

CHS INC
Form S-1/A
January 29, 2010

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 29, 2010
Registration No. 333-163608

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

**Amendment No. 1
to**

Form S-1

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

CHS INC.
(EXACT NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)

Minnesota
*(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)*

41-0251095
*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)*

5150
(Primary Standard Industrial Classification Code Number)

**5500 Cenex Drive
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota 55077
(651) 355-6000**
*(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of registrant's principal executive
offices)*

**David Kastelic
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
CHS Inc.
5500 Cenex Drive
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota 55077
(651) 355-3712
Fax (651) 355-4554**
*(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone
number,
including area code, of agent for service)*

**Copy to:
David P. Swanson
Michael W. Clausman
Steven D. Shogren
Dorsey & Whitney LLP
50 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
(612) 340-2600
Fax (612) 340-8738**

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after this registration statement becomes effective.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933 check the following box:

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Securities Act, may determine.

Table of Contents

The information in this preliminary prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This preliminary prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and we are not soliciting offers to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED JANUARY 29, 2010

**PROSPECTUS
Shares**

CHS Inc.

8% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock

We are issuing 1,470,588 shares of our 8% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock to redeem \$37,000,000 of our patrons equities. The shares will be issued to redeem our outstanding patrons equities on a pro rata basis. Subject to the exceptions described below in Plan of Distribution, shares of preferred stock issued in redemption of the patrons equities will be issued only to non-individual active members who have conducted business with us during the past five years and whose pro rata share of the redemption amount is equal to or greater than \$500. See Membership in CHS and Authorized Capital Patrons Equities for a description of patrons equities and our annual pro rata redemptions of patrons equities. The amount of patrons equities that will be redeemed with each share of preferred stock issued will be \$ which is the greater of \$25.16 (equal to the \$25.00 liquidation preference per share of preferred stock plus \$0.16 of accumulated dividends from and including January 1, 2010 to and including January 29, 2010) or the closing price for one share of the preferred stock on January , 2010. There will not be any cash proceeds from the issuance of the preferred stock. However, by issuing shares of preferred stock in redemption of patrons equities, we will make available for working capital purposes cash that otherwise would be used to redeem those patrons equities.

Holders of the preferred stock are entitled to receive cash dividends at the rate of \$2.00 per share per year. Dividends are payable quarterly in arrears when, as and if declared on March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31 of each year (each, a payment date), except that if a payment date is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the dividend is paid without interest on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. Dividends payable on the preferred stock are cumulative. The preferred stock is subject to redemption and has the preferences described in this prospectus. The preferred stock is not convertible into any other securities and is non-voting except in certain limited circumstances.

The preferred stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the trading symbol CHSCP. On January 26, 2010, the closing price of the preferred stock was \$27.80 per share.

Ownership of our preferred stock involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 8.

We expect to issue the preferred stock on or about January 29, 2010.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Edgar Filing: CHS INC - Form S-1/A

CHS Inc.

5500 Cenex Drive

Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota 55077

(651) 355-6000

The date of this prospectus is .

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	
<u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	8
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	14
<u>BUSINESS</u>	15
<u>ENERGY</u>	16
<u>AG BUSINESS</u>	20
<u>PROCESSING</u>	25
<u>CORPORATE AND OTHER</u>	28
<u>PRICE RISK AND HEDGING</u>	29
<u>EMPLOYEES</u>	30
<u>LEGAL PROCEEDINGS</u>	30
<u>PROPERTIES</u>	31
<u>MEMBERSHIP IN CHS AND AUTHORIZED CAPITAL</u>	33
<u>SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA</u>	37
<u>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS</u>	41
<u>QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK</u>	72
<u>MANAGEMENT</u>	74
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED STOCK</u>	75
<u>COMPARISON OF RIGHTS OF HOLDERS OF PATRONS' EQUITIES AND RIGHTS OF HOLDERS OF PREFERRED STOCK</u>	79
<u>MATERIAL FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES</u>	80
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	83
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	84
<u>EXPERTS</u>	84
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	84
<u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	85
<u>INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF CHS INC</u>	F-i
<u>EX-23.1</u>	

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different or additional information. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the securities to which it relates. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. The information in this prospectus is current as of the date on the front of this prospectus.

References in this prospectus, and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, to CHS, CHS Cooperatives, Cenex Harvest States Cooperatives, the Company, we, our and us refer to CHS Inc., a Minnesota cooperative corporation, and its subsidiaries. We maintain a web site at <http://www.chsinc.com>. Information contained in our website does not constitute part of this prospectus.

All references to preferred stock in this prospectus are to our 8% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock unless the context requires otherwise.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

The following summary highlights information we present in greater detail elsewhere in this prospectus and in the information incorporated by reference in it. This summary may not contain all of the information that is important to you and you should carefully consider all of the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. This prospectus contains forward-looking statements that are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements. These factors include those listed under Risk Factors and elsewhere in this prospectus.

CHS Inc.

CHS Inc. (referred to herein as CHS, we or us) is one of the nation's leading integrated agricultural companies. As a cooperative, we are owned by farmers and ranchers and their member cooperatives (referred to herein as members) across the United States. We also have preferred stockholders that own shares of our 8% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, which is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol CHSCP. On November 30, 2009, we had 10,976,107 shares of preferred stock outstanding. We buy commodities from and provide products and services to patrons (including our members and other non-member customers), both domestic and international. We provide a wide variety of products and services, from initial agricultural inputs such as fuels, farm supplies, crop nutrients and crop protection products, to agricultural outputs that include grains and oilseeds, grain and oilseed processing and food products. A portion of our operations are conducted through equity investments and joint ventures whose operating results are not fully consolidated with our results; rather, a proportionate share of the income or loss from those entities is included as a component in our net income under the equity method of accounting. For the fiscal year ended August 31, 2009, our total revenues were \$25.7 billion and our net income was \$381.4 million.

We have aligned our segments based on an assessment of how our businesses operate and the products and services they sell. Our three segments: Energy, Ag Business and Processing, create vertical integration to link producers with consumers. Our Energy segment derives its revenues through refining, wholesaling and retailing of petroleum products. Our Ag Business segment derives its revenues through the origination and marketing of grain, including service activities conducted at export terminals, through the retail sales of petroleum and agronomy products, processed sunflowers, feed and farm supplies, and records equity income from investments in our agronomy joint ventures, grain export joint ventures and other investments. As of September 2007, our Ag Business segment revenues also include sales of crop nutrient products due to the distribution of that business to us from our Agriliance LLC joint venture. Our Processing segment derives its revenues from the sales of soybean meal and soybean refined oil, and records equity income from wheat milling joint ventures, a vegetable oil-based food manufacturing and distribution joint venture, and through March 2008, an ethanol manufacturing company. We include other business operations in Corporate and Other because of the nature of their products and services, as well as the relative revenues of those businesses. These businesses primarily include our financing, insurance, hedging and other service activities related to crop production.

Membership in CHS is restricted to certain producers of agricultural products and to associations of producers of agricultural products that are organized and operating so as to adhere to the provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Act and the Capper-Volstead Act, as amended. Our Board of Directors may establish other qualifications for membership from time to time as it may deem advisable.

Our earnings from cooperative business are allocated to members (and to a limited extent, to non-members with which we have agreed to do business on a patronage basis) based on the volume of business they do with us. We allocate

these earnings to our patrons in the form of patronage refunds (which are also called patronage dividends) in cash and patron s equities (capital equity certificates), which may be redeemed over time at the discretion of our Board of Directors. Earnings derived from non-members, which are not allocated patronage, are taxed at federal and state statutory corporate rates and are retained by us as unallocated capital reserve. We also receive patronage refunds from the cooperatives in which we are a member, if those cooperatives have earnings to distribute and if we qualify for patronage refunds from them.

Table of Contents

Our origins date back to the early 1930s with the founding of the predecessor companies of Cenex, Inc. and Harvest States Cooperatives. CHS Inc. emerged as the result of the merger of those two entities in 1998, and is headquartered in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

Energy

We are the nation's largest cooperative energy company based on revenues and identifiable assets, with operations that include petroleum refining and pipelines; the supply, marketing (including ethanol and biodiesel) and distribution of refined fuels (gasoline, diesel fuel and other energy products); the blending, sale and distribution of lubricants; and the wholesale supply of propane. Our Energy segment processes crude oil into refined petroleum products at refineries in Laurel, Montana (wholly-owned) and McPherson, Kansas (an entity in which we have an approximate 74.5% ownership interest) and sells those products under the Cenex® brand to member cooperatives and others through a network of approximately 1,600 independent retail sites, of which two-thirds are convenience stores marketing Cenex® branded fuels.

Ag Business

Agronomy. Through our fiscal year ended August 31, 2007, we conducted our wholesale, and some of our retail, agronomy operations through our 50% ownership interest in Agriliance LLC (Agriliance), in which Land O Lakes, Inc. (Land O Lakes) holds the other 50% ownership interest. Prior to September 2007, Agriliance was one of North America's largest wholesale distributors of crop nutrients, crop protection products and other agronomy products based upon annual sales. Our 50% ownership interest in Agriliance is treated as an equity method investment, and therefore, Agriliance's revenues and expenses are not reflected in our operating results. At November 30, 2009, our equity investment in Agriliance was \$37.4 million.

In September 2007, Agriliance distributed the assets of the crop nutrients business to us, and the assets of the crop protection business to Land O Lakes. Due to our 50% ownership interest in Agriliance and the 50% ownership interest of Land O Lakes, each company was entitled to receive 50% of the distributions from Agriliance. Given the different preliminary values assigned to the assets of the crop nutrients and the crop protection businesses of Agriliance, at the closing of the distribution transactions Land O Lakes owed us \$133.5 million. Land O Lakes paid us \$32.6 million in cash, and in order to maintain equal capital accounts in Agriliance, they also paid down certain portions of Agriliance's debt on our behalf in the amount of \$100.9 million. Values of the distributed assets were finalized after the closing, and in October 2007, we made a true-up payment to Land O Lakes in the amount of \$45.7 million, plus interest. During fiscal 2009, the final true-up amount was determined, and we received \$0.9 million from Land O Lakes.

The distribution of assets we received from Agriliance for the crop nutrients business had a book value of \$248.2 million. We recorded 50% of the value of the net assets received at book value due to our ownership interest in those assets when they were held by Agriliance, and 50% of the value of the net assets at fair value using the purchase method of accounting. Values assigned to the net assets distributed to us totaled \$268.7 million.

Agriliance continues to exist as a 50-50 joint venture and primarily operates and sells agronomy products on a retail basis. During fiscal 2010, Agriliance sold a substantial number of retail facilities to various third parties, as well as to us and to Land O Lakes, with no sales pending. We are still attempting to reposition the remaining Agriliance facilities located primarily in Florida. During the three months ended November 30, 2009, we received \$40.0 million in cash distributions from Agriliance as a return of capital, primarily from the sale of Agriliance's retail facilities. In December 2009, we received an additional \$30.0 million in cash distributions from Agriliance.

After a fiscal 2005 initial public offering (IPO) transaction for CF Industries, Inc., a crop nutrients manufacturer and distributor, we held an ownership interest in the post-IPO company named CF Industries Holdings, Inc. (CF) of

approximately 3.9% or 2,150,396 shares. During the year ended August 31, 2007, we sold 540,000 shares of our CF stock for proceeds of \$10.9 million, and recorded a pretax gain of \$5.3 million, reducing our ownership in CF to approximately 2.9%. During the year ended August 31, 2008, we sold our

Table of Contents

remaining 1,610,396 shares of CF stock for proceeds of \$108.3 million and recorded a pretax gain of \$91.7 million.

There is significant seasonality in the sale of agronomy products and services, with peak activity coinciding with the planting and input seasons. There is also significant volatility in the prices for the crop nutrient products we purchase and sell.

Country Operations. Our country operations business purchases a variety of grains from our producer members and other third parties, and provides cooperative members and producers with access to a full range of products and services including farm supplies and programs for crop and livestock production. Country operations operates 382 locations dispersed throughout Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota and Washington. Most of these locations purchase grain from farmers and sell agronomy products, energy products, feed and seed to those same producers and others, although not all locations provide every product and service.

Grain Marketing. We are the nation's largest cooperative marketer of grain and oilseed based on grain storage capacity and grain sales, handling almost 1.8 billion bushels annually. During fiscal 2009, we purchased approximately 56% of our total grain volumes from individual and cooperative association members and our country operations business, with the balance purchased from third parties. We arrange for the transportation of the grains either directly to customers or to our owned or leased grain terminals and elevators awaiting delivery to domestic and foreign purchasers. We primarily conduct our grain marketing operations directly, but do conduct some of our business through joint ventures.

Processing

Our Processing segment converts raw agricultural commodities into ingredients for finished food products or into finished consumer food products. We have focused on areas that allow us to utilize the products supplied by our member producers. These areas currently include oilseed processing and our joint ventures in wheat milling and foods.

The Issuance

We are issuing 1,470,588 shares of our 8% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock to redeem \$37,000,000 of our patrons' equities. The shares will be issued to redeem our outstanding patrons' equities on a pro rata basis. Subject to the exceptions described below in Plan of Distribution, shares of preferred stock issued in redemption of the patrons' equities will be issued only to non-individual active members who have conducted business with us during the past five years and whose pro rata share of the redemption amount is equal to or greater than \$500. See Membership in CHS and Authorized Capital Patrons' Equities for a description of patrons' equities and our annual pro rata redemptions of patrons' equities. The amount of patrons' equities that will be redeemed with each share of preferred stock issued will be \$, which is the greater of \$25.16 (equal to the \$25.00 liquidation preference per share of preferred stock plus \$0.16 of accumulated dividends from and including January 1, 2010 to and including January 29, 2010) or the closing price for one share of the preferred stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on January , 2010. There will not be any cash proceeds from the issuance of the preferred stock. However, by issuing shares of preferred stock in redemption of patrons' equities, we will make available for working capital purposes cash that otherwise would be used to redeem those patrons' equities.

Terms of the Preferred Stock

Dividends

Holder of the preferred stock (which include both members and non-member third parties) are entitled to receive cash dividends at the rate

of \$2.00 per share per year when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors. Dividends are cumulative and are payable quarterly in arrears on March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31 of each year (each, a payment date), except that if a payment date is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the dividend

Table of Contents

is paid without interest on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

Liquidation Rights

In the event of our liquidation, holders of the preferred stock are entitled to receive \$25.00 per share plus all dividends accumulated and unpaid on the shares to and including the date of liquidation, subject, however, to the rights of any of our securities that rank senior or on parity with the preferred stock.

Rank

As to payment of dividends and as to distributions of assets upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of CHS, whether voluntary or involuntary, the preferred stock ranks prior to:

any patronage refund;

any other class or series of our capital stock designated by our Board of Directors as junior to the preferred stock; and

our common stock, if any.

Shares of any class or series of our capital stock that are not junior to the preferred stock, rank equally with the preferred stock as to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets.

Redemption at our Option

We may, at our option, redeem the preferred stock, in whole or from time to time in part, for cash at a price of \$25.00 per share plus all dividends accumulated and unpaid on that share to and including the date of redemption. We have no current plan or intention to redeem the preferred stock.

Redemption at the Holder's Option

In the event of a change in control initiated by our Board of Directors, holders of the preferred stock will have the right, for a period of 90 days from the date of the change in control, to require us to repurchase their shares of preferred stock at a price of \$25.00 per share plus all dividends accumulated and unpaid on that share to and including the date of redemption. Change in control is defined in Description of the Preferred Stock Redemption at the Holder's Option.

No Exchange or Conversion Rights, No Sinking Fund

The preferred stock is not exchangeable for or convertible into any other shares of our capital stock or any other securities or property. The preferred stock is not subject to the operation of any purchase, retirement or sinking fund.

Voting Rights

Holders of the preferred stock do not have voting rights, except as required by applicable law; provided, that the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the outstanding preferred stock will be required to approve:

any amendment to our articles of incorporation or the resolutions establishing the terms of the preferred stock if the amendment adversely

affects the rights or preferences of the preferred stock; or

the creation of any class or series of equity securities having rights senior to the preferred stock as to the payment of dividends or distribution of assets upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of CHS.

Table of Contents

No Preemptive Rights

Holders of the preferred stock have no preemptive right to acquire shares of any class or series of our capital stock.

Trading

The preferred stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol CHSCP.

Comparison of Rights

Holders of the preferred stock have different rights from those of holders of patrons equities. See Comparison of Rights of Holders of Patrons Equities and Rights of Holders of Preferred Stock below.

Risk Factors

Ownership of our preferred stock involves risks. See Risk Factors on page 10.

Table of Contents**Selected Consolidated Financial Data**

The selected consolidated financial information below has been derived from our consolidated financial statements for the periods indicated below. The selected consolidated financial data for the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008 and the years ended August 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included elsewhere in this filing. In May 2005, we sold the majority of our Mexican foods business and have recorded the Mexican foods business as discontinued operations. In the opinion of our management, the unaudited historical financial data were prepared on the same basis as the audited historical financial data and include all adjustments, consisting of only normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair statement of this information. Results of operations for the three-month periods are not necessarily indicative of results of operations that may be expected for the full fiscal year.

