

HORMEL FOODS CORP /DE/
Form 10-Q
September 07, 2012
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended July 29, 2012

or

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 1-2402

HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

41-0319970
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1 Hormel Place
Austin, Minnesota
(Address of principal executive offices)

55912-3680
(Zip Code)

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(507) 437-5611

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

None

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. YES NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). YES NO

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.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

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

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

| Class | Outstanding at September 2, 2012 |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Common Stock | \$.0293 par value 262,879,904 |
| Common Stock Non-Voting | \$.01 par value -0- |

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(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

| | July 29, 2012 | October 30, 2011 |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | (Unaudited) | |
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 533,217 | \$ 463,130 |
| Short-term marketable securities | 77,013 | 76,077 |
| Accounts receivable | 474,425 | 461,110 |
| Inventories | 927,047 | 885,823 |
| Income taxes receivable | 18,799 | 24,423 |
| Deferred income taxes | 68,086 | 69,203 |
| Prepaid expenses | 12,865 | 10,048 |
| Other current assets | 5,806 | 8,417 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | 2,117,258 | 1,998,231 |
| DEFERRED INCOME TAXES | 55,295 | 59,814 |
| GOODWILL | 630,875 | 630,884 |
| OTHER INTANGIBLES | 125,367 | 132,046 |
| PENSION ASSETS | 108,765 | 80,208 |
| INVESTMENTS IN AND RECEIVABLES FROM AFFILIATES | 296,785 | 295,698 |
| OTHER ASSETS | 132,482 | 140,420 |
| PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT | | |
| Land | 56,270 | 56,273 |
| Buildings | 757,474 | 749,143 |
| Equipment | 1,414,891 | 1,393,128 |
| Construction in progress | 91,809 | 50,286 |
| | 2,320,444 | 2,248,830 |
| Less allowance for depreciation | (1,404,652) | (1,341,740) |
| | 915,792 | 907,090 |

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| | | | | |
|--------------|----|-----------|----|-----------|
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$ | 4,382,619 | \$ | 4,244,391 |
|--------------|----|-----------|----|-----------|

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents**HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

| | July 29, 2012 | October 30, 2011 |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | (Unaudited) | |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS INVESTMENT | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 289,212 | \$ 390,171 |
| Accrued expenses | 43,701 | 40,539 |
| Accrued workers compensation | 33,689 | 32,218 |
| Accrued marketing expenses | 84,739 | 77,363 |
| Employee related expenses | 176,886 | 195,258 |
| Taxes payable | 5,845 | 8,137 |
| Interest and dividends payable | 42,638 | 34,500 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | 676,710 | 778,186 |
| PENSION AND POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS | 477,102 | 473,688 |
| LONG-TERM DEBT less current maturities | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES | 82,608 | 82,701 |
| SHAREHOLDERS INVESTMENT | | |
| Preferred stock, par value \$.01 a share-- authorized 160,000,000 shares; issued none | | |
| Common stock, non-voting, par value \$.01 a share authorized 400,000,000 shares; issued none | | |
| Common stock, par value \$.0293 a share authorized 800,000,000 shares; issued 263,247,237 shares July 29, 2012 | | |
| issued 263,963,251 shares October 30, 2011 | 7,713 | 7,734 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (168,896) | (175,483) |
| Retained earnings | 3,050,070 | 2,824,331 |
| HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION SHAREHOLDERS INVESTMENT | 2,888,887 | 2,656,582 |
| NONCONTROLLING INTEREST | 7,312 | 3,234 |
| TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS INVESTMENT | 2,896,199 | 2,659,816 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS INVESTMENT | \$ 4,382,619 | \$ 4,244,391 |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(in thousands, except per share amounts)

(Unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 |
| Net sales | \$ 2,008,188 | \$ 1,910,592 | \$ 6,060,486 | \$ 5,791,191 |
| Cost of products sold | 1,701,132 | 1,612,737 | 5,080,414 | 4,793,104 |
| GROSS PROFIT | 307,056 | 297,855 | 980,072 | 998,087 |
| Selling, general and administrative | 145,022 | 156,595 | 446,183 | 461,892 |
| Equity in earnings of affiliates | 9,823 | 5,562 | 28,640 | 19,139 |
| OPERATING INCOME | 171,857 | 146,822 | 562,529 | 555,334 |
| Other income and expense: | | | | |
| Interest and investment income | 844 | 139 | 4,772 | 2,552 |
| Interest expense | (3,207) | (5,623) | (9,704) | (19,389) |
| EARNINGS BEFORE INCOME TAXES | 169,494 | 141,338 | 557,597 | 538,497 |
| Provision for income taxes | 57,087 | 41,374 | 186,922 | 177,796 |
| NET EARNINGS | 112,407 | 99,964 | 370,675 | 360,701 |
| Less: Net earnings attributable to noncontrolling interest | 1,240 | 1,483 | 3,226 | 3,815 |
| NET EARNINGS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION | \$ 111,167 | \$ 98,481 | \$ 367,449 | \$ 356,886 |
| NET EARNINGS PER SHARE: | | | | |
| BASIC | \$ 0.42 | \$ 0.37 | \$ 1.39 | \$ 1.34 |
| DILUTED | \$ 0.41 | \$ 0.36 | \$ 1.37 | \$ 1.31 |
| WEIGHTED-AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING: | | | | |
| BASIC | 263,359 | 266,925 | 263,638 | 266,887 |
| DILUTED | 268,746 | 272,759 | 269,138 | 272,449 |
| DIVIDENDS DECLARED PER SHARE: | \$ 0.1500 | \$ 0.1275 | \$ 0.4500 | \$ 0.3825 |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents**HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS INVESTMENT****(in thousands, except per share amounts)****(Unaudited)**

