JOHNSON JOEL W Form 4 January 03, 2003

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

_ Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

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					me and Tic rp (USB)	cker or	Trading	g Symbol	6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)				
(Last Hormel Food 1 Hormel Pla	ls Corporation	of Reporting Person,					Statement for onth/Day/Year 12/03	X Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)					
(Street) Austin, MN 55912-3680							Da	If Amendment, te of Original onth/Day/Year)	7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person				
(Ci	1	able	e I Non-I	Derivat	ive Sec	curities Acquired, Dis	Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned						
1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	ty action Execution		3. Trans action C (Instr. 8 Code	ode	4. Securitie (A) or Disp (Instr. 3, 4 Amount	osed o		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transactions(s) (Instr. 3 & 4)	6. Owner- ship Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)			

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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FORM 4 (continued) Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

		\ 0									
1. Title of	2. Conver-	3.	3A.	4.	5. Number	6. Date Exercisable	7. Title and	8. Price of	9. Number of	10.	11. N
Derivative	sion or	Trans-	Deemed	Trans-	of	and Expiration	Amount of	Derivative	Derivative	Owner-	of In
Security	Exercise	action	Execution	action	Derivative	Date	Underlying	Security	Securities	ship	Bene
	Price of	Date	Date,	Code	Securities	(Month/Day/	Securities	(Instr. 5)	Beneficially	Form	Own
(Instr. 3)	Derivative		if any		Acquired	Year)	(Instr. 3 & 4)		Owned	of Deriv-	(Inst
	Security	(Month/	(Month/	(Instr.	(A) or				Following	ative	
		Day/	Day/	8)	Disposed				Reported	Security:	
		Year)	Year)		of (D)				Transaction(s)	Direct	
									(Instr. 4)	(D)	
					(Instr. 3, 4					or	

^{*} If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

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			Code	_	& 5) (A)	(D)	Date Exer-cisable	Expira- tion	Title	Amount			Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	
								Date		Number of Shares				
Restricted Stock Units	1-for-1						(1)	(1)	Common Stock	2,500		2,500	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$21.53	1/02/03	A		12,200		(2)	1/02/13	Common Stock	12,200	(3)	12,200	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$21.64							12/17/12	Common Stock	7,200		7,200	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$18.95							10/01/12	Common Stock	575		575	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$23.18							7/01/12	Common Stock	1,600		1,600	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$22.16							4/01/12	Common Stock	575		575	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$20.78							1/02/12	Common Stock	9,150		9,150	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$20.78							1/02/12	Common Stock	8,600		8,600	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$20.78							1/02/12	Common Stock	1,500		1,500	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$22.02							10/01/11	Common Stock	625		625	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$23.31							7/02/11	Common Stock			375	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)								4/02/11	Common Stock			625	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$22.60							3/12/11	Common Stock	7,350		7,350	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right	\$23.34							2/27/11	Common Stock	15,000		15,000	D	

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to Buy)									
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$16.85			4/19/	Common Stock	6,451	6,451	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$29.35			4/20/	Common Stock	6,451	6,451	D	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$25.20			2/17/	Common Stock	9,487	9,487	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) The restricted stock units vest in four equal annual installments beginning on December 17, 2003. Vested units are payable in common stock when the reporting person retires in accordance with the Company's director retirement policy.
- (2) The option vests in four equal annual installments beginning on January 2, 2004.
- (3) Stock Option acquired from Issuer in lieu of \$60,000 of cash compensation for 2003 director fees under the 2001 Executive Stock Incentive Plan.

By: /s/ By Lee R. Mitau For Joel W. Johnson 1/03/03 Date

**Signature of Reporting Person

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, See Instruction 6 for procedure.

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^{**}Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).