Summary Consolidated Financial Data

	Three Months Ended		Years Ended August 31,				
	2009	2008(1)	2009(1)	2008(1)	2007(1)	2006(1)	2005(1)
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)					
	(Dollars in thousands)						
Income Statement							
Data:							
Revenues	\$ 6,195,241	\$ 7,733,919	\$ 25,729,916	\$ 32,167,461	\$ 17,215,992	\$ 14,383,835	\$ 11,926,960
Cost of goods sold	5,992,580	7,413,412	24,849,901	30,993,899	16,129,233	13,540,285	11,438,470
Gross profit	202,661	320,507	880,015	1,173,562	1,086,759	843,550	488,488
Marketing, general and administrative	80,506	87,741	355,299	329,965	245,357	231,238	199,350
Operating earnings	122,155	232,766	524,716	843,597	841,402	612,312	289,138
Loss (gain) on investments		54,976	56,305	(29,193)	(20,616)		(13,010)
Interest, net	16,212	20,175	70,487	76,460	31,098	41,305	41,500
Equity income from investments	(32,166)	(20,723)	(105,754)	(150,413)	(109,685)	(84,188)	(95,740)
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	138,109	178,338	503,678	946,743	940,605	655,195	356,380
Income taxes	15,574	18,931	63,304	71,861	37,784	59,350	34,150
Income from continuing operations (income) loss on discontinued	122,535	159,407	440,374	874,882	902,821	595,845 (625)	322,220 16,810

operations, net of
taxes

Income	122,535	159,407	440,374	874,882	902,821	596,470	305,411
Income							
attributable to noncontrolling interests	2,585	22,156	58,967	71,837	146,098	91,079	49,821
Income							
attributable to CHS	\$ 119,950	\$ 137,251	\$ 381,407	\$ 803,045	\$ 756,723	\$ 505,391	\$ 255,590

Balance Sheet Data

(end of period):							
Working capital	\$ 1,699,435	\$ 1,777,865	\$ 1,626,352	\$ 1,738,600	\$ 821,878	\$ 848,344	\$ 766,800
Property, plant and equipment	2,124,823	1,970,357	2,099,325	1,948,305	1,728,171	1,476,239	1,359,533
Intangible assets	8,377,337	8,837,325	7,869,845	8,771,978	6,754,373	4,994,166	4,748,650
Long-term debt, including current							
maturities	1,061,375	1,168,377	1,071,953	1,194,855	688,321	744,745	773,070
Other intangible assets	3,406,205	3,243,876	3,333,164	3,161,418	2,672,841	2,201,397	1,926,590
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends(2)	6.4x	6.7x	4.6x	7.4x	10.1x	8.3x	4.7x

(1) Adjusted to reflect adoption of ASC 860-10-65-1; see Change in Accounting Noncontrolling Interests.

(2) For purposes of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends, earnings consist of income from continuing operations before income taxes on consolidated operations, distributed income from equity investees and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense and one-third of rental expense, considered representative of that portion of rental expense estimated to be attributable to interest.

Table of Contents

Change in Accounting Noncontrolling Interests

In December 2007, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 860-10-65-1, Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements, an Amendment of Accounting Research Bulletin (ARB) No. 51. ASC 860-10-65-1 establishes accounting and reporting standards that require: the ownership interest in subsidiaries held by parties other than the parent to be clearly identified and presented in the consolidated balance sheets within equity, but separate from the parent's equity; the amount of consolidated net earnings attributable to the parent and the noncontrolling interest to be clearly identified and presented on the face of the consolidated statements of operations; and changes in a parent's ownership interest while the parent retains its controlling financial interest in its subsidiary to be accounted for consistently.

We adopted ASC 860-10-65-1 at the beginning of fiscal 2010. In accordance with the accounting guidance, in order to conform to the current period presentation, we made reclassifications for all periods presented within our Consolidated Statements of Operations to net income to present the income attributable to noncontrolling interests as a reconciling item between net income and net income attributable to CHS Inc. Also, noncontrolling interests previously reported as minority interests have been reclassified for all periods presented to a separate section in equity on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. In addition, certain other reclassifications to our previously reported financial information have been made to conform to the current period presentation.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

*You should be aware that ownership of our preferred stock involves risks. In consultation with your own financial and legal advisers, you should carefully consider the following discussion of risks that we believe to be significant, together with the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, including the section entitled *Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements* and our consolidated financial statements and the notes to them. The value of any preferred stock that you own may decline and you could lose the entire value of your preferred stock.*

Risks Related to our Operations

Our revenues and operating results could be adversely affected by changes in commodity prices.

Our revenues, earnings and cash flows are affected by market prices for commodities such as crude oil, natural gas, fertilizer, grain, oilseed, flour and crude and refined vegetable oils. Commodity prices generally are affected by a wide range of factors beyond our control, including weather, disease, insect damage, drought, the availability and adequacy of supply, government regulation and policies and general political and economic conditions. We are also exposed to fluctuating commodity prices as the result of our inventories of commodities, typically grain, fertilizer and petroleum products, and purchase and sale contracts at fixed or partially fixed prices. At any time, our inventory levels and unfulfilled fixed or partially fixed price contract obligations may be substantial. In addition, we are exposed to the risk of nonperformance by counterparties to contracts. Risk of nonperformance by counterparties includes the inability to perform because of a counterparty's financial condition and also the risk that the counterparty will refuse to perform a contract during a period of price fluctuations where contract prices are significantly different than the current market prices. Increases in market prices for commodities that we purchase without a corresponding increase in the prices of our products or our sales volume or a decrease in our other operating expenses could reduce our revenues and net income.

In our energy operations, profitability depends largely on the margin between the cost of crude oil that we refine and the selling prices that we obtain for our refined products. Although the prices for crude oil reached historical highs during 2008, the prices for both crude oil and for gasoline, diesel fuel and other refined petroleum products fluctuate widely. Factors influencing these prices, many of which are beyond our control, include:

levels of worldwide and domestic supplies;

capacities of domestic and foreign refineries;

the ability of the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to agree to and maintain oil price and production controls, and the price and level of foreign imports;

disruption in supply;

political instability or armed conflict in oil-producing regions;

the level of consumer demand;

the price and availability of alternative fuels;

the availability of pipeline capacity; and

domestic and foreign governmental regulations and taxes.

The long-term effects of these and other conditions on the prices of crude oil and refined petroleum products are uncertain and ever-changing. Increases in crude oil prices without a corresponding increase in the prices of our refined petroleum products could reduce our net income. Accordingly, we expect our margins on, and the profitability of our energy business to fluctuate, possibly significantly, over time.

Table of Contents

Our operating results could be adversely affected if our members were to do business with others rather than with us.

We do not have an exclusive relationship with our members and our members are not obligated to supply us with their products or purchase products from us. Our members often have a variety of distribution outlets and product sources available to them. If our members were to sell their products to other purchasers or purchase products from other sellers, our revenues would decline and our results of operations could be adversely affected.

We participate in highly competitive business markets in which we may not be able to continue to compete successfully.

We operate in several highly competitive business segments and our competitors may succeed in developing new or enhanced products that are better than ours, and may be more successful in marketing and selling their products than we are with ours. Competitive factors include price, service level, proximity to markets, product quality and marketing. In some of our business segments, such as Energy, we compete with companies that are larger, better known and have greater marketing, financial, personnel and other resources. As a result, we may not be able to continue to compete successfully with our competitors.

Changes in federal income tax laws or in our tax status could increase our tax liability and reduce our net income.

Current federal income tax laws, regulations and interpretations regarding the taxation of cooperatives, which allow us to exclude income generated through business with or for a member (patronage income) from our taxable income, could be changed. If this occurred, or if in the future we were not eligible to be taxed as a cooperative, our tax liability would significantly increase and our net income significantly decrease.

We incur significant costs in complying with applicable laws and regulations. Any failure to make the capital investments necessary to comply with these laws and regulations could expose us to financial liability.

We are subject to numerous federal, state and local provisions regulating our business and operations and we incur and expect to incur significant capital and operating expenses to comply with these laws and regulations. We may be unable to pass on those expenses to customers without experiencing volume and margin losses. For example, capital expenditures for upgrading our refineries, largely to comply with regulations requiring the reduction of sulfur levels in refined petroleum products, were completed in fiscal 2006. We incurred capital expenditures from fiscal years 2003 through 2006 related to these upgrades of \$88.1 million for our Laurel, Montana refinery and \$328.7 million for the National Cooperative Refinery Association's (NCRA) McPherson, Kansas refinery. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has passed a regulation that requires the reduction of the benzene level in gasoline to be less than 0.62% volume by January 1, 2011. As a result of this regulation, our refineries will incur capital expenditures to reduce the current gasoline benzene levels to the regulated levels. We anticipate the combined capital expenditures for our Laurel, Montana and NCRA's McPherson, Kansas refineries to be approximately \$134 million, of which \$42 million has been spent through November 30, 2009.

We establish reserves for the future cost of known compliance obligations, such as remediation of identified environmental issues. However, these reserves may prove inadequate to meet our actual liability. Moreover, amended, new or more stringent requirements, stricter interpretations of existing requirements or the future discovery of currently unknown compliance issues may require us to make material expenditures or subject us to liabilities that we currently do not anticipate. Furthermore, our failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations could subject us to administrative penalties and injunctive relief, civil remedies including fines and injunctions, and recalls of our products.

Regulations and proposed legislation governing green house gas (GHG) emissions could adversely affect our results and financial condition.

The EPA has recently adopted regulations under the Clean Air Act requiring the owners of certain facilities to measure and report their GHG emissions. The regulations apply to our refineries and may also

Table of Contents

apply to other facilities which we own. The EPA may, in the future, limit GHG emissions. Also, proposed legislation is being considered by Congress to regulate GHG emissions which may include cap and trade provisions or a carbon tax. These regulations and proposed legislation could result in additional costs or a reduction in earnings to us and could have a material adverse affect on our results and financial condition.

Environmental liabilities could adversely affect our results and financial condition.

Many of our current and former facilities have been in operation for many years and, over that time, we and other operators of those facilities have generated, used, stored and disposed of substances or wastes that are or might be considered hazardous under applicable environmental laws, including liquid fertilizers, chemicals and fuels stored in underground and above-ground tanks. Any past or future actions in violation of applicable environmental laws could subject us to administrative penalties, fines and injunctions. Moreover, future or unknown past releases of hazardous substances could subject us to private lawsuits claiming damages and to adverse publicity. Liabilities, including legal costs, related to remediation of contaminated properties are not recognized until the related costs are considered probable and can be reasonably estimated.

Actual or perceived quality, safety or health risks associated with our products could subject us to liability and damage our business and reputation.

If any of our food or feed products became adulterated or misbranded, we would need to recall those items and could experience product liability claims if consumers were injured as a result. A widespread product recall or a significant product liability judgment could cause our products to be unavailable for a period of time or a loss of consumer confidence in our products. Even if a product liability claim is unsuccessful or is not fully pursued, the negative publicity surrounding any assertion that our products caused illness or injury could adversely affect our reputation with existing and potential customers and our corporate and brand image. Moreover, claims or liabilities of this sort might not be covered by our insurance or by any rights of indemnity or contribution that we may have against others. In addition, general public perceptions regarding the quality, safety or health risks associated with particular food or feed products, such as concerns regarding genetically modified crops, could reduce demand and prices for some of the products associated with our businesses. To the extent that consumer preferences evolve away from products that our members or we produce for health or other reasons, such as the growing demand for organic food products, and we are unable to develop products that satisfy new consumer preferences, there will be a decreased demand for our products.

Our operations are subject to business interruptions and casualty losses; we do not insure against all potential losses and could be seriously harmed by unexpected liabilities.

Our operations are subject to business interruptions due to unanticipated events such as explosions, fires, pipeline interruptions, transportation delays, equipment failures, crude oil or refined product spills, inclement weather and labor disputes. For example:

our oil refineries and other facilities are potential targets for terrorist attacks that could halt or discontinue production;

our inability to negotiate acceptable contracts with unionized workers in our operations could result in strikes or work stoppages;

the significant inventories that we carry or the facilities we own could be damaged or destroyed by catastrophic events, extreme weather conditions or contamination; and

an occurrence of a pandemic flu or other disease affecting a substantial part of our workforce or our customers could cause an interruption in our business operations, the effects of which could be significant.

We maintain insurance coverages against many, but not all potential losses or liabilities arising from these operating hazards, but uninsured losses or losses above our coverage limits are possible. Uninsured losses and liabilities arising from operating hazards could have a material adverse effect on our financial position or results of operations.

Table of Contents

Our cooperative structure limits our ability to access equity capital.

As a cooperative, we may not sell common stock in our company. In addition, existing laws and our articles of incorporation and bylaws contain limitations on dividends of 8% of any preferred stock that we may issue. These limitations restrict our ability to raise equity capital and may adversely affect our ability to compete with enterprises that do not face similar restrictions.

Consolidation among the producers of products we purchase and customers for products we sell could adversely affect our revenues and operating results.

Consolidation has occurred among the producers of products we purchase, including crude oil, fertilizer and grain, and it is likely to continue in the future. Consolidation could increase the price of these products and allow suppliers to negotiate pricing, supply availability and other contract terms that are less favorable to us. Consolidation also may increase the competition among consumers of these products to enter into supply relationships with a smaller number of producers resulting in potentially higher prices for the products we purchase.

Consolidation among purchasers of our products and in wholesale and retail distribution channels has resulted in a smaller customer base for our products and intensified the competition for these customers. For example, ongoing consolidation among distributors and brokers of food products and food retailers has altered the buying patterns of these businesses, as they have increasingly elected to work with product suppliers who can meet their needs nationwide rather than just regionally or locally. If these distributors, brokers and retailers elect not to purchase our products, our sales volumes, revenues and profitability could be significantly reduced.

In the fertilizer market, consolidation at both the producer and customer level increases the threat of direct sales from the producer to the consumer.

If our customers choose alternatives to our refined petroleum products our revenues and profits may decline.

Numerous alternative energy sources currently under development could serve as alternatives to our gasoline, diesel fuel and other refined petroleum products. If any of these alternative products become more economically viable or preferable to our products for environmental or other reasons, demand for our energy products would decline. Demand for our gasoline, diesel fuel and other refined petroleum products also could be adversely affected by increased fuel efficiencies.

Operating results from our agronomy business could be volatile and are dependent upon certain factors outside of our control.

Planted acreage, and consequently the volume of fertilizer and crop protection products applied, is partially dependent upon government programs, grain prices and the perception held by the producer of demand for production. Weather conditions during the spring planting season and early summer spraying season also affect agronomy product volumes and profitability.

Technological improvements in agriculture could decrease the demand for our agronomy and energy products.

Technological advances in agriculture could decrease the demand for crop nutrients, energy and other crop input products and services that we provide. Genetically engineered seeds that resist disease and insects, or that meet certain nutritional requirements, could affect the demand for our crop nutrients and crop protection products. Demand for fuel that we sell could decline as technology allows for more efficient usage of equipment.

We operate some of our business through joint ventures in which our rights to control business decisions are limited.

Several parts of our business, including in particular, portions of our grain marketing, wheat milling and foods operations, are operated through joint ventures with third parties. By operating a business through a

Table of Contents

joint venture, we have less control over business decisions than we have in our wholly-owned or majority-owned businesses. In particular, we generally cannot act on major business initiatives in our joint ventures without the consent of the other party or parties in those ventures.

Risks Related to the Preferred Stock

The preferred stock may not continue to qualify for listing on the NASDAQ Global Select Market.

Although the preferred stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, it may not continue to qualify for listing. For example, we may be unable to satisfy the requirements regarding independent directors as now or subsequently in effect. If our preferred stock were delisted, the liquidity of the market for the preferred stock could be reduced, possibly significantly.

The trading market for the preferred stock may not be maintained, which may limit your ability to resell your shares.

The trading market for the preferred stock may not be maintained or provide any significant liquidity. If you decide to sell your preferred stock, there may be either no or only a limited number of potential buyers. This, in turn, may affect the price you receive for your preferred stock or your ability to sell your preferred stock at all.

If you are able to resell your preferred stock, many factors may affect the price you receive, which may be lower than you believe to be appropriate.

As with other publicly traded securities, many factors could affect the market price of our preferred stock. In addition to those factors relating to CHS and the preferred stock described elsewhere in this Risk Factors section and elsewhere in this prospectus, the market price of our preferred stock could be affected by conditions in and perceptions of agricultural and energy markets and companies and also by broader, general market, political and economic conditions.

Furthermore, U.S. stock markets have experienced price and volume volatility that has affected many companies stock prices, often for reasons unrelated to the operating performance of those companies. Fluctuations such as these also may affect the market price of our preferred stock. As a result of these factors, you may only be able to sell your preferred stock at prices below those you believe to be appropriate. The trading price for the preferred stock may at any time be less than its issue price pursuant to this prospectus or its liquidation value.

Issuances of substantial amounts of preferred stock could adversely affect the market price of our preferred stock.

From time to time in the future, we expect to again issue shares of preferred stock to our members in redemption of a portion of their patrons' equities or other equity securities and may do so as frequently as annually. We expect these shares to be freely tradeable upon issuance to our members, and some or all members who receive preferred stock may seek to sell their shares in the public market. Furthermore, from time to time, we may sell additional shares of preferred stock to the public. Future issuances or sales of our preferred stock or the availability of our preferred stock for sale may adversely affect the market price for our preferred stock or our ability to raise capital by offering equity securities.

The terms of the preferred stock are fixed and changes in market conditions, including market interest rates, may decrease the market price for the preferred stock.

The terms of the preferred stock, such as the 8% dividend rate, the amount of the liquidation preference and the redemption terms, are fixed and will not change, even if market conditions with respect to these terms fluctuate. This may mean that you could obtain a higher return from an investment in other securities. It also means that an increase in market interest rates is likely to decrease the market price for the preferred stock.

Table of Contents

You will have limited voting rights.

As a holder of the preferred stock, you will be entitled to vote only on actions that would amend, alter or repeal our articles of incorporation or the resolutions establishing the preferred stock if the amendment, alteration or repeal would adversely affect the rights or preferences of the preferred stock or that would create a series of senior equity securities. You will not have the right to vote on actions customarily subject to shareholder vote or approval, including the election of directors, the approval of significant transactions and other amendments to our articles of incorporation that would not adversely affect the rights and preferences of the preferred stock.

Payment of dividends on the preferred stock is not guaranteed.

Although dividends on the preferred stock accumulate, our Board of Directors must approve the actual payment of those dividends. Our Board of Directors can elect at any time or from time to time, and for an indefinite duration, not to pay the accumulated dividends. Our Board of Directors could do so for any reason, including the following:

unanticipated cash requirements;

the need to make payments on our indebtedness;

concluding that the payment of dividends would cause us to breach the terms of any agreement, such as financial ratio covenants; or

determining that the payment of dividends would violate applicable law regarding unlawful distributions to shareholders.

We can redeem the preferred stock at our discretion, which redemption may be at a price less than its market price and may limit the trading price for the preferred stock.

We have the option of redeeming your shares at any time for \$25.00 per share plus any accumulated and unpaid dividends. If we redeem your shares, the redemption price may be less than the price you might receive if you were to sell your shares in the open market. In addition, the fact that the shares are redeemable may limit the price at which they trade.

The amount of your liquidation preference or redemption payment is fixed and you will have no right to receive any greater payment regardless of the circumstances.

The payment due upon a liquidation or redemption is fixed at \$25.00 per share plus accumulated and unpaid dividends. If we have value remaining after payment of this amount, you will have no right to participate in that value. If the market price for our preferred stock is greater than the redemption price, you will have no right to receive the market price from us upon liquidation or redemption.