| | Hormel Foods Corporation Shareholders | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Common Stock | Treasury Stock | Additional Paid-in Capital | Retained Earnings | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) | Non- controlling Interest | Total Shareholders Investment |
| Balance at October 31, 2010 | \$ 7,793 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 2,568,774 | \$ (175,910) | \$ 5,982 | \$ 2,406,639 |
| Comprehensive income | | | | | | | |
| Net earnings | | | | 474,195 | | 5,001 | 479,196 |
| Foreign currency translation | | | | | 843 | 251 | 1,094 |
| Deferred hedging, net of | | | | | | | |
| reclassification adjustment | | | | | (3,476) | | (3,476) |
| Pension and other benefits | | | | | 3,060 | | 3,060 |
| Comprehensive income | | | | | | 5,252 | 479,874 |
| Purchases of common stock | | (152,930) | | | | | (152,930) |
| Stock-based compensation | | | | | | | |
| expense | | | 17,229 | | | | 17,229 |
| Exercise of stock | | | | | | | |
| options/nonvested shares | 102 | (163) | 53,100 | | | | 53,039 |
| Shares retired | (161) | 153,093 | (70,329) | (82,603) | | | 0 |
| Distribution to noncontrolling | | | | | | | |
| interest | | | | | | (8,000) | (8,000) |
| Declared cash dividends \$.51 | | | | | | | |
| per share | | | | (136,035) | | | (136,035) |
| Balance at October 30, 2011 | \$ 7,734 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 2,824,331 | \$ (175,483) | \$ 3,234 | \$ 2,659,816 |
| Comprehensive income | | | | | | | |
| Net earnings | | | | 367,449 | | 3,226 | 370,675 |
| Foreign currency translation | | | | | 1,919 | 78 | 1,997 |
| Deferred hedging, net of | | | | | | | |
| reclassification adjustment | | | | | (1,439) | | (1,439) |
| Pension and other benefits | | | | | 6,107 | | 6,107 |
| Comprehensive income | | | | | | 3,304 | 377,340 |
| Purchases of common stock | | (50,692) | | | | | (50,692) |
| Stock-based compensation | | | | | | | |
| expense | | | 14,191 | | | | 14,191 |
| Exercise of stock | | | | | | | |
| options/nonvested shares | 31 | (275) | 13,257 | | | | 13,013 |
| Shares retired | (52) | 50,967 | (27,448) | (23,467) | | | 0 |
| Proceeds from noncontrolling | | | | | | | |
| interest | | | | | | 774 | 774 |
| Declared cash dividends \$.45 | | | | | | | |
| per share | | | | (118,243) | | | (118,243) |
| Balance at July 29, 2012 | \$ 7,713 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 3,050,070 | \$ (168,896) | \$ 7,312 | \$ 2,896,199 |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents**HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(in thousands)****(Unaudited)**

| | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 |
| OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Net earnings | \$ 370,675 | \$ 360,701 |
| Adjustments to reconcile to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation | 81,947 | 85,735 |
| Amortization of intangibles | 6,680 | 7,192 |
| Equity in earnings of affiliates, net of dividends | (8,032) | (15,108) |
| Provision for deferred income taxes | 183 | 5,040 |
| Gain on property/equipment sales and plant facilities | (245) | (250) |
| Non-cash investment activities | (2,527) | 357 |
| Stock-based compensation expense | 14,191 | 14,820 |
| Excess tax benefit from stock-based compensation | (6,827) | (13,590) |
| Other | - | 486 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions: | | |
| (Increase) decrease in accounts receivable | (13,315) | 3,012 |
| Increase in inventories | (41,224) | (72,104) |
| Decrease in prepaid expenses and other current assets | 11,868 | 19,306 |
| Decrease in pension and post-retirement benefits | (14,749) | (4,437) |
| Decrease in accounts payable and accrued expenses | (114,572) | (71,735) |
| NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES | 284,053 | 319,425 |
| INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Net purchase of trading securities | - | (20,000) |
| Acquisitions of businesses/intangibles | (168) | (7,207) |
| Purchases of property/equipment | (93,915) | (56,253) |
| Proceeds from sales of property/equipment | 3,510 | 3,496 |
| Decrease in investments, equity in affiliates, and other assets | 17,661 | 7,010 |
| NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES | (72,912) | (72,954) |
| FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Proceeds from long-term debt, net | - | 247,564 |
| Principal payments on long-term debt | - | (350,000) |
| Dividends paid on common stock | (112,683) | (95,991) |
| Share repurchase | (50,692) | (80,648) |
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options | 13,910 | 50,540 |
| Excess tax benefit from stock-based compensation | 6,827 | 13,590 |
| Distribution to noncontrolling interest | - | (3,000) |
| Proceeds from noncontrolling interest | 774 | - |
| Other | - | (1,147) |
| NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES | (141,864) | (219,092) |
| EFFECT OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES ON CASH | 810 | 2,140 |
| INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | 70,087 | 29,519 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | 463,130 | 467,845 |

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| | | | | |
|---|----|---------|----|---------|
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF QUARTER | \$ | 533,217 | \$ | 497,364 |
|---|----|---------|----|---------|

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

NOTE A GENERAL

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements of Hormel Foods Corporation (the Company) have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information, and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Rule 10-01 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring adjustments) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. Operating results for the interim period are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the full year. The balance sheet at October 30, 2011, has been derived from the audited financial statements at that date but does not include all of the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and footnotes included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 30, 2011.

Certain reclassifications of previously reported amounts have been made to conform to the current year presentation. The reclassifications had no impact on net earnings as previously reported.

Investments

The Company maintains a rabbi trust to fund certain supplemental executive retirement plans and deferred income plans, which is included in other assets on the Consolidated Statements of Financial Position. The securities held by the trust are classified as trading securities. Therefore, unrealized gains and losses associated with these investments are included in the Company's earnings. Gains related to securities held by the trust were \$0.5 million and \$3.2 million for the third quarter and nine months ended July 29, 2012, respectively, compared to a loss of \$0.2 million and a gain of \$1.6 million for the third quarter and nine months ended July 31, 2011. The Company has transitioned the majority of this portfolio to more fixed return investments to reduce the exposure to volatility in equity markets.

The Company also holds securities as part of an investment portfolio, which are classified as short-term marketable securities on the Consolidated Statements of Financial Position. These investments are also trading securities. Therefore, unrealized gains and losses are included in the Company's earnings. The Company recorded a gain of \$0.2 million and \$0.9 million related to these investments during the third quarter and nine months ended July 29, 2012, respectively, compared to a gain of \$0.1 million and \$0.5 million for the third quarter and nine months ended July 31, 2011.

Supplemental Cash Flow Information

Non-cash investment activities presented on the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows generally consist of unrealized gains or losses on the Company's rabbi trust and other investments, amortization of affordable housing investments, and amortization of bond financing costs. The noted investments are included in other assets or short-term marketable securities on the Consolidated Statements of Financial Position. Changes in the value of these investments are included in the Company's net earnings and are presented in the Consolidated Statements of Operations as either interest and investment income or interest expense, as appropriate.

Guarantees

The Company enters into various agreements guaranteeing specified obligations of affiliated parties. The Company's guarantees either terminate in one year or remain in place until such time as the Company revokes the agreement. The Company currently provides a renewable standby letter of credit for \$4.8 million to guarantee obligations that may arise under worker compensation claims of an affiliated party. This potential obligation is not reflected in the Company's Consolidated Statements of Financial Position.

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New Accounting Pronouncements

In July 2012, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) updated the guidance within Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 350, *Intangibles - Goodwill and Other*. The update gives companies the option to first perform a qualitative assessment to determine whether it is more likely than not (> 50% likelihood) that an indefinite-lived intangible asset is impaired. If a company concludes that this is the case, then a quantitative test for impairment must still be performed. Otherwise, a company does not need to perform a quantitative test. The updated guidance is effective for annual and interim impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after September 15, 2012, with early adoption permitted if a company's financial statements have not yet been issued. The Company will perform its annual impairment testing of indefinite-lived intangible assets in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012 and will evaluate the option to adopt the new provisions of this accounting standard at that time.

