not yet effective for the period ending March 31, 2018.

### **Critical Accounting Estimates**

The discussion and analysis of Ceres' financial condition and results of operations are based upon the Corporation's Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, which have been prepared in accordance with IFRS. Ceres' significant accounting policies and accounting estimates are contained in the Annual Consolidated Financial Statements (see Notes 3 and 4, respectively, for the description of policies or references to notes where such policies are contained). The critical accounting estimates are valuation of investments and valuation of inventories and commodity derivatives, because they require Ceres to make assumptions about matters that are potentially uncertain at the time the accounting estimate is made and due to the likelihood that materially different amounts could be reported under different conditions or using different assumptions.

## **6. OUTLOOK**

### **Grain Division**

Volumes moved as expected during the third quarter of fiscal year 2018, with increases in most commodities to start the year and slowing slightly in March due to seasonal road restrictions. We have seen higher sales of crops that had been stagnant, like spring wheat and oats, although producers still favor canola and durum. Storage space was limited as rail delays on CN and CP railroads spilled over into some US carriers like the BN where values increased to \$1,000-\$2,500/car at times.

Crop prices in durum, spring wheat and canola were within an expected range with minimal price volatility, while oats prices decreased during March as forecasts began to show consumption declining and consequently higher ending stocks for the current crop year. The Canadian dollar peaked in early February and declined throughout the remainder of the quarter which brought some additional farmer sales in places where US dollar prices did not decline on various commodities across the northern prairies. End user coverage remains above average in most commodities, except for spring wheat where some of last summer's surpluses have now been moved through the system.

Farmer selling remains steady and disciplined in setting price targets. As we near the end of the crop year, lower origination prices could be expected if crop weather cooperates and planting starts well enough for farmers to sell their remaining crop inventories. This is particularly true for spring wheat. We have seen decent volumes in late April as road restrictions are lifted and these volumes begin to increase.

As a result of the above, we continue to expect average to above average volumes from high surplus inventories in most of our core commodities in the fourth quarter, contingent on favorable weather conditions.

### **Logistics Division**

The third quarter of fiscal year 2018 was similar to the second quarter as all current product lines maintained steady to increased volumes with minimal interruption: phosphate, urea, LPG, and other industrial products.

Koch Fertilizer Canada maintained steady movement of phosphate and urea through the NLC 26,000-ton warehouse, whereby product is brought in by rail and loaded out by truck for distribution to retailers who then sell to Canadian farmers. Volumes were slightly lower than expected leading up to the spring planting season, but close to what was projected for the year. The next surge in volume will happen in early fall.

The Corporation continues to transload LPG from inbound trucks into railcars for shipment into the US & Mexico markets via the BNSF from Northgate, Saskatchewan. As was the case through the second quarter, US demand has been strong and volumes continue to exceed expectations. We expect volumes will continue to surpass earlier estimates throughout the rest of fiscal year 2018.

In addition, the Corporation continues to explore opportunities to build out and further develop the NLC energy & industrial products transloading business with additional tenant customers and the potential to handle other types of energy and industrial products such as crude oil, oil field supplies, construction materials, and industrial parts and equipment. After testing several products, volumes are increasing, and that is expected to continue through the fourth quarter and the following fiscal year. The Corporation is in discussions with several counterparties about moving crude oil through Northgate and is working hard to test the viability of this move as a long-term opportunity.

Overall, movement of goods and products into Canada has been relatively unimpeded, however, U.S. customs had several requirements in order to broaden the approved product list. One major hurdle that was overcome was to become C-TPAT certified in April 2018, which is a customs and trade partnership on international supply-chain security. That alone will allow for the movement of some products. Meanwhile, the Corporation and BNSF are working on plans to add infrastructure needed to perform proper inspections, and that will allow for movement of the other products.

## **7. OTHER**

### **CONTROLS ENVIRONMENT**

#### **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 March 31, 2018, designed the 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 Controls 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 March 31, 2018, designed ICFR 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 CPA Canada (formerly The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants). There have been no material changes in the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting during the

three months ended March 31, 2018 that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting.

## FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

The Corporation's financial instruments and other instruments, including a discussion of risks and relevant risk sensitivities, can be found in Note 6 of the Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

## OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

As at March 31, 2018, the Corporation has engaged in \$1.3 million of operating lease obligations related to equipment, storage and office space. See "Liquidity & Cash Flow."

## RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The remuneration of key management personnel of the Corporation, which includes both members of the Board of Directors and leadership team including the President and CEO, CFO and Vice Presidents, is set out below in aggregate:

<i>(in thousands of USD)</i>	Three months ended		Nine months ended	
	March 31		March 31	
	<b>2018</b>	2017	<b>2018</b>	2017
Employee/director salaries and benefits	\$ 228	\$ 266	\$ 747	\$ 802
Share-based compensation	120	169	260	363
	<b>\$ 348</b>	\$ 435	<b>\$ 1,007</b>	\$ 1,165

## SHARES OUTSTANDING

As at May 9, 2018, the issued and outstanding equity securities of the Corporation consisted of 27,934,991 common shares. In addition, the Corporation has 1,384,337 stock options outstanding with a weighted-average exercise price of C\$5.96 per common share and 226,116 deferred share units outstanding.

## CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

See Note 16 of the Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for disclosure of the Corporation's contingencies as at March 31, 2018.

## 8. NON-IFRS FINANCIAL MEASURES AND RECONCILIATIONS

Certain financial measures in this MD&A and discussed below are not prescribed by and do not have a standardized meaning under IFRS. As such, they are unlikely to be comparable to similar measures presented by other issuers. These non-IFRS financial measures are included because management uses the information to analyze leverage, liquidity, and operating performance.

### Earnings Before Interest, Income Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization

The Corporation believes the presentation of EBITDA can provide useful information to investors and shareholders as it provides increased transparency. EBITDA is one metric that is used by management to determine the Corporation's ability to service its debt and finance capital. EBITDA excludes gains and losses on property, plant and equipment and assets held for sale, as these items are considered to be non-recurring in nature.

The following table is a reconciliation of EBITDA for Ceres on a consolidated basis for the three and nine months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

	Three months ended		Nine months ended	
	March 31		March 31	
<i>(in thousands of USD)</i>	2018	2017	2018	2017
Net income (loss) for the period	\$ (1,802)	\$ (8,104)	\$ (2,382)	\$ (9,613)
Add/(Deduct):				
Interest Expense	766	881	2,542	2,800
Revaluation of derivative warrant liability	-	-	-	(104)
Loss (Gain) on sale or property, plant and equipment	-	7,651	63	7,651
Income taxes (recovered)	2	12	(60)	4
Share of net (income) loss of associate	44	50	212	152
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment	1,292	1,078	3,787	3,425
	<u>\$ 302</u>	<u>\$ 1,568</u>	<u>\$ 4,162</u>	<u>\$ 4,315</u>

### Return on Shareholders' Equity

Ceres believes that the return on shareholders' equity can be an effective measure used to evaluate the performance of the business over time. Management uses this metric to analyze performance and set targets. Return on shareholders' equity is the quotient of the net income (loss) for the period and the total shareholders' equity as at the reporting date.

The following table is a calculation of return on shareholders' equity for the three and nine months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

	Three months ended		Nine months ended	
	March 31		March 31	
<i>(in thousands of USD)</i>	2018	2017	2018	2017
Net income (loss) for the period	\$ (1,802)	\$ (8,104)	\$ (2,382)	\$ (9,613)
Total shareholders' equity as at reporting date	\$ 147,116	\$ 150,958	\$ 147,116	\$ 150,958
Return on shareholders' equity	<u>-1.2%</u>	<u>-5.4%</u>	<u>-1.6%</u>	<u>-6.4%</u>

### Adjusted Net Income (Loss)

The Corporation believes that the adjusted net income (loss) can be an effective measure used to evaluate its profitability by excluding non-reoccurring items. In calculating adjusted net income, Ceres excludes gain (loss) on sale or impairment of property, plant and equipment, income (loss) from investments in associates, revaluation of warrants and legal expense related to ongoing litigation and one-time write-downs. Ceres may calculate adjusted net income differently than other companies; therefore, Ceres' Adjusted Net Income may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other issuers.

The following table is the adjusted net income (loss) for the three and nine months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

<i>(in thousands of USD)</i>	Three months ended		Nine months ended	
	March 31		March 31	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Adjusted net income (loss)	\$ (1,029)	\$ (363)	\$ (159)	\$ (1,377)

## 9. KEY ASSUMPTIONS & ADVISORIES

### 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, additional anticipated capital projects, construction and completion dates, including plans to further develop the NLC, 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

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:

- 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;
- Adequate and timely service from the railroad companies, and in particular from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad at the NLC;
- The ability of Ceres to successfully operate Northgate;
- The Corporation's ability to successfully defend itself against, or settle, the dispute with The Scoular Company and the costs of that dispute;
- Realization of economic benefits resulting from the synergies with NLC; and
- The Corporation's ability to maintain existing customer contracts and relationships coupled with its ability to increase its customer portfolio.

The preceding list is not an exhaustive list 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 the forward-looking statements herein, which are 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.