Your liquidation rights will be subordinate to those of holders of our indebtedness and of any senior equity securities we have issued or may issue in the future and may be subject to the equal rights of other equity securities.

There are no restrictions in the terms of the preferred stock on our ability to incur indebtedness. We can also, with the consent of holders of two-thirds of the outstanding preferred stock, issue preferred equity securities that are senior with respect to liquidation payments to the preferred stock. If we were to liquidate our business, we would be required to repay all of our outstanding indebtedness and to satisfy the liquidation preferences of any senior equity securities

that we may issue in the future before we could make any distributions to holders of our preferred stock. We could have insufficient cash available to do so, in which case you would not receive any payment on the amounts due you. Moreover, there are no restrictions on our ability to issue preferred equity securities that rank on a parity with the preferred stock as to liquidation preferences and any amounts remaining after the payment of senior securities would be split equally among all holders of those securities, which might result in your receiving less than the full amount due you.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

The shares of preferred stock that are being issued pursuant to this prospectus and the registration statement of which it is a part are being issued to redeem \$37,000,000 of our patrons' equities. The shares will be issued to redeem our outstanding patrons' equities on a pro rata basis. Subject to the exceptions described below in Plan of Distribution, shares of preferred stock issued in redemption of the patrons' equities will be issued only to non-individual active members who have conducted business with us during the past five years and whose pro rata share of the redemption amount is equal to or greater than \$500. See Membership and Authorized Capital Patrons' Equities for a discussion of patrons' equities and our redemption of them. There will not be any cash proceeds from the issuance of preferred stock. However, by issuing shares of preferred stock in redemption of patrons' equities, we will make available for working capital purposes cash that otherwise would be used to redeem those patrons' equities.

Table of Contents

BUSINESS

We are one of the nation's leading integrated agricultural companies. As a cooperative, we are owned by farmers and ranchers and their member cooperatives (referred to herein as "members") across the United States. We also have preferred stockholders that own shares of our 8% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, which is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol CHSCP. On November 30, 2009, we had 10,976,107 shares of preferred stock outstanding. We buy commodities from and provide products and services to patrons (including our members and other non-member customers), both domestic and international. We provide a wide variety of products and services, from initial agricultural inputs such as fuels, farm supplies, crop nutrients and crop protection products, to agricultural outputs that include grains and oilseeds, grain and oilseed processing and food products. A portion of our operations are conducted through equity investments and joint ventures whose operating results are not fully consolidated with our results; rather, a proportionate share of the income or loss from those entities is included as a component in our net income under the equity method of accounting. For the fiscal year ended August 31, 2009, our total revenues were \$25.7 billion and our net income was \$381.4 million.

We have aligned our segments based on an assessment of how our businesses operate and the products and services they sell. Our three segments: Energy, Ag Business and Processing, create vertical integration to link producers with consumers. Our Energy segment derives its revenues through refining, wholesaling and retailing of petroleum products. Our Ag Business segment derives its revenues through the origination and marketing of grain, including service activities conducted at export terminals, through the retail sales of petroleum and agronomy products, processed sunflowers, feed and farm supplies, and records equity income from investments in our agronomy joint ventures, grain export joint ventures and other investments. As of September 2007, our Ag Business segment revenues also include sales of crop nutrient products due to the distribution of that business to us from our Agriliance LLC joint venture. Our Processing segment derives its revenues from the sales of soybean meal and soybean refined oil, and records equity income from wheat milling joint ventures, a vegetable oil-based food manufacturing and distribution joint venture, and through March 2008, an ethanol manufacturing company. We include other business operations in Corporate and Other because of the nature of their products and services, as well as the relative revenues of those businesses. These businesses primarily include our financing, insurance, hedging and other service activities related to crop production.

Membership in CHS is restricted to certain producers of agricultural products and to associations of producers of agricultural products that are organized and operating so as to adhere to the provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Act and the Capper-Volstead Act, as amended. Our Board of Directors may establish other qualifications for membership from time to time as it may deem advisable.

Our earnings from cooperative business are allocated to members (and to a limited extent, to non-members with which we have agreed to do business on a patronage basis) based on the volume of business they do with us. We allocate these earnings to our patrons in the form of patronage refunds (which are also called patronage dividends) in cash and patron's equities (capital equity certificates), which may be redeemed over time at the discretion of our Board of Directors. Earnings derived from non-members, which are not allocated patronage, are taxed at federal and state statutory corporate rates and are retained by us as unallocated capital reserve. We also receive patronage refunds from the cooperatives in which we are a member, if those cooperatives have earnings to distribute and if we qualify for patronage refunds from them.

Our origins date back to the early 1930s with the founding of the predecessor companies of Cenex, Inc. and Harvest States Cooperatives. CHS Inc. emerged as the result of the merger of those two entities in 1998, and is headquartered in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

Table of Contents

The following table presents a summary of our primary subsidiary holdings and equity investments for each of our business segments at November 30, 2009:

Business Segment	Entity Name	Business Activity	CHS Ownership %	Income Recognition
Energy	National Cooperative Refinery Association	Petroleum refining	74.5%	Consolidated
	Front Range Pipeline, LLC	Crude oil transportation	100%	Consolidated
	Cenex Petroleum, Inc.	Retail convenience stores	100%	Consolidated
	Cenex Pipeline, LLC	Finished product transportation	100%	Consolidated
Ag Business	Agriliance LLC	Retail distribution of agronomy products	50%	Equity Method
	CHS do Brasil Ltda.	Soybean procurement in Brazil	100%	Consolidated
	United Harvest, LLC	Grain exporter	50%	Equity Method
	TEMCO, LLC	Grain exporter	50%	Equity Method
	Multigrain A.G.	Grain procurement and production farmland in Brazil	40%	Equity Method
	CHS Europe S.A.	Grain merchandising in Europe	100%	Consolidated
	CHS Ukraine, LLC	Grain procurement and merchandising in Ukraine	100%	Consolidated
	CHS Vostok, LLC	Grain procurement and merchandising in Russia	100%	Consolidated
	ACG Trade S.A.	Grain procurement and merchandising in Russia	100%	Consolidated
	CHSINC Iberica S.L.	Grain merchandising in Spain	100%	Consolidated
Processing	Horizon Milling, LLC	Wheat milling in U.S.	24%	Equity Method
	Horizon Milling General Partnership	Wheat milling in Canada	24%	Equity Method
	Ventura Foods, LLC	Food manufacturing and distributing	50%	Equity Method
Corporate and Other	Country Hedging, Inc.	Risk management products broker	100%	Consolidated
	Ag States Agency, LLC	Insurance agency	100%	Consolidated
	Impact Risk Solutions, LLC	Insurance brokerage	100%	Consolidated
	Cofina Financial, LLC	Finance company	100%	Consolidated

Our segment and international sales information in Note 11 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, as well as the Selected Consolidated Financial Data section of this prospectus, are incorporated by reference into the following segment descriptions.

The segment financial information presented below may not represent the results that would have been obtained had the relevant segment been operated as an independent business due to efficiencies in scale, corporate cost allocations and intersegment activity.

ENERGY

Overview

We are the nation's largest cooperative energy company based on revenues and identifiable assets, with operations that include petroleum refining and pipelines; the supply, marketing (including ethanol and biodiesel) and distribution of refined fuels (gasoline, diesel fuel and other energy products); the blending, sale and distribution of lubricants; and the wholesale supply of propane. Our Energy segment processes crude oil into refined petroleum products at refineries in Laurel, Montana (wholly-owned) and McPherson, Kansas (an entity in which we have an approximate 74.5% ownership interest) and sells those products under the Cenex® brand to member cooperatives and others through a network of approximately 1,600 independent retail sites, of which two-thirds are convenience stores marketing Cenex® branded fuels. For the year ended August 31, 2009, our energy revenues, after elimination of intersegment revenues, were \$7.4 billion and are primarily from gasoline and diesel fuel.

Table of Contents**Operations**

Laurel Refinery. Our Laurel, Montana refinery processes medium and high sulfur crude oil into refined petroleum products that primarily include gasoline, diesel fuel and asphalt. Our Laurel refinery sources approximately 85% of its crude oil supply from Canada, with the balance obtained from domestic sources, and we have access to Canadian and northwest Montana crude through our wholly-owned Front Range Pipeline, LLC and other common carrier pipelines. Our Laurel refinery also has access to Wyoming crude via common carrier pipelines from the south.

Our Laurel facility processes approximately 55,000 barrels of crude oil per day to produce refined products that consist of approximately 48% gasoline, 37% diesel fuel and other distillates and 15% asphalt and other products. During fiscal 2005, our Board of Directors approved the installation of a coker unit at Laurel, along with other refinery improvements, which allows us to extract a greater volume of high value gasoline and diesel fuel from a barrel of crude oil and less relatively low value asphalt. The project became operational in April 2008, and had a total cost of \$418.0 million. Refined fuels produced at Laurel are available via the Yellowstone Pipeline to western Montana terminals and to Spokane and Moses Lake, Washington, south via common carrier pipelines to Wyoming terminals and Denver, Colorado and east via our wholly-owned Cenex Pipeline, LLC to Glendive, Montana, and Minot and Fargo, North Dakota. Primarily during fiscal 2008, we incurred approximately \$28 million in capital expenditures to construct two product terminals, one of which is tied into the Yellowstone Pipeline. Both new terminals are complete and include rail capabilities. These investments were undertaken to preserve our long-term ability to participate in western U.S. markets.

McPherson Refinery. The McPherson, Kansas refinery is owned and operated by National Cooperative Refinery Association (NCRA), of which we own approximately 74.5%. The McPherson refinery processes approximately 85% low and medium sulfur crude oil and 15% heavy sulfur crude oil into gasoline, diesel fuel and other distillates, propane and other products. NCRA sources its crude oil through its own pipelines as well as common carrier pipelines. The low and medium sulfur crude oil is sourced from Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, and the heavy sulfur crude oil is sourced from Canada.

The McPherson refinery processes approximately 80,000 barrels of crude oil per day to produce refined products that consist of approximately 52% gasoline, 45% diesel fuel and other distillates and 3% propane and other products. Approximately 32% of the refined fuels are loaded into trucks at the McPherson refinery or shipped via NCRA's proprietary products pipeline to its terminal in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The remaining refined fuel products are shipped to other markets via common carrier pipelines.

Renewable Fuels Marketing. In fiscal 2006, we acquired a 50% ownership interest in an ethanol and biodiesel marketing and distribution company, Provista Renewable Fuels Marketing, LLC (Provista), formerly known as United BioEnergy Fuels, LLC. In fiscal 2008, we acquired the remaining 50% ownership interest of Provista, and in fiscal 2009, Provista was merged into CHS. This business has been consolidated within our financial statements since 2006, and contracts with ethanol and biodiesel production plants to market and distribute their finished products. During fiscal 2009, total sales volumes were 343 million gallons.

Other Energy Operations. We own and operate a propane terminal, four asphalt terminals, seven refined product terminals and three lubricants blending and packaging facilities. We also own and lease a fleet of liquid and pressure trailers and tractors, which are used to transport refined fuels, propane, anhydrous ammonia and other products.

Products and Services

Our Energy segment produces and sells (primarily wholesale) gasoline, diesel fuel, propane, asphalt, lubricants and other related products and provides transportation services. We obtain the petroleum products that we sell from our

Laurel and McPherson refineries, and from third parties. For fiscal 2009, we obtained approximately 58% of the refined products we sold from our Laurel and McPherson refineries and approximately 42% from third parties.

Table of Contents**Sales and Marketing; Customers**

We make approximately 71% of our refined fuel sales to members, with the balance sold to non-members. Sales are made wholesale to member cooperatives and through a network of independent retailers that operate convenience stores under the Cenex/Ampride tradename. We sold approximately 1.3 billion gallons of gasoline and approximately 1.5 billion gallons of diesel fuel in fiscal 2009, excluding NCRA's sales to minority owners and others totaling approximately 351 million gallons. We also blend, package and wholesale auto and farm machinery lubricants to both members and non-members. In fiscal 2009, our lubricants operations sold approximately 19 million gallons of lube oil. We are one of the nation's largest propane wholesalers based on revenues. In fiscal 2009, our propane operations sold approximately 643 million gallons of propane. Most of the propane sold in rural areas is for heating and agricultural usage. Annual sales volumes of propane vary greatly depending on weather patterns and crop conditions.

Industry; Competition

The petroleum business is highly cyclical. Demand for crude oil and energy products is driven by the condition of local and worldwide economies, local and regional weather patterns and taxation relative to other energy sources, which can significantly affect the price of refined fuel products. Most of our energy product market is located in rural areas, so sales activity tends to follow the planting and harvesting cycles. More fuel-efficient equipment, reduced crop tillage, depressed prices for crops, weather conditions and government programs which encourage idle acres, may all reduce demand for our energy products.

Regulation. Governmental regulations and policies, particularly in the areas of taxation, energy and the environment, have a significant impact on our Energy segment. Our Energy segment's operations are subject to laws and related regulations and rules designed to protect the environment that are administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Transportation and similar government agencies. These laws, regulations and rules govern the discharge of materials to the environment, air and water; reporting storage of hazardous wastes; the transportation, handling and disposition of wastes; and the labeling of pesticides and similar substances. Failure to comply with these laws, regulations and rules could subject us (and, in the case of the McPherson refinery, NCRA) to administrative penalties, injunctive relief, civil remedies and possible recalls of products. We believe that we and NCRA are in compliance with these laws, regulations and rules in all material respects and do not expect continued compliance to have a material effect on capital expenditures, earnings or competitive position, of either us or NCRA.

Like many other refineries, our Energy segment's refineries recently focused their capital spending on reducing pollution emissions and, at the same, time increasing production to help pay for those expenditures. In particular, our refineries have completed work to comply with the EPA low sulfur fuel regulations that were required by 2006, which lowered the sulfur content of gasoline and diesel fuel. We incurred capital expenditures from fiscal 2003 through 2006 related to this compliance of \$88.1 million for our Laurel, Montana refinery and \$328.7 million for NCRA's McPherson, Kansas refinery. The EPA has passed a regulation that requires the reduction of the benzene level in gasoline to be less than 0.62% volume by January 1, 2011. As a result of this regulation, our refineries will incur capital expenditures to reduce the current gasoline benzene levels to the regulated levels. We anticipate the combined capital expenditures for our Laurel, Montana and NCRA's McPherson, Kansas refineries to be approximately \$134 million, of which \$42 million has been spent through November 30, 2009.

Competition. The petroleum refining and wholesale fuels business is very competitive. Among our competitors are some of the world's largest integrated petroleum companies, which have their own crude oil supplies, distribution and marketing systems. We also compete with smaller domestic refiners and marketers in the midwestern and northwestern United States, with foreign refiners who import products into the United States and with producers and marketers in other industries supplying other forms of energy and fuels to consumers. Given the commodity nature of the end products, profitability in the refining and marketing industry depends largely on margins, as well as operating

efficiency, product mix and costs of product distribution and transportation. The retail gasoline market is highly competitive, with much larger competitors

Table of Contents

that have greater brand recognition and distribution outlets throughout the country and the world. Our owned and non-owned retail outlets are located primarily in the northwestern, midwestern and southern United States.

We market refined fuels, motor gasoline and distillate products in five principal geographic areas. The first area includes the midwest and northern plains. Competition at the wholesale level in this area includes the major oil companies ConocoPhillips, Valero and Citgo, independent refiners including Flint Hills Resources and Growmark, Inc. and wholesale brokers/suppliers including Western Petroleum Company. This area has a robust spot market and is influenced by the large refinery center along the gulf coast.

To the east of the midwest and northern plains is another unique marketing area. This area centers near Chicago, Illinois and includes eastern Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. CHS principally competes with the major oil companies Marathon, BP Amoco and ExxonMobil, independent refineries including Flint Hills Resources and Growmark, Inc. and wholesale brokers/suppliers including U.S. Oil.

Another market area is located south of Chicago, Illinois. This area includes Arkansas, Missouri and the northern part of Texas. Competition in this area includes the major oil companies Valero and ExxonMobil and independent refiners including Lion. This area is principally supplied from the Gulf coast refinery center and is also driven by a strong spot market that reacts quickly to changes in the international and national supply balance.

Another geographic area includes Montana, western North Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Colorado and western South Dakota. Competition at the wholesale level in this area includes the major oil companies ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips and independent refiners including Frontier Refining and Sinclair. This area is also noted for being fairly well balanced in demand and supply, but is typically influenced by Canadian refined fuels moving into the U.S. through terminals in Canada and by rail from independent Canadian refiners.

The last area includes much of Washington and Oregon. We compete with the major oil companies Tesoro, BP Amoco and Chevron in this area. This area is also known for volatile prices and an active spot market.

Summary Operating Results

Summary operating results and identifiable assets for our Energy segment for the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008 and the fiscal years ended August 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007 are shown below:

	Three Months Ended		Years Ended August 31,		
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2007
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)			
	(Dollars in thousands)				
Revenues	\$ 2,264,580	\$ 2,550,552	\$ 7,639,838	\$ 11,499,814	\$ 8,105,067
Cost of goods sold	2,222,720	2,328,652	7,110,324	11,027,459	7,264,180
Gross profit	41,860	221,900	529,514	472,355	840,887
Marketing, general and administrative	27,890	27,832	125,104	111,121	94,939
Operating earnings	13,970	194,068	404,410	361,234	745,948
Gain on investments		(15,748)	(15,748)	(35)	

Edgar Filing: CHS INC - Form S-1/A

Interest, net	789	4,195	5,483	(5,227)	(6,106)
Equity income from investments	(1,106)	(1,236)	(4,044)	(5,054)	(4,468)
Income before income taxes	\$ 14,287	\$ 206,857	\$ 418,719	\$ 371,550	\$ 756,522
Intersegment revenues	\$ (81,245)	\$ (84,030)	\$ (251,626)	\$ (322,522)	\$ (228,930)
Total identifiable assets (at end of period)	\$ 3,052,065	\$ 2,987,219	\$ 3,025,522	\$ 3,216,852	\$ 2,797,831

Table of Contents

AG BUSINESS

Our Ag Business segment includes agronomy, country operations and grain marketing. Revenues in our Ag Business segment primarily include grain sales of \$13.0 billion, after elimination of intersegment revenues.

