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# SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

## Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

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Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Under Rule 14a-12

## GREEN PLAINS INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

5) Total fee paid:

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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

1) Amount previously paid:

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

3) \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing party:

4) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Filed:

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Vote by Internet**

- Go to [www.envisionreports.com/GPRE](http://www.envisionreports.com/GPRE)
- Or scan the QR code with your smartphone
- Follow the steps outlined on the secure website

**Shareholder Meeting Notice****Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the  
Green Plains Inc. Shareholder Meeting to be Held on May 9, 2017**

Under Securities and Exchange Commission rules, you are receiving this notice that the proxy materials for the annual shareholders' meeting are available on the Internet. Follow the instructions below to view the materials and vote online or request a paper copy. The items to be voted on and location of the annual meeting are on the reverse side. Your vote is important!

**This communication presents only an overview of the more complete proxy materials that are available to you on the Internet. We encourage you to access and review all of the important information contained in the proxy materials before voting. The proxy statement and annual report to shareholders are available at:**

[www.envisionreports.com/GPRE](http://www.envisionreports.com/GPRE)

**Easy Online Access — A Convenient Way to View Proxy Materials and Vote**

**When you go online to view materials, you can also vote your shares.**

**Step 1:** Go to [www.envisionreports.com/GPRE](http://www.envisionreports.com/GPRE) to view the materials.

**Step 2:** Click on **Cast Your Vote or Request Materials**.

**Step 3:** Follow the instructions on the screen to log in.

**Step 4:** Make your selection as instructed on each screen to select delivery preferences and vote.

**When you go online, you can also help the environment by consenting to receive electronic delivery of future materials.**



**Obtaining a Copy of the Proxy Materials – If you want to receive a paper or e-mail copy of these documents, you must request one. There is no charge to you for requesting a copy. Please make your request for a copy as instructed on the reverse side on or before May 2, 2017 to facilitate timely delivery.**



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## Shareholder Meeting Notice

The 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Green Plains Inc. will be held at 10:00 a.m., Central Time, on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at the Aksarben Cinema located at 2110 S 67th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Proposals to be voted on at the meeting are listed below along with the Board of Directors' recommendations.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote **FOR** all nominees listed in Proposal 1, and vote **FOR** Proposals 2 and 3 and select 3 Years on Proposal 4.

1. To elect three directors to serve three-year terms that expire at the 2020 annual meeting: Jim Anderson, Wayne Hoovestol and Ejnar Knudsen III.
2. To approve an amendment to the Company's 2009 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan") to (i) add minimum vesting requirements for all grants at no less than one year for all but 5% of Awards under the Plan, and (ii) increase the aggregate number of shares that may be issued under the Plan as stock-based awards from 3,000,000 to 4,110,000;
3. To cast an advisory vote to approve the Company's executive compensation;
4. To cast an advisory vote on the frequency of holding an advisory vote on executive compensation; and
5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

**PLEASE NOTE – YOU CANNOT VOTE BY RETURNING THIS NOTICE. To vote your shares you must vote online, by telephone or request a paper copy of the proxy materials to receive a proxy card. If you wish to attend and vote at the meeting, please bring this notice with you.**



**Here's how to order a paper or email copy of the proxy materials and select a future delivery preference:**

**Paper copies:** Current and future paper delivery requests can be submitted via the telephone, Internet or email options below.

**Email copies:** Current and future email delivery requests must be submitted via the Internet following the instructions below.

If you request an email copy of current materials you will receive an email with a link to the materials.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You must use the number in the shaded bar on the reverse side when requesting a set of proxy materials.

g **Internet** – Go to [www.envisionreports.com/GPRE](http://www.envisionreports.com/GPRE). Click Cast Your Vote or Request Materials. Follow the instructions to log in and order a copy of the current meeting materials and submit your preference for email or paper delivery of future meeting materials.

g **Telephone** – Call us free of charge at 1-866-641-4276 and follow the instructions to log in and order a paper copy of the materials by mail for the current meeting. You can also submit a preference to receive a paper copy for future meetings.

g **Email** – Send email to [investorvote@computershare.com](mailto:investorvote@computershare.com) with "Proxy Materials Green Plains, Inc." in the subject line. Include in the message your full name and address, plus the number located in the shaded bar on the reverse, and state in the email that you want a paper copy of current meeting materials. You can also state your preference to receive a paper copy for future meetings.

To facilitate timely delivery, all requests for a paper copy of the proxy materials must be received by May 2, 2017.

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