

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

FORM 8-K
CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **September 22, 2021**

Whole Earth Brands, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-38880

(Commission
File Number)

38-4101973

(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**125 S. Wacker Drive
Suite 3150
Chicago, IL 60606**

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(312) 840-6000**

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share	FREE	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC
Warrants to purchase one-half of one share of common stock	FREEW	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§ 230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§ 240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

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

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

On September 22, 2021, Andy Rusie, the Chief Financial Officer of Whole Earth Brands, Inc. (the "Company") informed the Company of his decision to resign from the Company effective as of October 8, 2021.

On September 28, 2021, the Company announced that Brian Litman has been appointed as Chief Accounting Officer of the Company. Mr. Litman, age 53, joined the Company in June 2020 and, prior to his appointment as Chief Accounting Officer, served as Corporate Controller of the Company. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Litman worked from 1997 to 2020 at Tribune Media Company, where he served in various capacities, including as Senior Vice President, Corporate Controller & Chief Accounting Officer. Mr. Litman graduated Northern Illinois University with a Bachelors of Science, Accounting and subsequently obtained a Masters in Business Administration from Northwestern University. Mr. Litman will continue to be covered by the same compensatory plans and arrangements as he had been prior to his appointment as Chief Accounting Officer, including receipt of an annual base salary and participation in the Company's annual bonus plan and long-term incentive plan for key managers. In recognition of his appointment as Chief Accounting Officer, however, Mr. Litman is expected to receive certain increases in his annual base salary and bonus opportunity, as well as additional grants of restricted stock units.

On September 28, 2021, the Company issued a press release announcing the managerial role changes described above. A copy of that press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01 – Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press Release issued on September 28, 2021
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted as inline XBRL and contained in Exhibit 101)

SIGNATURE

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

Dated: September 28, 2021

Whole Earth Brands, Inc.

By: /s/ Albert Manzone

Name: Albert Manzone

Title: Chief Executive Officer



Whole Earth Brands, Inc. Announces CFO Departure and Succession Plan to Support Growth Strategy

Chicago, Illinois – September 28, 2021 – Whole Earth Brands, Inc. (the “Company”) (Nasdaq: FREE), a global food company enabling healthier lifestyles, today announced that Andy Rusie, the Company’s Chief Financial Officer, will resign from the position effective October 8, 2021 in order to pursue other business interests outside the CPG industry.

Albert Manzone, Chief Executive Officer of Whole Earth Brands, stated, “On behalf of the Board and our entire team, I want to thank Andy for his significant contributions to Whole Earth Brands and wish him well in his future endeavors. Andy has played an important role in building the infrastructure to support the Company’s public company readiness and financial analysis and reporting capabilities. Andy leaves the Company with a strong financial reporting foundation with a team of talented and capable finance and accounting professionals. We are confident in executing our business strategy and in our long-term outlook.”

Andy Rusie commented, “It has been an honor to serve as CFO of Whole Earth Brands over the past two years. I have great confidence in the Company’s finance team and its strategy as it continues to build a portfolio of leading better-for-you brands. I wish everyone at Whole Earth Brands continued success.”

Brian Litman, the Company’s Corporate Controller since June of 2020, will be appointed as Chief Accounting Officer of the Company and will be responsible for overseeing the Company’s financial reporting until a new Chief Financial Officer is identified. Prior to joining Whole Earth Brands, Brian spent 22 years at Tribune Media Company where he advanced through roles of increasing responsibility, including his final role as SVP/Controller & Chief Accounting Officer. Brian began his career with Deloitte. In the interim, he will work with Whole Earth Brand’s finance team to support the Company’s growth strategy.

Whole Earth Brands has commenced a comprehensive global search for a Chief Financial Officer, with a focus on candidates that have a demonstrated track record of leadership, requisite public company financial reporting expertise and driving business growth.

About Whole Earth Brands

Whole Earth Brands is a global food company enabling healthier lifestyles and providing access to premium plant-based sweeteners, flavor enhancers and other foods through our diverse portfolio of trusted brands and delicious products, including Whole Earth Sweetener®, Wholesome®, Swerve®, Pure Via®, Equal® and Candere®. With food playing a central role in people’s health and wellness, Whole Earth Brands’ innovative product pipeline addresses the growing consumer demand for more dietary options, baking ingredients and taste profiles. Our world-class global distribution network is the largest provider of plant-based sweeteners in more than 100 countries with a vision to expand our portfolio to responsibly meet local preferences. We are committed to helping people enjoy life’s everyday moments and the celebrations that bring us together. For more information on how we “Open a World of Goodness®,” please visit www.WholeEarthBrands.com.



Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements (including within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995) concerning Whole Earth Brands, Inc. and other matters. These statements may discuss goals, intentions and expectations as to future plans, trends, events, results of operations or financial condition, or otherwise, based on current beliefs of management, as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, management.

Forward-looking statements may be accompanied by words such as “achieve,” “aim,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “can,” “continue,” “could,” “drive,” “estimate,” “expect,” “forecast,” “future,” “guidance,” “grow,” “improve,” “increase,” “intend,” “may,” “outlook,” “plan,” “possible,” “potential,” “predict,” “project,” “should,” “target,” “will,” “would,” or similar words, phrases or expressions. Examples of such forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the statements of Messrs. Manzone and Rusie, and the ability of the Company to achieve its growth strategy. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the Company’s ability to integrate Wholesome and Swerve and achieve the anticipated benefits of the transaction in a timely manner or at all; the extent of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the duration, spread, severity, and any recurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the duration and scope of related government orders and restrictions, the impact on our employees, and the extent of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on overall demand for the Company’s products; local, regional, national, and international economic conditions that have deteriorated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the risks of a global recession or a recession in one or more of the Company’s key markets, and the impact they may have on the Company and its customers and management’s assessment of that impact; extensive and evolving government regulations that impact the way the Company operates; and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Company’s suppliers, including disruptions and inefficiencies in the supply chain.

These forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which are outside of the Company’s control, which could cause actual results to differ materially from the results contemplated by the forward-looking statements. These statements are subject to the risks and uncertainties indicated from time to time in the documents the Company files (or furnishes) with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

You are cautioned not to place undue reliance upon any forward-looking statements, which are based only on information currently available to the Company and speak only as of the date made. The Company undertakes no commitment to publicly update or revise the forward-looking statements, whether written or oral that may be made from time to time, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.



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