Agronomy

Overview

Through our fiscal year ended August 31, 2007, we conducted our wholesale, and some of our retail, agronomy operations through our 50% ownership interest in Agriliance LLC (Agriliance), in which Land O Lakes, Inc. (Land O Lakes) holds the other 50% ownership interest. Prior to September 2007, Agriliance was one of North America's largest wholesale distributors of crop nutrients, crop protection products and other agronomy products based upon annual sales. Our 50% ownership interest in Agriliance is treated as an equity method investment, and therefore, Agriliance's revenues and expenses are not reflected in our operating results. At November 30, 2009, our equity investment in Agriliance was \$37.4 million.

In September 2007, Agriliance distributed the assets of the crop nutrients business to us, and the assets of the crop protection business to Land O Lakes. Due to our 50% ownership interest in Agriliance and the 50% ownership interest of Land O Lakes, each company was entitled to receive 50% of the distributions from Agriliance. Given the different preliminary values assigned to the assets of the crop nutrients and the crop protection businesses of Agriliance, at the closing of the distribution transactions Land O Lakes owed us \$133.5 million. Land O Lakes paid us \$32.6 million in cash, and in order to maintain equal capital accounts in Agriliance, they also paid down certain portions of Agriliance's debt on our behalf in the amount of \$100.9 million. Values of the distributed assets were finalized after the closing, and in October 2007, we made a true-up payment to Land O Lakes in the amount of \$45.7 million, plus interest. During fiscal 2009, the final true-up amount was determined, and we received \$0.9 million from Land O Lakes.

The distribution of assets we received from Agriliance for the crop nutrients business had a book value of \$248.2 million. We recorded 50% of the value of the net assets received at book value due to our ownership interest in those assets when they were held by Agriliance, and 50% of the value of the net assets at fair value using the purchase method of accounting. Values assigned to the net assets distributed to us totaled \$268.7 million.

Agriliance continues to exist as a 50-50 joint venture and primarily operates and sells agronomy products on a retail basis. During fiscal 2010, Agriliance sold a substantial number of retail facilities to various third parties, as well as to us and to Land O Lakes, with no sales pending. We are still attempting to reposition the remaining Agriliance facilities located primarily in Florida. During the three months ended November 30, 2009, we received \$40.0 million in cash distributions from Agriliance as a return of capital, primarily from the sale of Agriliance's retail facilities. In December 2009, we received an additional \$30.0 million in cash distributions from Agriliance.

After a fiscal 2005 initial public offering (IPO) transaction for CF Industries, Inc., a crop nutrients manufacturer and distributor, we held an ownership interest in the post-IPO company named CF Industries Holdings, Inc. (CF) of approximately 3.9% or 2,150,396 shares. During the year ended August 31, 2007, we sold 540,000 shares of our CF stock for proceeds of \$10.9 million, and recorded a pretax gain of \$5.3 million, reducing our ownership in CF to approximately 2.9%. During the year ended August 31, 2008, we sold our remaining 1,610,396 shares of CF stock for proceeds of \$108.3 million and recorded a pretax gain of \$91.7 million.

There is significant seasonality in the sale of agronomy products and services, with peak activity coinciding with the planting and input seasons. There is also significant volatility in the prices for the crop nutrient products we purchase and sell.

Table of Contents

Operations

Our wholesale crop nutrients business sells approximately 5.8 million tons of fertilizer annually, based on an average of fiscal years 2009 and 2008, making it one of the largest wholesale fertilizer operations in the United States based on tons sold. Product is either delivered directly to the customer from the manufacturer, or through our 15 inland or river warehouse terminals and other non-owned storage facilities located throughout the country. In addition, our Galveston, Texas deep water port and terminal receives fertilizer by vessel from originations such as the Middle East and Caribbean basin where less expensive natural gas tends to give a price advantage over domestically produced fertilizer. The fertilizer is then shipped by rail to destinations within crop producing regions of the country. Based on fertilizer market data, our wholesale crop nutrients, sales account for approximately 11% of the U.S. market.

Primary suppliers for our wholesale crop nutrients business include CF, Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, Mosaic, Koch Industries, Yara, PIC (Kuwait) and Sabic America. During the year ended August 31, 2009, CF was the largest supplier of crop nutrients to us.

Products and Services

Our wholesale crop nutrients business sells nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulfate based products. During the year ended August 31, 2009, the primary crop nutrients products purchased by us were urea, potash, UAN, phosphates and ammonia.

Sales and Marketing; Customers

Our wholesale crop nutrients business sells product to approximately 2,100 local retailers from New York to the west coast and from the Canadian border to Texas. Our largest customers include Agriliance retail operations and our own country operations business, also included in our Ag Business segment. Many of the customers of our crop nutrients business are also customers of our Energy segment or suppliers to our grain marketing business.

Industry; Competition

Regulation. Our wholesale crop nutrients operations are subject to laws and related regulations and rules designed to protect the environment that are administered by the EPA, the Department of Transportation and similar government agencies. These laws, regulations and rules govern the discharge of materials to the environment, air and water; reporting storage of hazardous wastes; the transportation, handling and disposition of wastes; and the labeling of pesticides and similar substances. Failure to comply with these laws, regulations and rules could subject us to administrative penalties, injunctive relief, civil remedies and possible recalls of products. We believe that we are in compliance with these laws, regulations and rules in all material respects and do not expect continued compliance to have a material effect on our capital expenditures, earnings or competitive position.

Competition. The wholesale distribution of crop nutrients products is highly competitive and dependent upon relationships with local cooperatives and private retailers, proximity to the customer and competitive pricing. We compete with other large agronomy distributors, as well as other regional or local distributors, retailers and manufacturers. Major competitors in crop nutrients distribution include Koch Industries, Agrium, Terra Industries and a variety of traders and brokers.

Country Operations

Overview

Our country operations business purchases a variety of grains from our producer members and other third parties, and provides cooperative members and producers with access to a full range of products and services including farm supplies and programs for crop and livestock production. Country operations operates 382 locations dispersed throughout Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota and Washington. Most of these locations purchase grain from farmers and

Table of Contents

sell agronomy products, energy products, feed and seed to those same producers and others, although not all locations provide every product and service.

Products and Services

Grain Purchasing. We are one of the largest country elevator operators in North America based on revenues. Through a majority of our elevator locations, our country operations business purchases grain from member and non-member producers and other elevators and grain dealers. Most of the grain purchased is either sold through our grain marketing operations or used for local feed and processing operations. For the year ended August 31, 2009, country operations purchased approximately 418 million bushels of grain, primarily wheat, corn and soybeans. Of these bushels, 389 million were purchased from members and 280 million were sold through our grain marketing operations.

Other Products. Our country operations business manufactures and sells other products, both directly and through ownership interests in other entities. These include seed, crop nutrients, crop protection products, energy products, animal feed, animal health products and processed sunflowers. We sell agronomy products at 235 locations, feed products at 153 locations and energy products at 154 locations.

Industry; Competition

Regulation. Our country operations business is subject to laws and related regulations and rules designed to protect the environment that are; administered by the EPA, the Department of Transportation and similar government agencies. These laws, regulations and rules govern the discharge of materials to the environment, air and water; reporting storage of hazardous wastes; the transportation, handling and disposition of wastes; and the labeling of pesticides and similar substances. Our country operations business is also subject to laws and related regulations and rules administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Food and Drug Administration, and other federal, state, local and foreign governmental agencies that govern the processing, packaging, storage, distribution, advertising, labeling, quality and safety of feed and grain products. Failure to comply with these laws, regulations and rules could subject us to administrative penalties, injunctive relief, civil remedies and possible recalls of products. We believe that we are in compliance with these laws, regulations and rules in all material respects and do not expect continued compliance to have a material effect on our capital expenditures, earnings or competitive position.

Competition. We compete primarily on the basis of price, services and patronage. Competitors for the purchase of grain include Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Cargill, Incorporated (Cargill), local cooperatives and smaller private grain companies and processors at the majority of our locations in our trade territory, as previously defined in the Overview. In addition, Columbia Grain is also our competitor in Montana and North Dakota.

Competitors for our farm supply businesses include Cargill, Agrium, Simplot, Helena, Wilbur Ellis, local cooperatives and smaller private companies at the majority of locations throughout our trade territory. In addition, Land O Lakes Purina Feed, Hubbard Milling, ADM and Cargill are our major competitors for the sale of feed products.

Grain Marketing

Overview

We are the nation's largest cooperative marketer of grain and oilseed based on grain storage capacity and grain sales, handling almost 1.8 billion bushels annually. During fiscal 2009, we purchased approximately 56% of our total grain volumes from individual and cooperative association members and our country operations business, with the balance

purchased from third parties. We arrange for the transportation of the grains either directly to customers or to our owned or leased grain terminals and elevators awaiting delivery to domestic and foreign purchasers. We primarily conduct our grain marketing operations directly, but do conduct some of our business through joint ventures.

Table of Contents***Operations***

Our grain marketing operations purchases grain directly and indirectly from agricultural producers primarily in the midwestern and western United States. The purchased grain is typically contracted for sale for future delivery at a specified location, and we are responsible for handling the grain and arranging for its transportation to that location. The sale of grain is recorded after title to the commodity has transferred and final weights, grades and settlement price have been agreed upon. Amounts billed to the customer as part of a sales transaction include the costs for shipping and handling. Our ability to arrange efficient transportation, including loading capabilities onto unit trains, ocean-going vessels and barges, is a significant part of the services we offer to our customers. Rail, vessel, barge and truck transportation is carried out by third parties, often under long-term freight agreements with us. Grain intended for export is usually shipped by rail or barge to an export terminal, where it is loaded onto ocean-going vessels. Grain intended for domestic use is usually shipped by rail or truck to various locations throughout the country.

We own and operate export terminals, river terminals and elevators involved in the handling and transport of grain. Our river terminals are used to load grain onto barges for shipment to both domestic and export customers via the Mississippi River system. These river terminals are located at Savage and Winona, Minnesota and Davenport, Iowa, as well as terminals in which we have put-through agreements located at St. Louis, Missouri and Beardstown and Havana, Illinois. Our export terminal at Superior, Wisconsin provides access to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway and our export terminal at Myrtle Grove, Louisiana serves the gulf market. In the Pacific Northwest, we conduct our grain marketing operations through United Harvest, LLC (United Harvest) (a 50% joint venture with United Grain Corporation, a subsidiary of Mitsui & Co., Ltd. (Mitsui)) and TEMCO, LLC (a 50% joint venture with Cargill). United Harvest operates grain terminals in Vancouver and Kalama, Washington and primarily exports wheat. TEMCO, LLC operates an export terminal in Tacoma, Washington and primarily exports corn and soybeans. These facilities serve the Pacific market, as well as domestic grain customers in the western United States. We also own two 110-car shuttle-receiving elevator facilities in Friona, Texas and Collins, Mississippi that serve large-scale feeder cattle, dairy and poultry producers in those regions.

In 2003, we opened an office in Sao Paulo, Brazil for the procurement of soybeans for our grain marketing operations international customers. During the year ended August 31, 2007, we invested \$22.2 million in Multigrain AG (Multigrain) for a 37.5% equity position in a Brazil-based grain handling and merchandising company, Multigrain S.A., an agricultural commodities business headquartered in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The venture, which includes grain storage and export facilities, builds on our South American soybean origination and helps meet customer needs year-round. During the year ended August 31, 2008, we increased our equity position through a purchase from an existing equity holder for \$10.0 million, and also invested an additional \$30.3 million, which was used by Multigrain to invest in a joint venture that acquired production farmland and related operations including production of soybeans, corn, cotton and sugarcane, as well as cotton processing, at four locations. During fiscal 2009, we invested \$76.3 million for Multigrain's increased capital needs resulting from expansion of their operations. Our ownership interest in Multigrain is approximately 40%.

We have opened additional international offices between July 2007 and August 2009, including Geneva, Switzerland; Kiev, Ukraine and Vostok, Russia, for sourcing and marketing grains and oilseeds through the Black Sea and Mediterranean Basin regions to customers worldwide. We have announced our commitment to invest approximately \$30 million in a construction project in the port of Odessa, Ukraine, with the resulting port facility to have a grain storage capacity of 120,000 metric tons and the ability to load Panamax vessels at a pace of 20,000 metric tons per day. Offices in Hong Kong and Shanghai, China serve Pacific Rim customers receiving grains and oilseeds from our origination points in North and South America. The most recent grain merchandising office opened during fiscal 2009 is located in Barcelona, Spain, and subsequent to our fiscal year ended August 31, 2009, we opened another office in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Our grain marketing operations may have significant working capital needs, at any time, depending on commodity prices and other factors. The amount of borrowings for this purpose, and the interest rate charged on those borrowings, directly affects the profitability of our grain marketing operations.

Table of Contents

Products and Services

Our grain marketing operations purchased approximately 1.8 billion bushels of grain during the year ended August 31, 2009, which primarily included corn, soybeans, wheat and distillers dried grains (DDGs). Of the total grains purchased by our grain marketing operations, 698 million bushels were from our individual and cooperative association members, 280 million bushels were from our country operations business and the remainder were from third parties.

Sales and Marketing; Customers

Purchasers of our grain and oilseed include domestic and foreign millers, maltsters, feeders, crushers and other processors. To a much lesser extent purchasers include intermediaries and distributors. Our grain marketing operations are not dependent on any one customer, and its supply relationships call for delivery of grain at prevailing market prices.

Industry; Competition

Regulation. Our grain marketing operations are subject to laws and related regulations and rules designed to protect the environment that are administered by the EPA, the Department of Transportation and similar government agencies. These laws, regulations and rules govern the discharge of materials to environment, air and water; reporting storage of hazardous wastes; and the transportation, handling and disposition of wastes. Our grain marketing operations are also subject to laws and related regulations and rules administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Food and Drug Administration, and other federal, state, local and foreign governmental agencies that govern the processing, packaging, storage, distribution, advertising, labeling, quality and safety of food and grain products. Failure to comply with these laws, regulations and rules could subject us to administrative penalties, injunctive relief, civil remedies and possible recalls of products. We believe that we are in compliance with these laws, regulations and rules in all material respects and do not expect continued compliance to have a material effect on our capital expenditures, earnings or competitive position.

Competition. Our grain marketing operations compete for both the purchase and the sale of grain. Competition is intense and margins are low. Some competitors are integrated food producers, which may also be customers. A few major competitors have substantially greater financial resources than we have. In the purchase of grain from producers, location of a delivery facility is a prime consideration, but producers are increasingly willing to transport grain longer distances for sale. Price is affected by the capabilities of the facility; for example, if it is cheaper to deliver to a customer by unit train than by truck, a facility with unit train capabilities provides a price advantage. We believe that our relationships with individual members serviced by our local country operations locations and with our cooperative members give us a broad origination capability.

Our grain marketing operations compete for grain sales based on price, services and ability to provide the desired quantity and quality of grains. Location of facilities is a major factor in the ability to compete. Our grain marketing operations compete with numerous grain merchandisers, including major grain merchandising companies such as ADM, Cargill, Bunge and Louis Dreyfus, each of which handle significant grain volumes.

The results of our grain marketing operations may be adversely affected by relative levels of supply and demand, both domestic and international, commodity price levels (including grain prices reported on national markets) and transportation costs and conditions. Supply is affected by weather conditions, disease, insect damage, acreage planted and government regulations and policies. Demand may be affected by foreign governments and their programs, relationships of foreign countries with the United States, the affluence of foreign countries, acts of war, currency exchange fluctuations and substitution of commodities. Demand may also be affected by changes in eating habits,

population growth, the level of per capita consumption of some products and the level of renewable fuels production.

Table of Contents**Summary Operating Results**

Summary operating results and identifiable assets for our Ag Business segment for the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008 and the fiscal years ended August 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007 are shown below:

	Three Months Ended		Years Ended August 31,		
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2007
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)			
	(Dollars in thousands)				
Revenues	\$ 3,742,631	\$ 4,953,722	\$ 17,196,448	\$ 19,696,907	\$ 8,575,389
Cost of goods sold	3,613,941	4,889,570	16,937,877	19,088,079	8,388,476
Gross profit	128,690	64,152	258,571	608,828	186,913
Marketing, general and administrative	38,191	39,563	158,395	160,364	97,299
Operating earnings	90,499	24,589	100,176	448,464	89,614
Gain on investments			(2,285)	(100,830)	(5,348)
Interest, net	8,134	13,726	46,995	63,665	28,550
Equity income from investments	(9,315)	(8,890)	(18,222)	(83,053)	(51,830)
Income before income taxes	\$ 91,680	\$ 19,753	\$ 73,688	\$ 568,682	\$ 118,242
Intersegment revenues	\$ (4,316)	\$ (11,781)	\$ (39,919)	\$ (36,972)	\$ (18,372)
Total identifiable assets (at end of period)	\$ 3,425,802	\$ 4,035,230	\$ 2,987,394	\$ 4,172,950	\$ 2,846,950

PROCESSING**Overview**

Our Processing segment converts raw agricultural commodities into ingredients for finished food products or into finished consumer food products. We have focused on areas that allow us to utilize the products supplied by our member producers. These areas currently include oilseed processing and our joint ventures in wheat milling and foods.

Regulation. Our Processing segment's operations are subject to laws and related regulations and rules designed to protect the environment that are administered by the EPA, the Department of Transportation and similar government agencies. These laws, regulations and rules govern the discharge of materials to environment, air and water; reporting storage of hazardous wastes; and the transportation, handling and disposition of wastes. Our Processing segment's operations are also subject to laws and related regulations and rules administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Food and Drug Administration, and other federal, state, local and foreign governmental agencies that govern the processing, packaging, storage, distribution, advertising, labeling, quality and safety of food

and grain products. Failure to comply with these laws, regulations and rules could subject us, or our foods partners to administrative penalties, injunctive relief, civil remedies and possible recalls of products. We believe that we are in compliance with these laws, regulations and rules in all material respects and do not expect continued compliance to have a material effect on our capital expenditures, earnings or competitive position.

Oilseed Processing

Our oilseed processing operations convert soybeans into soybean meal, soyflour, crude soybean oil, refined soybean oil and associated byproducts. These operations are conducted at a facility in Mankato, Minnesota that can crush approximately 40 million bushels of soybeans on an annual basis, producing

Table of Contents

approximately 960,000 short tons of soybean meal and 460 million pounds of crude soybean oil. The same facility is able to process approximately 1 billion pounds of refined soybean oil annually. Another crushing facility in Fairmont, Minnesota has a crushing capacity of over 45 million bushels of soybeans on an annual basis.

Our oilseed processing operations produce three primary products: refined oils, soybean meal and soyflour. Refined oils are used in processed foods, such as margarine, shortening, salad dressings and baked goods, as well as methyl ester/biodiesel production, and to a lesser extent, for certain industrial uses such as plastics, inks and paints. Soybean meal has high protein content and is used for feeding livestock. Soyflour is used in the baking industry, as a milk replacement in animal feed and in industrial applications. We produce approximately 60,000 tons of soyflour annually, and approximately 20% is further processed at our manufacturing facility in Hutchinson, Kansas, which was a business acquisition in April 2008. This facility manufactures unflavored and flavored textured soy proteins used in human and pet food products, and accounted for approximately 2% of our oilseed processing annual sales in fiscal 2009.

Our soy processing facilities are located in areas with a strong production base of soybeans and end-user market for the meal and soyflour. We purchase virtually all of our soybeans from members. Our oilseed crushing operations currently produce approximately 95% of the crude soybean oil that we refine and purchase the balance from outside suppliers.

Our customers for refined oil are principally large food product companies located throughout the United States. However, over 50% of our customers are located in the midwest due to relatively lower freight costs and slightly higher profitability potential. Our largest customer for refined oil products is Ventura Foods, LLC (Ventura Foods), in which we hold a 50% ownership interest and with which we have a long-term supply agreement to supply minimum quantities of edible soybean oils as long as we maintain a minimum 25.5% ownership interest and our price is competitive with other suppliers of the product. Our sales to Ventura Foods accounted for 22% of our soybean oil sold during fiscal 2009. We also sell soy meal to about 350 customers, primarily feed lots and feed mills in southern Minnesota. In fiscal 2009, Commodity Specialists Company accounted for 18% of our soy meal sold. We sell soyflour to customers in the baking industry both domestically and for export.

The refined soybean products industry is highly competitive. Major industry competitors include ADM, Cargill, Ag Processing Inc. and Bunge. These and other competitors have acquired other processors, expanded existing plants or constructed new plants, both domestically and internationally. Price, transportation costs, services and product quality drive competition. We estimate that we have a market share of approximately 4% to 5% of the domestic refined soybean oil and also the domestic soybean crushing capacity.

Soybeans are a commodity and their price can fluctuate significantly depending on production levels, demand for the products and other supply factors.

Wheat Milling

In January 2002, we formed a joint venture with Cargill named Horizon Milling, LLC (Horizon Milling), in which we hold an ownership interest of 24%, with Cargill owning the remaining 76%. Horizon Milling is the largest U.S. wheat miller based on output volume. We own five mills that we lease to Horizon Milling. Sales and purchases of wheat and durum by us to Horizon Milling during fiscal 2009 were \$395.8 million and \$2.7 million, respectively. Horizon Milling's advance payments on grain to us were \$15.1 million on August 31, 2009 and are included in customer advance payments on our Consolidated Balance Sheet. We account for Horizon Milling using the equity method of accounting and on November 30, 2009, our investment was \$51.3 million. On November 30, 2009, our net book value of assets leased to Horizon Milling was \$63.4 million.

During the year ended August 31, 2007, we invested \$15.6 million in Horizon Milling G.P. (24% CHS ownership with Cargill owning the remaining 76%), a joint venture that acquired the Canadian grain-based foodservice and industrial businesses of Smucker Foods of Canada, which includes three flour milling operations and two dry baking mixing facilities in Canada. During the year ended August 31, 2008, we

Table of Contents

invested an additional \$1.9 million in Horizon Milling G.P. We account for the investment using the equity method of accounting and on November 30, 2009, our investment was \$18.4 million.

Foods

Our primary focus in the foods area is Ventura Foods, LLC (Ventura Foods) which produces and distributes vegetable oil-based products such as margarine, salad dressing and other food products. Ventura Foods was created in 1996 and is owned 50% by us and 50% by Wilsey Foods, Inc., a majority owned subsidiary of Mitsui. We account for our Ventura Foods investment under the equity method of accounting and on November 30, 2009, our investment was \$251.7 million.

Ventura Foods manufactures, packages, distributes and markets bulk margarine, salad dressings, mayonnaise, salad oils, syrups, soup bases and sauces, many of which utilize soybean oil as a primary ingredient. Approximately 40% of Ventura Foods' volume, based on sales, comes from products for which Ventura Foods owns the brand, while the remainder comes from products that it produces for third parties. A variety of Ventura Foods' product formulations and processes are proprietary to it or its customers. Ventura Foods is the largest manufacturer of margarine for the foodservice sector in the U.S. and is a major producer of many other products.

Ventura Foods currently has 11 manufacturing and distribution locations across the United States. Ventura Foods sources its raw materials, which consist primarily of soybean oil, canola oil, cottonseed oil, peanut oil and other ingredients and supplies, from various national suppliers, including our oilseed processing operations. It sells the products it manufactures to third parties as a contract manufacturer, as well as directly to retailers, food distribution companies and large institutional food service companies. Ventura Foods sales are approximately 60% in foodservice and the remainder is split between retail and industrial customers who use edible oil products as ingredients in foods they manufacture for resale. During Ventura Foods' 2009 fiscal year, Sysco accounted for 23% of its net sales.

Ventura Foods competes with a variety of large companies in the food manufacturing industry. Major competitors include ADM, Cargill, Bunge, Unilever, ConAgra, ACH Food Companies, Smuckers, Kraft, CF Sauer, Ken's, Marzetti and Nestle.

Renewable Fuels

In fiscal 2006, we purchased \$70.0 million of common stock in US BioEnergy, an ethanol production company, representing an approximate 24% ownership interest on August 31, 2006. During the year ended August 31, 2007, we made additional investments of \$45.4 million. In December 2006, US BioEnergy completed an IPO, and the effect of the issuance of additional shares of its stock was to dilute our ownership interest from approximately 25% to 21%. In addition, on August 29, 2007, US BioEnergy completed an acquisition with total aggregate net consideration comprised of the issuance of US BioEnergy common stock and cash. Due to US BioEnergy's increase in equity, primarily from these two transactions, we recognized a non-cash net gain of \$15.3 million on our investment during the year ended August 31, 2007, to reflect our proportionate share of the increase in the underlying equity of US BioEnergy. During the first quarter of fiscal 2008, we purchased additional shares of US BioEnergy common stock for \$6.5 million. Through March 31, 2008, we were recognizing our share of the earnings of US BioEnergy, using the equity method of accounting. Effective April 1, 2008, US BioEnergy and VeraSun Energy Corporation (VeraSun) completed a merger, and our ownership interest in the combined entity was reduced to approximately 8%, compared to an approximate 20% interest in US BioEnergy prior to the merger. As part of the merger transaction, our shares held in US BioEnergy were converted to shares held in the surviving company, VeraSun, at 0.810 per share. As a result of our change in ownership interest, we no longer had significant influence, and therefore, no longer accounted for VeraSun using the equity method. Due to the continued decline of the ethanol industry and other considerations, we determined that an impairment of our VeraSun investment was necessary during fiscal 2008, and as a result, based

on VeraSun's market value of \$5.76 per share on August 29, 2008, an impairment charge of \$71.7 million was recorded in loss (gain) on investments. Subsequent to August 31, 2008, the market value of VeraSun's stock price continued to decline, and on October 31, 2008, VeraSun filed for relief

Table of Contents

under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. Consequently, we determined an additional impairment was necessary based on VeraSun's market value of \$0.28 per share on November 3, 2008, and recorded an impairment charge of \$70.7 million during our first quarter of fiscal 2009. Due to the outcome of the VeraSun bankruptcy, during the third quarter of fiscal 2009, we wrote off the remaining investment of \$3.6 million. The impairments did not affect our cash flows and did not have a bearing upon our compliance with any covenants under our credit facilities.

Summary Operating Results

Summary operating results and identifiable assets for our Processing segment for the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008 and the fiscal years ended August 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007 are shown below:

	Three Months Ended		Years Ended August 31,		
	November 30,	2008	2009	2008	2007
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2007
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Dollars in thousands)		
Revenues	\$ 264,099	\$ 310,890	\$ 1,142,636	\$ 1,299,209	\$ 754,743
Cost of goods sold	244,084	292,582	1,099,177	1,240,944	726,510
Gross profit	20,015	18,308	43,459	58,265	28,233
Marketing, general and administrative	5,549	6,749	25,724	26,089	23,545
Operating earnings	14,466	11,559	17,735	32,176	4,688
Loss (gain) on investments		70,724	74,338	72,602	(15,268)
Interest, net	5,057	3,757	21,841	21,995	14,783
Equity income from investments	(21,369)	(10,230)	(82,525)	(56,615)	(48,446)
Income (loss) before income taxes	\$ 30,778	\$ (52,692)	\$ 4,081	\$ (5,806)	\$ 53,619
Intersegment revenues	\$ (982)	\$ (559)	\$ (2,759)	\$ (338)	\$ (370)
Total identifiable assets (at end of period)	\$ 677,455	\$ 617,678	\$ 685,865	\$ 748,989	\$ 681,118

CORPORATE AND OTHER**Business Solutions**

Financial Services. We have provided open account financing to approximately 100 of our members that are cooperatives (cooperative association members) in the past year. These arrangements involve the discretionary extension of credit in the form of a clearing account for settlement of grain purchases and as a cash management tool.

Cofina Financial, LLC. Cofina Financial, LLC (Cofina Financial), a finance company formed in fiscal 2005, makes seasonal and term loans to member cooperatives and individuals. Through August 31, 2008, we accounted for our 49% ownership interest in Cofina Financial using the equity method of accounting. On September 1, 2008, Cofina

Financial became a wholly-owned subsidiary when we purchased the remaining 51% ownership interest for \$53.3 million, which included cash of \$48.5 million and the assumption of certain liabilities of \$4.8 million.

Country Hedging, Inc. Our wholly-owned subsidiary, Country Hedging, Inc., is a registered futures commission merchant and a clearing member of both the Minneapolis Grain Exchange and the Kansas City Board of Trade, and is also a full-service commodity futures and options broker.

Ag States Group. Our wholly-owned subsidiary, Ag States Agency, LLC, is an independent insurance agency. It sells insurance, including group benefits, property and casualty and bonding programs. Its approximately 2,000 customers are primarily agricultural businesses, including local cooperatives and

Table of Contents

independent elevators, petroleum outlets, agronomy, feed and seed plants, implement dealers, fruit and vegetable packers/warehouses and food processors. Impact Risk Solutions, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ag States Agency, LLC, conducts the insurance brokerage business of Ag States Group.

PRICE RISK AND HEDGING

When we enter into a commodity purchase or sales commitment, we incur risks related to price change and performance (including delivery, quality, quantity and shipment period). We are exposed to risk of loss in the market value of positions held, consisting of inventory and purchase contracts at a fixed or partially fixed price in the event market prices decrease. We are also exposed to risk of loss on our fixed price or partially fixed price sales contracts in the event market prices increase.

Our hedging activities reduce the effects of price volatility, thereby protecting against adverse short-term price movements, but also limit the benefits of short-term price movements. To reduce the price change risks associated with holding fixed price commitments, we generally take opposite and offsetting positions by entering into commodity futures contracts or options, to the extent practical, in order to arrive at a net commodity position within the formal position limits we have established and deemed prudent for each commodity. These contracts are purchased and sold on regulated commodity futures exchanges for grain, and regulated mercantile exchanges for refined products and crude oil. We also use over-the-counter (OTC) instruments to hedge our exposure on flat price fluctuations. The price risk we encounter for crude oil and most of the grain and oilseed volume we handle can be hedged. Price risk associated with fertilizer and certain grains cannot be hedged because there are no futures for these commodities and, as a result, risk is managed through the use of forward sales contracts and other pricing arrangements and, to some extent, cross-commodity futures hedging. These contracts are economic hedges of price risk, but are not designated or accounted for as hedging instruments for accounting purposes in any of our operations. They are recorded on our Consolidated Balance Sheets at fair values based on quotes listed on regulated commodity exchanges or are based on the market prices of the underlying products listed on the exchanges, with the exception of fertilizer and propane contracts, which are accounted for as normal purchase and normal sales transactions. Unrealized gains and losses on these contracts are recognized in cost of goods sold in our Consolidated Statements of Operations using market-based prices.

When a futures contract is entered into, an initial margin deposit must be sent to the applicable exchange or broker. The amount of the deposit is set by the exchange and varies by commodity. If the market price of a short futures contract increases, then an additional maintenance margin deposit would be required. Similarly, if the price of a long futures contract decreases, a maintenance margin deposit would be required and sent to the applicable exchange. Subsequent price changes could require additional maintenance margins or could result in the return of maintenance margins.

Our policy is to primarily maintain hedged positions in grain and oilseed. Our profitability from operations is primarily derived from margins on products sold and grain merchandised, not from hedging transactions. At any one time, inventory and purchase contracts for delivery to us may be substantial. We have risk management policies and procedures that include net position limits. These limits are defined for each commodity and include both trader and management limits. The policy and computerized procedures in our grain marketing operations require a review by operations management when any trader is outside of position limits and also a review by our senior management if operating areas are outside of position limits. A similar process is used in our energy and wholesale crop nutrients operations. The position limits are reviewed, at least annually, with our management and Board of Directors. We monitor current market conditions and may expand or reduce our net position limits or procedures in response to changes in those conditions. In addition, all purchase and sales contracts are subject to credit approvals and appropriate terms and conditions.

Hedging arrangements do not protect against nonperformance by counterparties to contracts. We primarily use exchange traded instruments, which minimize our counterparty exposure. We evaluate that exposure by reviewing contracts and adjusting the values to reflect potential nonperformance. Risk of nonperformance by counterparties includes the inability to perform because of a counterparty's financial condition and also the risk that the counterparty will refuse to perform on a contract during periods of price fluctuations where

Table of Contents

contract prices are significantly different than the current market prices. We manage our risks by entering into fixed price purchase and sales contracts with preapproved producers and by establishing appropriate limits for individual suppliers. Fixed price contracts are entered into with customers of acceptable creditworthiness, as internally evaluated. Historically, we have not experienced significant events of nonperformance on open contracts. Accordingly, we only adjust the estimated fair values of specifically identified contracts for nonperformance. Although we have established policies and procedures, we make no assurances that historical nonperformance experience will carry forward to future periods.

EMPLOYEES

At August 31, 2009, we had 8,802 full, part-time, temporary and seasonal employees, which included approximately 650 employees of NCRA. Of that total, 2,856 were employed in our Energy segment, 4,367 in our country operations business (including approximately 1,182 seasonal and temporary employees), 190 in our crop nutrients operations, 620 in our grain marketing operations, 323 in our Processing segment and 446 in Corporate and Other. In addition to those employed directly by us, many employees work for joint ventures in which we have a 50% or less ownership interest, and are not included in these totals. A portion of all of our segments and Corporate and Other are employed in this manner.

Employees in certain areas are represented by collective bargaining agreements. Refinery and pipeline workers in Laurel, Montana are represented by agreements with two separate unions. The United Steel Worker (USW) Union Local 11-443 represents 200 refinery employees for which agreements are in place through February 1, 2012 and the Oil Basin Pipeliners Union (OBP) represents 18 pipeline employees for which agreements are in place through September 1, 2011. The contracts covering the NCRA McPherson, Kansas refinery include 306 employees represented by the United Steel Workers of America (USWA) that are in place through June 2012. There are approximately 168 employees in transportation and lubricant plant operations that are covered by other collective bargaining agreements that expire at various times. The collective bargaining agreement covering 32 lubricant plant employees expired on October 31, 2009 and was extended through November 30, 2009. A new contract was ratified on December 4, 2009, effective November 1, 2009, and expires October 31, 2013. Certain production workers in our oilseed processing operations are subject to collective bargaining agreements with the Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Worker and Grain Millers (BTWGM) (120 employees) and the Pipefitters Union (2 employees), for which a new collective bargaining agreement covering such workers was entered into on November 19, 2009, and expires June 30, 2012. The BTWGM also represents 43 employees at our Superior, Wisconsin grain export terminal with a contract expiring in 2010. The USWA represents 80 employees at our Myrtle Grove, Louisiana grain export terminal with a contract expiring in 2010, the Teamsters represent 7 employees at our Winona, Minnesota river terminal with a contract expiring in 2011, the Chauffeurs, Teamsters, Warehousemen and Helpers unions represent 4 employees at our Indianapolis, Indiana crop nutrients facility with a contract expiring in December 2012 and the International Longshoremen s and Warehousemen s Union (ILWU) represents 32 employees at our Kalama, Washington export terminal with a contract in place through September 2014. Finally, certain employees in our country operations business are represented by collective bargaining agreements with two unions: the BTWGM represents 19 employees in two locations, with contracts expiring in December 2011 and June 2010, and the United Food and Commercial Workers represents 7 employees with a contract expiring in July 2011.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are involved as a defendant in various lawsuits, claims and disputes, which are in the normal course of our business. The resolution of any such matters may affect consolidated net income for any fiscal period; however, our management believes any resulting liabilities, individually or in the aggregate, will not have a material effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows during any fiscal year.

In October 2003, we and NCRA reached agreements with the EPA and the State of Montana's Department of Environmental Quality and the State of Kansas Department of Health and Environment, regarding the terms of settlements with respect to reducing air emissions at our Laurel, Montana and NCRA's

Table of Contents

McPherson, Kansas refineries. These settlements are part of a series of similar settlements that the EPA has negotiated with major refiners under the EPA's Petroleum Refinery Initiative. The settlements take the form of consent decrees filed with the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana (Billings Division) and the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. Each consent decree details potential capital improvements, supplemental environmental projects and operational changes that we and NCRA have agreed to implement at the relevant refinery over several years. The consent decrees also required us, and NCRA, to pay approximately \$0.5 million in aggregate civil cash penalties. As of November 30, 2009, the aggregate capital expenditures for us and NCRA related to these settlements was approximately \$37 million, and we anticipate spending an additional \$3 million before December 2011. We do not believe that the settlements will have a material adverse affect on us or NCRA.

PROPERTIES

We own or lease energy, agronomy, grain handling and processing facilities throughout the United States. Below is a summary of these locations.

Energy

Facilities in our Energy segment include the following, all of which are owned except where indicated as leased:

Refinery	Laurel, Montana
Propane terminals	Glenwood, Minnesota (operational) and Black Creek, Wisconsin (leased to another entity)
Transportation terminals/repair facilities	12 locations in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin, 3 of which are leased
Petroleum and asphalt terminals/storage facilities	11 locations in Montana, North Dakota and Wisconsin
Pump stations	11 locations in Montana and North Dakota
Pipelines:	
Cenex Pipeline, LLC	Laurel, Montana to Fargo, North Dakota
Front Range Pipeline, LLC	Canadian border to Laurel, Montana and on to Billings, Montana
Convenience stores/gas stations	66 locations in Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming, 20 of which are leased. We own an additional 7 locations for which we do not operate, but are on capital leases to others
Lubricant plants/warehouses	3 locations in Minnesota, Ohio and Texas, 1 of which is leased

We have a 74.5% interest in NCRA, which owns and operates the following facilities:

Refinery	McPherson, Kansas
Petroleum terminals/storage	2 locations in Iowa and Kansas
Pipeline	McPherson, Kansas to Council Bluffs, Iowa
Jayhawk Pipeline, LLC	Throughout Kansas, with branches in Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas
Jayhawk stations	26 locations located in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma

Osage Pipeline (50% owned by NCRA)
Kaw Pipeline (67% owned by NCRA)

Oklahoma to Kansas
Throughout Kansas

Table of Contents

Ag Business

Within our Ag Business segment, we own or lease the following facilities:

Crop Nutrients

We use ports and terminals in our crop nutrients operations at the following locations:

Briggs, Indiana (terminal, owned)
Crescent City, Illinois (terminal, owned)
Crestline, Ohio (terminal, owned)
Fostoria, Ohio (terminal, owned)
Galveston, Texas (deep water port, land leased from port authority)
Grand Forks, North Dakota (terminal, owned)
Green Bay, Wisconsin (terminal, owned)
Indianapolis, Indiana (terminal, leased)
Little Rock, Arkansas (river terminal, leased)
Memphis, Tennessee (river terminal, owned)
Muscatine, Iowa (river terminal, owned)
Post Falls, Idaho (terminal, owned)
St. Paul, Minnesota (river terminal, owned)
Watertown, South Dakota (terminal, owned)
Winona, Minnesota (2 river terminals, owned)

Country Operations

In our country operations business, we own 369 agri-operations locations (of which some of the facilities are on leased land), 10 feed manufacturing facilities and 3 sunflower plants located in Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota and Washington.

Grain Marketing

We use grain terminals in our grain marketing operations at the following locations:

Collins, Mississippi (owned)
Davenport, Iowa (2 owned)
Friona, Texas (owned)
Kalama, Washington (leased)
Myrtle Grove, Louisiana (owned)
Savage, Minnesota (owned)
Spokane, Washington (owned)
Superior, Wisconsin (owned)
Winona, Minnesota (1 owned, 1 leased)

In addition to office space at our corporate headquarters, we have grain marketing offices at the following leased locations:

Barcelona, Spain
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Davenport, Iowa
Geneva, Switzerland
Hong Kong
Kansas City, Missouri
Kiev, Ukraine
Lincoln, Nebraska

Table of Contents

Sao Paulo, Brazil
Shanghai, China
Vostok, Russia
Winona, Minnesota

Processing

Within our Processing segment, we own and lease the following facilities:

Oilseed Processing

We own a campus in Mankato, Minnesota, comprised of a soybean crushing plant, an oilseed refinery, a soyflour plant, a quality control laboratory and an administration office. We also own a crushing plant in Fairmont, Minnesota. In addition, we own a textured soy protein manufacturing plant in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Wheat Milling

We own five milling facilities at the following locations, all of which are leased to Horizon Milling:

Fairmount, North Dakota
Houston, Texas
Kenosha, Wisconsin
Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania
Rush City, Minnesota

Corporate and Other

Business Solutions

In addition to office space at our corporate headquarters, we have offices at the following leased locations:

Houston, Texas (Ag States Group)
Indianapolis, Indiana (Ag States Group and Country Hedging, Inc.)
Kansas City, Missouri (Country Hedging, Inc.)
Kewanee, Illinois (Ag States Group)

Corporate Headquarters

We are headquartered in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. We own a 33-acre campus consisting of one main building with approximately 320,000 square feet of office space and two smaller buildings with approximately 13,400 and 9,000 square feet of space.

Our internet address is www.chsinc.com.

MEMBERSHIP IN CHS AND AUTHORIZED CAPITAL

Introduction

We are an agricultural membership cooperative organized under Minnesota cooperative law to do business with member and non-member patrons. Our patrons, not us, are subject to income taxes on income from patronage sources, which is distributed to them. We are subject to income taxes on undistributed patronage income and non-patronage-sourced income. See Tax Treatment below.

Distribution of Net Income; Patronage Dividends

We are required by our organizational documents annually to distribute net earnings derived from patronage business with members, after payment of dividends on equity capital, to members on the basis of

Table of Contents

patronage, except that the Board of Directors may elect to retain and add to our unallocated capital reserve an amount not to exceed 10% of the distributable net income from patronage business. We may also distribute net income derived from patronage business with a non-member if we have agreed to conduct business with the non-member on a patronage basis. Net income from non-patronage business may be distributed to members or added to the unallocated capital reserve, in whatever proportions the Board of Directors deems appropriate.

These distributions, referred to as patronage dividends, may be made in cash, patrons equities, revolving fund certificates, our securities, securities of others or any combination designated by the Board of Directors. From fiscal 1998 and through fiscal 2005, the Board of Directors approved the distribution of patronage dividends in the form of 30% cash and 70% patrons equities (see Patrons Equities below). For fiscal 2006 through 2009, the Board of Directors approved the distribution of patronage dividends in the form of 35% cash and 65% patrons equities. The Board of Directors may change the mix in the form of the patronage dividends in the future. In making distributions, the Board of Directors may use any method of allocation that, in its judgment, is reasonable and equitable.

Patronage dividends distributed during the years ended August 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, were \$648.9 million (\$227.6 million in cash), \$557.2 million (\$195.0 million in cash) and \$379.9 million (\$133.1 million in cash), respectively.

By action of the Board of Directors, patronage losses incurred in fiscal 2009 from our wholesale crop nutrients business, totaling \$60.2 million, were offset against capital equity certificates issued as the result of fiscal 2008 wholesale crop nutrients operating earnings and the gain on the sale of our CF Industries stock.

Patrons Equities

Patrons equities are in the form of book entries and represent a right to receive cash or other property when we redeem them. Patrons equities form part of our capital, do not bear interest, and are not subject to redemption upon request of a member. Patrons equities are redeemable only at the discretion of the Board of Directors and in accordance with the terms of the redemption policy adopted by the Board of Directors, which may be modified at any time without member consent. Redemptions of capital equity certificates approved by the Board of Directors are divided into two pools, one for non-individuals (primarily member cooperatives) who may participate in an annual pro-rata program for equities held by them and another for individuals who are eligible for equity redemptions at age 70 or upon death. The amount that each non-individual receives under the pro-rata program in any year will be determined by multiplying the dollars available for pro-rata redemptions, if any that year, as determined by the Board of Directors, by a fraction, the numerator of which is the face value of patronage certificates eligible for redemption held by them, and the denominator of which is the sum of the patronage certificates eligible for redemption held by all eligible holders of patronage certificates that are not individuals. In addition to the annual pro-rata program, the Board of Directors approved additional equity redemptions to non-individuals in prior years targeting older capital equity certificates which were redeemed in cash in fiscal 2008 and 2007. In accordance with authorization from the Board of Directors, we expect total redemptions related to the year ended August 31, 2009, that will be distributed in fiscal 2010, to be approximately \$50.1 million, of which \$2.3 million was redeemed in cash during the three months ended November 30, 2009, compared to \$2.2 million during the three months ended November 30, 2008. Included in our redemptions during the second quarter of fiscal 2010 is the planned redemption of \$37.0 million by issuing shares of our 8% Cumulative Preferred Stock pursuant to this prospectus.

Cash redemptions of patrons and other equities during the years ended August 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007 were \$49.7 million, \$81.8 million and \$70.8 million, respectively. An additional \$49.9 million, \$46.4 million and \$35.9 million of equities were redeemed by issuance of shares of our 8% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock during the years ended August 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Governance

We are managed by a Board of Directors of not less than 17 persons elected by the members at our annual meeting. Terms of directors are staggered so that no more than six directors are elected in any year.

Table of Contents

The Board of Directors is currently composed of 17 directors. Our articles of incorporation and bylaws may be amended only upon approval of a majority of the votes cast at an annual or special meeting of our members, except for the higher vote described under **Certain Antitakeover Measures** below.

Membership

Membership in CHS is restricted to certain producers of agricultural products and to associations of producers of agricultural products that are organized and operating so as to adhere to the provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Act and the Capper-Volstead Act, as amended. The Board of Directors may establish other qualifications for membership, as it may from time to time deem advisable.

As a membership cooperative, we do not have common stock. We may issue equity or debt instruments, on a patronage basis or otherwise, to our members. We have two classes of outstanding membership. Individual members are individuals actually engaged in the production of agricultural products. Cooperative associations are associations of agricultural producers and may be either cooperatives or other associations organized and operated under the provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Act and the Capper-Volstead Act, as amended.

Voting Rights

Voting rights arise by virtue of membership in CHS, not because of ownership of any equity or debt instruments. Members that are cooperative associations are entitled to vote based upon a formula that takes into account the equity held by the cooperative in CHS and the average amount of business done with us over the previous three years.

Members who are individuals are entitled to one vote each. Individual members may exercise their voting power directly or through patrons' associations affiliated with a grain elevator, feed mill, seed plant or any other of our facilities (with certain historical exceptions) recognized by the Board of Directors. The number of votes of patrons' associations is determined under the same formula as cooperative association members.

Most matters submitted to a vote of the members require the approval of a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of the members, although certain actions require a greater vote. See **Certain Antitakeover Measures** below.

Debt and Equity Instruments

We may issue debt and equity instruments to our current members and patrons, on a patronage basis or otherwise, and to persons who are neither members nor patrons. Capital Equity Certificates issued by us are subject to a first lien in favor of us for all indebtedness of the holder to us. On November 30, 2009, our outstanding capital includes patrons' equities (consisting of Capital Equity Certificates and Non-patronage Equity Certificates), 8% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock and certain capital reserves.

Distribution of Assets upon Dissolution; Merger and Consolidation

In the event of our dissolution, liquidation or winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary, all of our debts and liabilities would be paid first according to their respective priorities. After such payment, the holders of each share of our preferred stock would then be entitled to receive out of available assets, up to \$25.00 per share, plus all dividends accumulated and unpaid on that share, whether or not declared, to and including the date of distribution. This distribution to the holders of our preferred stock would be made before any payment is made or assets distributed to the holders of any security that ranks junior to the preferred stock but after the payment of the liquidation preference of any of our securities that rank senior to the preferred stock. After such distribution to the holders of equity capital, any excess would be paid to patrons on the basis of their past patronage with us. Our bylaws provide for the allocation

among our members and nonmember patrons of the consideration received in any merger or consolidation to which we are a party.

Table of Contents

Certain Antitakeover Measures

Our governing documents may be amended upon the approval of a majority of the votes cast at an annual or special meeting. However, if the Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, declares that a proposed amendment to our governing documents involves or is related to a hostile takeover, the amendment must be adopted by 80% of the total voting power of our members.

The approval of not less than two-thirds of the votes cast at a meeting is required to approve a change of control transaction which would include a merger, consolidation, liquidation, dissolution or sale of all or substantially all of our assets. If the Board of Directors determines that a proposed change of control transaction involves a hostile takeover, the 80% approval requirement applies. The term hostile takeover is not further defined in the Minnesota cooperative law or our governing documents.

Tax Treatment

Subchapter T of the Internal Revenue Code sets forth rules for the tax treatment of cooperatives and applies to both cooperatives exempt from taxation under Section 521 of the Internal Revenue Code and to nonexempt corporations operating on a cooperative basis. We are a nonexempt cooperative.

As a cooperative, we are not taxed on qualified patronage (minimum cash requirement of 20%) allocated to our members either in the form of equities or cash. Consequently, those amounts are taxed only at the patron level. However, the amounts of any allocated but undistributed patronage earnings (called non-qualified written notices of allocation) are taxable to us when allocated. Upon redemption of any non-qualified written notices of allocation, the amount is deductible to us and taxable to the member.

Income derived by us from non-patronage sources is not entitled to the single tax benefit of Subchapter T and is taxed to us at corporate income tax rates.

NCRA is not consolidated for tax purposes.

Table of Contents**SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA**

The selected consolidated financial information below has been derived from our consolidated financial statements for the periods indicated below. The selected consolidated financial data for the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008 and the years ended August 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included elsewhere in this filing. In May 2005, we sold the majority of our Mexican foods business and have recorded the Mexican foods business as discontinued operations. In the opinion of our management, the unaudited historical financial data were prepared on the same basis as the audited historical financial data and include all adjustments, consisting of only normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair statement of this information. Results of operations for the three-month periods are not necessarily indicative of results of operations that may be expected for the full fiscal year.

Summary Consolidated Financial Data

	Three Months Ended		Years Ended August 31,				
	2009	2008(1)	2009(1)	2008(1)	2007(1)	2006(1)	2005(1)
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)					
	(Dollars in thousands)						
Income Statement							
Revenues	\$ 6,195,241	\$ 7,733,919	\$ 25,729,916	\$ 32,167,461	\$ 17,215,992	\$ 14,383,835	\$ 11,926,960
Cost of goods sold	5,992,580	7,413,412	24,849,901	30,993,899	16,129,233	13,540,285	11,438,470
Gross profit	202,661	320,507	880,015	1,173,562	1,086,759	843,550	488,488
Marketing, general and administrative	80,506	87,741	355,299	329,965	245,357	231,238	199,350
Operating earnings	122,155	232,766	524,716	843,597	841,402	612,312	289,138
Loss (gain) on investments		54,976	56,305	(29,193)	(20,616)		(13,010)
Interest, net	16,212	20,175	70,487	76,460	31,098	41,305	41,500
Equity income from investments	(32,166)	(20,723)	(105,754)	(150,413)	(109,685)	(84,188)	(95,740)
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	138,109	178,338	503,678	946,743	940,605	655,195	356,388
Income taxes	15,574	18,931	63,304	71,861	37,784	59,350	34,150
Income from continuing operations	122,535	159,407	440,374	874,882	902,821	595,845 (625)	322,222 16,810

(income) loss on continued operations, net of taxes								
Income	122,535	159,407	440,374	874,882	902,821	596,470	305,411	
Income attributable to noncontrolling interests	2,585	22,156	58,967	71,837	146,098	91,079	49,821	
Income attributable to CHS	\$ 119,950	\$ 137,251	\$ 381,407	\$ 803,045	\$ 756,723	\$ 505,391	\$ 255,590	
Balance Sheet Data (end of period):								
Working capital	\$ 1,699,435	\$ 1,777,865	\$ 1,626,352	\$ 1,738,600	\$ 821,878	\$ 848,344	\$ 766,800	
Property, plant and equipment	2,124,823	1,970,357	2,099,325	1,948,305	1,728,171	1,476,239	1,359,530	
Intangible assets	8,377,337	8,837,325	7,869,845	8,771,978	6,754,373	4,994,166	4,748,650	
Long-term debt, including current maturities	1,061,375	1,168,377	1,071,953	1,194,855	688,321	744,745	773,070	
Shareholders' equity	3,406,205	3,243,876	3,333,164	3,161,418	2,672,841	2,201,397	1,926,590	
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends(2))	6.4x	6.7x	4.6x	7.4x	10.1x	8.3x	4.7x	

(1) Adjusted to reflect adoption of ASC 860-10-65-1; see [Change in Accounting - Noncontrolling Interests](#).

(2) For purposes of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends, earnings consist of income from continuing operations before income taxes on consolidated operations, distributed income from equity investees and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense and one-third of rental expense, considered representative of that portion of rental expense estimated to be attributable to interest.

Table of Contents**Change in Accounting Noncontrolling Interests**

In December 2007, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 860-10-65-1, Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements, an Amendment of Accounting Research Bulletin (ARB) No. 51. ASC 860-10-65-1 establishes accounting and reporting standards that require: the ownership interest in subsidiaries held by parties other than the parent to be clearly identified and presented in the consolidated balance sheets within equity, but separate from the parent's equity; the amount of consolidated net earnings attributable to the parent and the noncontrolling interest to be clearly identified and presented on the face of the consolidated statements of operations; and changes in a parent's ownership interest while the parent retains its controlling financial interest in its subsidiary to be accounted for consistently.

We adopted ASC 860-10-65-1 at the beginning of fiscal 2010. In accordance with the accounting guidance, in order to conform to the current period presentation, we made reclassifications for all periods presented within our Consolidated Statements of Operations to net income to present the income attributable to noncontrolling interests as a reconciling item between net income and net income attributable to CHS Inc. Also, noncontrolling interests previously reported as minority interests have been reclassified for all periods presented to a separate section in equity on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. In addition, certain other reclassifications to our previously reported financial information for all periods presented have been made to conform to the current period presentation.

The selected financial information below has been derived from our three business segments, and Corporate and Other, for the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008 and the fiscal years ended August 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007. The intercompany revenues were \$86.5 and \$96.4 for the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The intercompany revenues between segments were \$294.3 million, \$359.8 million and \$247.7 million for the fiscal years ended August 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Summary Financial Data By Business Segment

	Three Months Ended		Energy		
	November 30,		Years Ended August 31,		
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2007
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)			
	(Dollars in thousands)				
Revenues	\$ 2,264,580	\$ 2,550,552	\$ 7,639,838	\$ 11,499,814	\$ 8,105,067
Cost of goods sold	2,222,720	2,328,652	7,110,324	11,027,459	7,264,180
Gross profit	41,860	221,900	529,514	472,355	840,887
Marketing, general and administrative	27,890	27,832	125,104	111,121	94,939
Operating earnings	13,970	194,068	404,410	361,234	745,948
Gain on investments		(15,748)	(15,748)	(35)	
Interest, net	789	4,195	5,483	(5,227)	(6,106)
Equity income from investments	(1,106)	(1,236)	(4,044)	(5,054)	(4,468)
Income before income taxes	\$ 14,287	\$ 206,857	\$ 418,719	\$ 371,550	\$ 756,522

Intersegment revenues	\$ (81,245)	\$ (84,030)	\$ (251,626)	\$ (322,522)	\$ (228,930)
Total identifiable assets (at end of period)	\$ 3,052,065	\$ 2,987,219	\$ 3,025,522	\$ 3,216,852	\$ 2,797,831

Table of Contents

	Ag Business				
	Three Months Ended		Years Ended August 31,		
	November 30,		2009		
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2007
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Dollars in thousands)		
Revenues	\$ 3,742,631	\$ 4,953,722	\$ 17,196,448	\$ 19,696,907	\$ 8,575,389
Cost of goods sold	3,613,941	4,889,570	16,937,877	19,088,079	8,388,476
Gross profit	128,690	64,152	258,571	608,828	186,913
Marketing, general and administrative	38,191	39,563	158,395	160,364	97,299
Operating earnings	90,499	24,589	100,176	448,464	89,614
Gain on investments			(2,285)	(100,830)	(5,348)
Interest, net	8,134	13,726	46,995	63,665	28,550
Equity income from investments	(9,315)	(8,890)	(18,222)	(83,053)	(51,830)
Income before income taxes	\$ 91,680	\$ 19,753	\$ 73,688	\$ 568,682	\$ 118,242
Intersegment revenues	\$ (4,316)	\$ (11,781)	\$ (39,919)	\$ (36,972)	\$ (18,372)
Total identifiable assets (at end of period)	\$ 3,425,802	\$ 4,035,230	\$ 2,987,394	\$ 4,172,950	\$ 2,846,950

	Processing				
	Three Months Ended		Years Ended August 31,		
	November 30,		2009		
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2007
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Dollars in thousands)		
Revenues	\$ 264,099	\$ 310,890	\$ 1,142,636	\$ 1,299,209	\$ 754,743
Cost of goods sold	244,084	292,582	1,099,177	1,240,944	726,510
Gross profit	20,015	18,308	43,459	58,265	28,233
Marketing, general and administrative	5,549	6,749	25,724	26,089	23,545
Operating earnings	14,466	11,559	17,735	32,176	4,688
Loss (gain) on investments		70,724	74,338	72,602	(15,268)
Interest, net	5,057	3,757	21,841	21,995	14,783
Equity income from investments	(21,369)	(10,230)	(82,525)	(56,615)	(48,446)
Income before income taxes	\$ 30,778	\$ (52,692)	\$ 4,081	\$ (5,806)	\$ 53,619

Edgar Filing: CHS INC - Form S-1/A

Intersegment revenues	\$	(982)	\$	(559)	\$	(2,759)	\$	(338)	\$	(370)
Total identifiable assets (at end of period)	\$	677,455	\$	617,678	\$	685,865	\$	748,989	\$	681,118

Table of Contents

	Corporate and Other				
	Three Months Ended		Years Ended August 31,		
	November 30,	2008	2009	2008	2007
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2007
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Dollars in thousands)		
Revenues	\$ 10,474	\$ 15,125	\$ 45,298	\$ 31,363	\$ 28,465
Cost of goods sold	(1,622)	(1,022)	(3,173)	(2,751)	(2,261)
Gross profit	12,096	16,147	48,471	34,114	30,726
Marketing, general and administrative	8,876	13,597	46,076	32,391	29,574
Operating earnings	3,220	2,550	2,395	1,723	1,152
Gain on investments				(930)	
Interest, net	2,232	(1,503)	(3,832)	(3,973)	(6,129)
Equity income from investments	(376)	(367)	(963)	(5,691)	(4,941)
Income before income taxes	\$ 1,364	\$ 4,420	\$ 7,190	\$ 12,317	\$ 12,222
Total identifiable assets (at end of period)	\$ 1,222,015	\$ 1,197,598	\$ 1,171,064	\$ 633,187	\$ 428,474

Supplementary Financial Information

Supplementary financial information required by Item 302 of Regulation S-K for the three months ended November 30, 2009 and for each quarter during the years ended August 31, 2009 and 2008 is presented below.

	November 30, 2009 (Unaudited) (Dollars in thousands)			
Revenues	\$ 6,195,241			
Gross profit	202,661			
Income before income taxes	138,109			
Net income	122,535			
Net income attributable to CHS Inc.	119,950			

	November 30, 2008	February 28, 2009	May 31, 2009	August 31, 2009
	(Unaudited) (Dollars in thousands)			
Revenues	\$ 7,733,919	\$ 5,177,069	\$ 6,163,119	\$ 6,655,809
Gross profit	320,507	214,977	158,268	186,263

Edgar Filing: CHS INC - Form S-1/A

Income before income taxes	178,338	115,618	90,798	118,924
Net income	159,407	101,597	76,572	102,798
Net income attributable to CHS Inc.	137,251	82,280	64,569	97,307

	November 30, 2007	February 29, 2008	May 31, 2008	August 31, 2008
	(Unaudited) (Dollars in thousands)			
Revenues	\$ 6,525,386	\$ 6,891,345	\$ 9,336,609	\$ 9,414,121
Gross profit	314,637	257,625	280,642	320,658
Income before income taxes	360,779	210,197	229,013	146,754
Net income	323,545	180,451	205,516	165,370
Net income attributable to CHS Inc.	300,900	168,031	188,716	145,398

40

Table of Contents

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF
FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Overview

CHS Inc. (CHS, we or us) is a diversified company, which provides grain, foods and energy resources to businesses and consumers on a global basis. As a cooperative, we are owned by farmers, ranchers and their member cooperatives across the United States. We also have preferred stockholders that own shares of our 8% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock.

We provide a full range of production agricultural inputs such as refined fuels, propane, farm supplies, animal nutrition and agronomy products, as well as services, which include hedging, financing and insurance services. We own and operate petroleum refineries and pipelines and market and distribute refined fuels and other energy products under the Cenex[®] brand through a network of member cooperatives and independents. We purchase grains and oilseeds directly and indirectly from agricultural producers primarily in the midwestern and western United States. These grains and oilseeds are either sold to domestic and international customers, or further processed into a variety of grain-based food products.

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of CHS and all of our wholly-owned and majority-owned subsidiaries, including the National Cooperative Refinery Association (NCRA), which is in our Energy segment. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

We have aligned our segments based on an assessment of how our businesses operate and the products and services they sell. Our three segments: Energy, Ag Business and Processing, create vertical integration to link producers with consumers. Our Energy segment produces and provides for the wholesale distribution of petroleum products and transports those products. Our Ag Business segment purchases and resells grains and oilseeds originated by our country operations business, by our member cooperatives and by third parties, and also serves as wholesaler and retailer of crop inputs. Our Processing segment converts grains and oilseeds into value-added products. Corporate and Other primarily represents our business solutions operations, which consists of commodities hedging, insurance and financial services related to crop production.

Summary data for each of our segments for the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008 and the fiscal years ended August 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, is provided in the Selected Consolidated Financial Data section of this prospectus. Except as otherwise specified, references to years indicate our fiscal year ended August 31, 2009, or ended August 31 of the year referenced.

Corporate administrative expenses are allocated to all three business segments, and Corporate and Other, based on either direct usage for services that can be tracked, such as information technology and legal, and other factors or considerations relevant to the costs incurred.

Many of our business activities are highly seasonal and operating results will vary throughout the year. Overall, our income is generally lowest during the second fiscal quarter and highest during the third fiscal quarter. Our business segments are subject to varying seasonal fluctuations. For example, in our Ag Business segment, our retail agronomy, crop nutrients and country operations businesses generally experience higher volumes and income during the spring planting season and in the fall, which corresponds to harvest. Also in our Ag Business segment, our grain marketing operations are subject to fluctuations in volume and earnings based on producer harvests, world grain prices and demand. Our Energy segment generally experiences higher volumes and profitability in certain operating areas, such

as refined products, in the summer and early fall when gasoline and diesel fuel usage is highest and is subject to global supply and demand forces. Other energy products, such as propane, may experience higher volumes and profitability during the winter heating and crop drying seasons.

Our revenues, assets and cash flows can be significantly affected by global market prices for commodities such as petroleum products, natural gas, grains, oilseeds, crop nutrients and flour. Changes in market prices for commodities that we purchase without a corresponding change in the selling prices of those products can affect revenues and operating earnings. Commodity prices are affected by a wide range of factors beyond our

Table of Contents

control, including the weather, crop damage due to disease or insects, drought, the availability and adequacy of supply, government regulations and policies, world events and general political and economic conditions.

While our revenues and operating results are derived from businesses and operations which are wholly-owned and majority-owned, a portion of our business operations are conducted through companies in which we hold ownership interests of 50% or less and do not control the operations. We account for these investments primarily using the equity method of accounting, wherein we record our proportionate share of income or loss reported by the entity as equity income from investments, without consolidating the revenues and expenses of the entity in our Consolidated Statements of Operations. These investments principally include our 50% ownership in each of the following companies: Agriliance LLC (Agriliance), TEMCO, LLC (TEMCO) and United Harvest, LLC (United Harvest), and our approximately 40% ownership in Multigrain S.A. included in our Ag Business segment; and our 50% ownership in Ventura Foods, LLC (Ventura Foods) and our 24% ownership in Horizon Milling, LLC (Horizon Milling) and Horizon Milling G.P., included in our Processing segment.

In December 2007, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 860-10-65-1, Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements, an Amendment of Accounting Research Bulletin (ARB) No. 51. ASC 860-10-65-1 establishes accounting and reporting standards that require: the ownership interest in subsidiaries held by parties other than the parent to be clearly identified and presented in the consolidated balance sheets within equity, but separate from the parent's equity; the amount of consolidated net earnings attributable to the parent and the noncontrolling interest to be clearly identified and presented on the face of the consolidated statements of operations; and changes in a parent's ownership interest while the parent retains its controlling financial interest in its subsidiary to be accounted for consistently.

We adopted ASC 860-10-65-1 at the beginning of fiscal 2010. In accordance with the accounting guidance, in order to conform to the current period presentation, we made reclassifications within our Consolidated Statements of Operations to net income to present the income attributable to noncontrolling interests as a reconciling item between net income and net income attributable to CHS Inc. Also, noncontrolling interests previously reported as minority interests have been reclassified to a separate section in equity on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. In addition, certain other reclassifications to our previously reported financial information have been made to conform to the current period presentation.

Recent Events

We have explored with Land O Lakes, Inc. (Land O Lakes), the repositioning options of the Agriliance retail business. During fiscal 2010, Agriliance sold a substantial number of retail facilities to various third parties, as well as to us and to Land O Lakes, with no sales pending. We are still attempting to reposition the remaining Agriliance facilities located primarily in Florida. During the three months ended November 30, 2009, we received \$40.0 million in cash distributions from Agriliance as a return of capital, primarily from the sale of Agriliance's retail facilities. In December 2009, we received an additional \$30.0 million in cash distributions from Agriliance.

Results of Operations

Comparison of the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008

General. We recorded income before income taxes of \$138.1 million during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to \$178.3 million during the three months ended November 30, 2008, a decrease of \$40.2 million (23%). Included in the results for the three months ended November 30, 2008 were a \$15.7 million gain on the sale of all of our 180,000 shares of NYMEX Holdings stock, and a \$70.7 million loss on our investment in VeraSun. Operating results reflected lower pretax earnings in our Energy segment and Corporate and Other, which were

partially offset by increased pretax earnings in our Processing and Ag Business segments.

Table of Contents

Our Energy segment generated income before income taxes of \$14.3 million for the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to \$206.9 million in the three months ended November 30, 2008. This decrease in earnings of \$192.6 million is primarily from lower margins on refined fuels at both our Laurel, Montana refinery and our NCRA refinery in McPherson, Kansas. Also, in our first quarter of fiscal 2009, we sold all of our 180,000 shares of NYMEX Holdings stock for proceeds of \$16.1 million and recorded a pretax gain of \$15.7 million. Earnings in our lubricants, propane and renewable fuels marketing businesses improved, while our transportation and equipment businesses experienced lower earnings during the three months ended November 30, 2009 when compared to the same three-month period of the previous year.

Our Ag Business segment generated income before income taxes of \$91.7 million for the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to \$19.8 million in the three months ended November 30, 2008, an increase in earnings of \$71.9 million. Earnings from our wholesale crop nutrients business improved \$39.5 million for the first three months of fiscal 2010 compared with the same period in fiscal 2009. The market prices for crop nutrients products fell significantly during the first three months of our fiscal 2009 as fertilizer prices, an input to grain production, followed some of the declining grain prices. Late fall of calendar 2008 rains impeded the application of fertilizer during that time period, and as a result, we had a higher quantity of inventories on hand at the end of our first fiscal quarter 2009 than is typical at that time of year. Because there are no future contracts or other derivatives that can be used to hedge fertilizer inventories and contracts effectively, a long inventory position with falling prices creates losses. Depreciation in fertilizer prices continued throughout the second and third quarters of our fiscal 2009 which had the affect of dramatically reducing gross margins on this product. To reflect our wholesale crop nutrients inventories at net-realizable values, we recorded lower-of-cost or market adjustments of approximately \$56.8 million during the three months ended November 30, 2008. Improved performance by Agriliance, an agronomy joint venture in which we hold a 50% interest, partially offset by reduced earnings from a Canadian agronomy equity investment, resulted in a \$2.2 million net increase in earnings from these investments, net of allocated internal expenses. Our grain marketing earnings increased by \$23.0 million during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared with the same three-month period in fiscal 2009, primarily as a result of higher grain volumes, partially offset by slightly reduced earnings from our joint ventures. Our country operations earnings increased \$7.2 million during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily as a result of higher grain volumes, in addition to overall increased margins mostly from acquisitions and improved crop nutrient margins.

Our Processing segment generated income before income taxes of \$30.8 million for the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to a net loss of \$52.7 million in the three months ended November 30, 2008, an increase in earnings of \$83.5 million. During the three-month period ended November 30, 2008, we reflected a \$70.7 million loss (\$72.2 million, including allocated internal expenses) on our investment in VeraSun, an ethanol manufacturer who declared bankruptcy in October, 2008. Oilseed processing earnings increased \$1.8 million during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to improved refining margins, partially offset by reduced volumes and margins in our crushing operations. Our share of earnings from our wheat milling joint ventures, net of allocated internal expenses, increased by \$0.8 million for the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily as a result of improved margins on the products sold. Our share of earnings from Ventura Foods, our packaged foods joint venture, net of allocated internal expenses, increased by \$8.7 million during the three months ended November 30, 2009, compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily as a result of decreased commodity prices for inputs, improving margins on the products sold.

Corporate and Other generated income before income taxes of \$1.4 million for the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to \$4.4 million in the three months ended November 30, 2008, a decrease in earnings of \$3.0 million. This decrease is primarily attributable to reduced interest revenue from our financial services, partially offset by improved revenues in our hedging and insurance services.

Net Income attributable to CHS Inc. Consolidated net income attributable to CHS Inc. for the three months ended November 30, 2009 was \$120.0 million compared to \$137.3 million for the three months ended November 30, 2008, which represents a \$17.3 million (13%) decrease.

Table of Contents

Revenues. Consolidated revenues were \$6.2 billion for the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to \$7.7 billion for the three months ended November 30, 2008, which represents a \$1.5 billion (20%) decrease.

Total revenues include other revenues generated primarily within our Ag Business segment and Corporate and Other. Our Ag Business segment's country operations elevators and agri-service centers derive other revenues from activities related to production agriculture, which include grain storage, grain cleaning, fertilizer spreading, crop protection spraying and other services of this nature, and our grain marketing operations receive other revenues at our export terminals from activities related to loading vessels. Corporate and Other derives revenues primarily from our financing, hedging and insurance operations.

Our Energy segment revenues, after elimination of intersegment revenues, of \$2.2 billion decreased by \$283.2 million (12%) during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008. During the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008, our Energy segment recorded revenues from our Ag Business segment of \$81.2 million and \$84.0 million, respectively. The net decrease in revenues of \$283.2 million is comprised of a net decrease of \$211.4 million related to lower prices on refined fuels, propane and renewable fuels marketing products, in addition to \$71.8 million related to a net decrease in sales volume. Refined fuels revenues decreased \$374.9 million (21%), of which \$326.4 million was related to a net average selling price decrease, while \$48.5 million was attributable to decreased volumes, compared to the same period in the previous year. The sales price of refined fuels decreased \$0.47 per gallon (19%), and volumes decreased 3% when comparing the three months ended November 30, 2009 with the same period a year ago. Propane revenues decreased \$22.1 million (8%), of which \$82.7 million was due to a decrease in the net average selling price, partially offset by \$60.6 million related to an increase in volumes, when compared to the same period in the previous year. The average selling price of propane decreased \$0.36 per gallon (25%), while sales volume increased 23% in comparison to the same period of the prior year. The increase in propane volumes primarily reflects increased demand including an improved crop drying season and an earlier home heating season. Renewable fuels marketing revenues increased \$110.5 million (71%), mostly from a 76% increase in volumes, partially offset by a decrease in the average selling price of \$0.06 per gallon (3%), when compared with the same three-month period in the previous year.

Our Ag Business segment revenues, after elimination of intersegment revenues, of \$3.7 billion, decreased \$1.2 billion (24%) during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008. Grain revenues in our Ag Business segment totaled \$3.0 billion and \$3.8 billion during the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008, respectively. Of the grain revenues decrease of \$731.6 million (19%), \$1.1 billion is attributable to decreased average grain selling prices, partially offset by \$417.8 million, which is due to an 11% increase in volumes during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to the same period last fiscal year. The average sales price of all grain and oilseed commodities sold reflected a decrease of \$2.31 per bushel (27%) over the same three-month period in fiscal 2009. The average month-end market price per bushel of spring wheat and corn decreased approximately \$1.45 and \$0.42, respectively, while the price per bushel of soybeans increased \$0.37 when compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008.

Wholesale crop nutrient revenues in our Ag Business segment totaled \$281.1 million and \$633.6 million during the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008, respectively. Of the wholesale crop nutrient revenues decrease of \$352.5 million (56%), \$309.4 million is due to decreased average fertilizer selling prices and \$43.1 million is attributable to decreased volumes, during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to the same period last fiscal year. The average sales price of all fertilizers sold reflected a decrease of \$348 per ton (52%) over the same three-month period in fiscal 2009. Volumes decreased 7% during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared with the same period of a year ago, due to a late fall of 2009 harvest delaying fertilizer application.

Our Ag Business segment non-grain or non-wholesale crop nutrients product revenues of \$363.3 million decreased by \$120.3 million (25%) during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008, primarily the result of decreased revenues in our country operations business of retail crop nutrients, energy, feed and crop protection products, partially offset by increased

Table of Contents

revenue from our sunflower operations. Other revenues within our Ag Business segment of \$48.4 million during the three months ended November 30, 2009 increased \$0.8 million (2%) compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008, primarily from grain handling and service revenues.

Our Processing segment revenues, after elimination of intersegment revenues, of \$263.1 million decreased \$47.2 million (15%) during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008. Because our wheat milling and packaged foods operations are operated through non-consolidated joint ventures, revenues reported in our Processing segment are entirely from our oilseed processing operations. Oilseed refining revenues decreased \$50.9 million (32%), of which \$47.3 million was due to lower average sales prices and \$3.6 million was due a 2% net decrease in sales volume when compared to the same three-month period in the previous year. Oilseed processing revenues increased \$4.7 million (3%), of which \$16.8 million was due to an increase in the average selling prices, partially offset by \$12.1 million due to a 9% net decrease in sales volume. The average selling price of processed oilseed increased \$35 per ton (13%), while the average selling price of refined oilseed products decreased \$0.19 per pound (31%) compared to the same three-month period of fiscal 2009. The changes in the average selling prices of products are primarily driven by the average market prices of soybeans.

Cost of Goods Sold. Consolidated cost of goods sold were \$6.0 billion for the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to \$7.4 billion for the three months ended November 30, 2008, which represents a \$1.4 billion (19%) decrease.

Our Energy segment cost of goods sold, after elimination of intersegment costs, of \$2.1 billion decreased by \$103.1 million (5%) during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to the same period of the prior year. The decrease in cost of goods sold is primarily due to decreased per unit costs for refined fuels products. Specifically, refined fuels cost of goods sold decreased \$280.0 million (17%) which reflects a decrease in the average cost of refined fuels of \$0.34 per gallon (15%); while volumes decreased 3% compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008. On average, we process approximately 55,000 barrels of crude oil per day at our Laurel, Montana refinery and 80,000 barrels of crude oil per day at NCRA's McPherson, Kansas refinery. The average cost decrease is primarily related to lower input costs at our two crude oil refineries and lower average prices on the refined products that we purchased for resale compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008. The aggregate average per unit cost of crude oil purchased for the two refineries decreased 5% compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008. The cost of propane decreased \$25.3 million (10%) mostly from a decrease of \$0.37 per gallon (26%), partially offset by a 23% increase in volumes, when compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008. The increase in propane volumes primarily reflects increased demand caused by an improved crop drying season and an earlier home heating season. Renewable fuels marketing costs increased \$109.2 million (71%), mostly from a 77% increase in volumes, partially offset by a decrease in the average cost of \$0.06 per gallon (3%), when compared with the same three-month period in the previous year.

Our Ag Business segment cost of goods sold, after elimination of intersegment costs, of \$3.6 billion, decreased \$1.3 billion (26%) during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to the same period of the prior year. Grain cost of goods sold in our Ag Business segment totaled \$3.0 billion and \$3.7 billion during the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The cost of grains and oilseed procured through our Ag Business segment decreased \$761.1 million (21%) compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008. This is primarily the result of a \$2.35 (28%) decrease in the average cost per bushel, partially offset by an 11% net increase in bushels sold as compared to the same period in the prior year. Corn and wheat volumes increased, while barley and soybeans reflected decreases compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008. The average month-end market price per bushel of spring wheat and corn decreased, while soybeans slightly increased compared to the same three-month period a year ago.

Wholesale crop nutrients cost of goods sold in our Ag Business segment totaled \$268.2 million and \$656.2 million during the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008, respectively. Of this \$388.0 million (59%) decrease in wholesale crop nutrients cost of goods sold, approximately \$56.8 million is due to the lower-of-cost or market adjustments on inventories during the three months ended November 30, 2008, as previously discussed. The average cost per ton of fertilizer decreased \$329 (52%), excluding the

Table of Contents

lower-of-cost or market adjustments, while net volumes decreased 7% when compared to the same three-month period in the prior year.

Our Ag Business segment cost of goods sold, excluding the cost of grains and wholesale crop nutrients procured through this segment, decreased \$119.1 million during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008, primarily due to lower input commodity prices, partially offset by increases due to volumes generated from acquisitions made and reflected in previous reporting periods.

Our Processing segment cost of goods sold, after elimination of intersegment costs, of \$243.1 million decreased \$48.9 million (17%) compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008, which was primarily due to a decrease in volumes of soybeans crushed.

Marketing, General and Administrative. Marketing, general and administrative expenses of \$80.5 million for the three months ended November 30, 2009 decreased by \$7.2 million (8%) compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008. This net decrease includes reduced expenses in our wholesale crop nutrient operations within our Ag Business segment of \$3.2 million, in addition to reduced accruals for variable pay in many of our other operations and Corporate and Other, partially offset by expansion of foreign operations and acquisitions.

Loss (Gain) on Investments. During the three months ended November 30, 2008, we recorded a net loss on investments of \$55.0 million, including a \$70.7 million impairment loss on our investment in VeraSun in our Processing segment, due to their bankruptcy. This loss was partially offset by a gain on investments in our Energy segment. We sold all of our 180,000 shares of NYMEX Holdings stock for proceeds of \$16.1 million and recorded a pretax gain of \$15.7 million.

Interest, net. Net interest of \$16.2 million for the three months ended November 30, 2009 decreased \$4.0 million (20%) compared to the same period in fiscal 2009. Interest expense for the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008 was \$18.3 million and \$22.4 million, respectively. The decrease in interest expense of \$4.1 million (18%) primarily relates to reduced interest expense due to the principal payments on our long-term debt in the past 12 months. In addition, the average level of short-term borrowings decreased \$145.3 million (40%) during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to the same period in fiscal 2009, mostly due to significantly reduced working capital needs resulting from lower commodity prices. For the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008, we capitalized interest of \$1.5 million and \$0.9 million, respectively, primarily related to construction projects at both refineries in our Energy segment. Interest income, generated primarily from marketable securities, was \$0.5 million and \$1.3 million for the three months ended November 30, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The net decrease in interest income of \$0.8 million (59%) was mostly at NCRA within our Energy segment, which primarily relates to marketable securities with interest yields lower than a year ago.

Equity Income from Investments. Equity income from investments of \$32.2 million for the three months ended November 30, 2009 increased \$11.4 million (55%) compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008. We record equity income or loss from the investments in which we have an ownership interest of 50% or less and have significant influence, but not control, for our proportionate share of income or loss reported by the entity, without consolidating the revenues and expenses of the entity in our Consolidated Statements of Operations. The net increase in equity income from investments was attributable to improved earnings from investments in our Processing and Ag Business segments and Corporate and Other of \$11.1 million, \$0.4 million and \$9 thousand, respectively, and was partially offset by reduced equity investment earnings in our Energy segment of \$0.1 million.

Our Ag Business segment generated improved equity investment earnings of \$0.4 million. Our share of equity investment earnings or losses in agronomy improved earnings by \$1.6 million, and includes improved retail margins, partially offset by reduced earnings of a Canadian agronomy joint venture, which was sold during the second quarter

of fiscal 2009. We had a net decrease of \$0.4 million from our share of equity investment earnings in our grain marketing joint ventures during the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared to the same period the previous year, which is primarily related to decreased export margins. Our

Table of Contents

country operations business reported an aggregate decrease in equity investment earnings of \$0.8 million from several small equity investments.

Our Processing segment generated improved equity investment earnings of \$11.1 million. Ventura Foods, our vegetable oil-based products and packaged foods joint venture, recorded improved earnings of \$9.4 million compared to the same three-month period in fiscal 2009. Ventura Foods' increase in earnings was primarily due to lower commodity prices for inputs, resulting in improved margins on the products sold. A shifting demand balance for soybeans for both food and renewable fuels meant addressing supply and price challenges for both CHS and our Ventura Foods joint venture. Horizon Milling, our domestic and Canadian wheat milling joint ventures, recorded improved earnings of \$1.7 million, net. Volatility in the grain markets created wheat procurement opportunities, which increased margins for Horizon Milling during fiscal 2010 compared to the same three-month period in fiscal 2009. Typically results are affected by U.S. dietary habits and although the preference for a low carbohydrate diet appears to have reached the bottom of its cycle, milling capacity, which had been idled over the past few years because of lack of demand for flour products, can easily be put back into production as consumption of flour products increases, which depresses gross margins in the milling industry.

Our Energy segment generated reduced equity investment earnings of \$0.1 million related to an equity investment held by NCRA.

Corporate and Other generated improved earnings of \$9 thousand from equity investment earnings, as compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008.

Income Taxes. Income tax expense of \$15.6 million for the three months ended November 30, 2009 compared with \$18.9 million for the three months ended November 30, 2008, resulting in effective tax rates of 11.5% and 12.1%, respectively. The federal and state statutory rate applied to nonpatronage business activity was 38.9% for the three-month periods ended November 30, 2009 and 2008. The income taxes and effective tax rate vary each year based upon profitability and nonpatronage business activity during each of the comparable years.

Noncontrolling Interests. Noncontrolling interests of \$2.6 million for the three months ended November 30, 2009 decreased by \$19.6 million (88%) compared to the three months ended November 30, 2008. This net decrease was a result of significantly less profitable operations within our majority-owned subsidiaries. Substantially all noncontrolling interests relate to NCRA, an approximately 74.5% owned subsidiary, which we consolidate in our Energy segment.

Comparison of the years ended August 31, 2009 and 2008

General. We recorded income before income taxes of \$503.7 million in fiscal 2009 compared to \$946.7 million in fiscal 2008, a decrease of \$443.0 million (47%). These results reflected decreased pretax earnings in our Ag Business segment and Corporate and Other, while our Energy and Processing segments reflected increased pretax earnings.

Our Energy segment generated income before income taxes of \$418.7 million for the year ended August 31, 2009 compared to \$371.6 million in fiscal 2008. This increase in earnings of \$47.1 million (13%) is primarily from higher margins on refined fuels mostly from our Laurel, Montana refinery, where during fiscal 2008 we completed a coker project along with other refinery improvements, which allowed us to extract a greater volume of high value gasoline and diesel fuel and less relatively low value asphalt. In addition, during fiscal 2009 we sold 180,000 shares of our NYMEX Holdings common stock for proceeds of \$16.1 million and recorded a pretax gain of \$15.7 million. Earnings in propane and petroleum equipment businesses also improved during fiscal 2009 compared to fiscal 2008, while our lubricants, transportation and renewable fuels marketing operations experienced lower earnings.

Our Ag Business segment generated income before income taxes of \$73.7 million for the year ended August 31, 2009 compared to \$568.7 million in fiscal 2008, a decrease in earnings of \$495.0 million (87%). During fiscal 2008, we sold all of our remaining 1,610,396 shares of CF Industries Holdings, Inc. (CF) stock, a domestic fertilizer manufacturer, in which we held a minority interest, and for which we received proceeds

Table of Contents

of \$108.3 million and recorded a pretax gain of \$91.7 million. During the first quarter of fiscal 2008, we received the crop nutrients business of Agriliance, an agronomy joint venture in which we hold a 50% interest, through a distribution of assets to us. Prior to the distribution, we reflected 50% of these earnings through our equity income from our investment in Agriliance. Due to the distribution by Agriliance of the wholesale and some of the retail businesses to us and Land O Lakes, the operating performance remaining within the Agriliance operations for fiscal 2009 and 2008 is primarily their retail business. Earnings from our wholesale crop nutrients business are \$235.8 million less for fiscal 2009 compared with fiscal 2008. The market for crop nutrients products fell significantly during fiscal 2009 as fertilizer prices, an input to grain production, followed the declining grain prices. During the late fall of 2008, rains impeded the application of fertilizer and, as a result, we had a higher quantity of inventories on hand at the end of our first fiscal quarter than is typical at that time of year. Because there are no futures contracts or other derivatives that can be used to hedge fertilizer inventories and contracts effectively, an inventory long position with falling prices, creates losses. Depreciation in fertilizer prices continued throughout fiscal 2009, which had the effect of dramatically reducing gross margins on this product. The 2009 spring fertilizer volumes also declined compared to the prior year because of inclement weather that again delayed the application season, and because producers were reluctant to buy fertilizer when the price was still in a rapid decline. This situation was just the opposite during fiscal 2008 when fertilizer prices appreciated rapidly and the market produced significantly higher margins on inventory that had been purchased at relatively low prices. To reflect our wholesale crop nutrients inventories at net realizable values, we made lower-of-cost or market adjustments during fiscal 2009 totaling approximately \$92 million, of which \$8.6 million remained at August 31, 2009. Reduced performance by Agriliance, partially offset by a net gain on the sale of a Canadian agronomy equity investment resulted in a \$10.6 million net decrease in earnings from these investments, net of allocated internal expenses. As previously discussed, we anticipate the repositioning of the majority of the remaining Agriliance retail operations to occur during fiscal 2010. Our grain marketing earnings decreased by \$123.0 million during fiscal 2009 when compared to fiscal 2008, primarily the result of lower grain margins and reduced earnings from joint ventures. Volatility in the grain markets created exceptional opportunities for grain margins during fiscal 2008, while reduced demand as a result of the world-wide recession lessened those opportunities during fiscal 2009. Our country operations earnings decreased \$33.9 million in fiscal 2009, primarily as a result of reduced grain and crop nutrients margins.

Our Processing segment generated income before income taxes of \$4.1 million for the year ended August 31, 2009, compared to a net loss of \$5.8 million in fiscal 2008, an improvement in earnings of \$9.9 million. Our share of losses, net of allocated internal expenses, related to US BioEnergy Corporation (US BioEnergy), an ethanol manufacturing company in which we held a minority ownership interest, increased \$4.1 million for fiscal 2009 compared to fiscal 2008. Effective April 1, 2008, US BioEnergy and VeraSun Energy Corporation (VeraSun) completed a merger, and as a result of our change in ownership interest, we no longer had significant influence, and therefore no longer accounted for VeraSun, the surviving entity, using the equity method. During fiscal 2009, we reflected a \$74.3 million loss on our investment in VeraSun, which declared bankruptcy in October 2008. The write-off eliminated our remaining investment, as we had reflected an impairment of \$71.7 million during fiscal 2008 based on the market value of the VeraSun stock on August 31, 2008. Further discussion is contained below in Loss (Gain) on Investments. Oilseed processing earnings decreased \$14.5 million during fiscal 2009 compared to fiscal 2008, primarily due to reduced margins and volumes in our crushing operations, partially offset by improved margins in our refining operations. Our share of earnings from our wheat milling joint ventures, net of allocated internal expenses, decreased \$19.0 million in fiscal 2009 compared to fiscal 2008, primarily the result of reduced margins on the products sold. Our share of earnings from Ventura Foods, our packaged foods joint venture, net of allocated internal expenses, reflected an increase of \$47.5 million during fiscal 2009 compared to fiscal 2008, primarily as the result of decreased commodity prices for inputs improving margins on the products sold.

Corporate and Other generated income before income taxes of \$7.2 million for the year ended August 31, 2009 compared to \$12.3 million in fiscal 2008, which represented a decrease in earnings of \$5.1 million (42%). This decrease is attributable to less activity in our business solutions financial and hedging services and a soft insurance

market for our insurance services.

Table of Contents

Net Income attributable to CHS Inc. Consolidated net income attributable to CHS Inc. for the year ended August 31, 2009 was \$381.4 million compared to \$803.0 million for fiscal 2008, which represented a \$421.6 million (53%) decrease.

Revenues. Consolidated revenues of \$25.7 billion for the year ended August 31, 2009 compared to \$32.2 billion for fiscal 2008, which represented a \$6.5 billion (20%) decrease.

Total revenues include other revenues generated primarily within our Ag Business segment and Corporate and Other. Our Ag Business segment's country operations elevators and agri-service centers derive other revenues from activities related to production agriculture, which includes grain storage, grain cleaning, fertilizer spreading, crop protection spraying and other services of this nature, and our grain marketing operations receive other revenues at our export terminals from activities related to loading vessels. Corporate and Other derives revenues primarily from our financing, hedging and insurance operations.

Our Energy segment revenues, after elimination of intersegment revenues, of \$7.4 billion decreased by \$3.8 billion (34%) during the year ended August 31, 2009 compared to fiscal 2008. During the years ended August 31, 2009 and 2008, our Energy segment recorded revenues from our Ag Business segment of \$251.6 million and \$322.5 million, respectively, which are eliminated as part of the consolidation process. The net decrease in revenues of \$3.8 billion is comprised of a net decrease of \$3.2 billion related to lower prices on refined fuels, propane and renewable fuels marketing products and \$0.6 billion primarily related to a decrease in sales volume in our renewable fuels marketing operations. Refined fuels revenues decreased \$3.0 billion (38%), of which \$2.8 billion was related to a net average selling price decrease and \$149.8 million was attributable to slightly decreased volumes, compared to fiscal 2008. The average selling price of refined fuels decreased \$1.07 per gallon (36%) and volumes decreased 2% when comparing fiscal 2009 with fiscal 2008. Renewable fuels marketing revenues decreased \$549.7 million (48%), mostly from a 35% decrease in volumes, coupled with a decrease in the average selling price of \$0.44 per gallon (20%), when compared with fiscal 2008. The decrease in renewable fuels marketing volumes was primarily attributable to the loss of two customers. Propane revenues increased by \$7.2 million (1%), of which \$145.2 million related to an increase in volumes, partially offset by a decrease of \$138.0 million due to a lower average selling price, when compared to fiscal 2008. Propane sales volume increased 20%, while the average selling price decreased \$0.23 per gallon (16%) compared to fiscal 2008. The increase in propane volumes primarily reflects increased demand caused by an improved crop drying season, lower prices and a longer home heating season.

Our Ag Business segment revenues, after elimination of intersegment revenues, of \$17.2 billion decreased \$2.5 billion (13%) during the year ended August 31, 2009 compared to fiscal 2008. Grain revenues in our Ag Business segment totaled \$13.0 billion and \$15.0 billion during the years ended August 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. Of the grain revenues decrease of \$2.0 billion (13%), \$2.3 billion is attributable to decreased average grain selling prices, partially offset by an increase of \$339.5 million due to increased volumes during fiscal 2009 compared to fiscal 2008. The average sales price of all grain and oilseed commodities sold reflected a decrease of \$1.28 per bushel (15%). The average month-end market price per bushel of spring wheat, soybeans and corn decreased approximately \$4.55, \$2.44 and \$1.38, respectively, when compared to the prices of those same grains for fiscal 2008. Volumes increased 2% during fiscal 2009 compared with fiscal 2008. Soybeans reflected a fiscal 200