In June 2011, the FASB updated the guidance within ASC 220, *Comprehensive Income*. The update eliminates the option for companies to report other comprehensive income and its related components in the Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity. Instead, companies have the option to present total comprehensive income, the components of net income, and the components of other comprehensive income either in a single continuous Statement of Comprehensive Income or in two separate but consecutive statements. The updated guidance is to be applied retrospectively, and is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011, with early adoption permitted. The Company currently plans to adopt the new provisions of this accounting standard in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012, and adoption is not expected to have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements, as it relates to presentation only.

In May 2011, the FASB updated the guidance within ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*. The update amended and clarified current fair value measurement guidance, and required additional disclosures. The most significant disclosure requirement relates to quantitative information about the unobservable inputs used in a fair value measurement that is categorized within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011, and early adoption was not permitted. Accordingly, the Company adopted the new provisions of this accounting standard in the second quarter of fiscal 2012, and adoption did not have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

NOTE B STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

The Company issues stock options and nonvested shares as part of its stock incentive plans for employees and non-employee directors. The Company's policy is to grant options with an exercise price equal to the market price of the common stock on the date of grant. Options typically vest over periods ranging from six months to four years and expire ten years after the grant date. The Company recognizes stock-based compensation expense ratably over the shorter of the requisite service period or vesting period. The fair value of stock-based compensation granted to retirement-eligible individuals is expensed at the time of grant.

During the first quarter of fiscal 2007, the Company made a one-time grant of 100 stock options (pre-2011 split) to each active, full-time employee of the Company on January 8, 2007. This grant was to vest upon the earlier of five years or attainment of a closing stock price of \$50.00 per share (pre-2011 split) for five consecutive trading days, and had an expiration of ten years after the grant date. During the first quarter of fiscal 2011, the options vested after the stock attained the required closing price per share for five consecutive trading days.

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A reconciliation of the number of options outstanding and exercisable (in thousands) as of July 29, 2012, and changes during the nine months then ended, is as follows:

| | Shares | Weighted-Average Exercise Price | Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Term | Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in thousands) |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Outstanding at October 30, 2011 | 19,932 | \$ 17.89 | | |
| Granted | 2,642 | 29.42 | | |
| Exercised | 1,612 | 15.07 | | |
| Forfeited | 33 | 21.29 | | |
| Outstanding at July 29, 2012 | 20,929 | \$ 19.55 | 5.7 years | \$ 187,817 |
| Exercisable at July 29, 2012 | 14,504 | \$ 17.38 | 4.5 years | \$ 159,846 |

The weighted-average grant date fair value of stock options granted and the total intrinsic value of options exercised (in thousands) during the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal years 2012 and 2011 are as follows:

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 |
| Weighted-average grant date fair value of options granted | N/A | N/A | \$ 5.64 | \$ 5.54 |
| Intrinsic value of exercised options | \$ 8,011 | \$ 11,124 | \$ 23,332 | \$ 50,312 |

The fair value of each option award is calculated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes valuation model utilizing the following weighted-average assumptions. No options were granted in the third quarter ending July 29, 2012, or July 31, 2011.

| | Nine Months Ended | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 |
| Risk-Free Interest Rate | 1.8% | 3.0% |
| Dividend Yield | 2.0% | 2.0% |
| Stock Price Volatility | 21.0% | 21.0% |
| Expected Option Life | 8 years | 8 years |

As part of the annual valuation process, the Company reassesses the appropriateness of the inputs used in the valuation models. The Company establishes the risk-free interest rate using stripped U.S. Treasury yields as of the grant date where the remaining term is approximately the expected life of the option. The dividend yield is set based on the dividend rate approved by the Company's Board of Directors and the stock price on the grant date. The expected volatility assumption is set based primarily on historical volatility. As a reasonableness test, implied volatility from exchange traded options is also examined to validate the volatility range obtained from the historical analysis. The expected option life assumption is set based on an analysis of past exercise behavior by option holders. In performing the valuations for option grants, the Company has not stratified option holders as exercise behavior has historically been consistent across all employee and non-employee director

groups.

The Company's nonvested shares granted on or before September 26, 2010, vest after five years or upon retirement. Nonvested shares granted after September 26, 2010, vest after one year. A reconciliation of the nonvested shares (in thousands) as of July 29, 2012, and changes during the nine months then ended, is as follows:

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| | Shares | Weighted- Average Grant Date Fair Value |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Nonvested at October 30, 2011 | 215 | \$ 19.94 |
| Granted | 45 | 28.97 |
| Vested | 110 | 21.13 |
| Forfeited | 7 | 28.27 |
| Nonvested at July 29, 2012 | 143 | \$ 21.48 |

No nonvested shares were granted or vested in the third quarter ended July 29, 2012, or July 31, 2011. The weighted-average grant date fair value of nonvested shares granted, the total fair value (in thousands) of nonvested shares granted, and the fair value (in thousands) of shares that have vested during the first nine months of fiscal years 2012 and 2011, are as follows:

| | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 |
| Weighted-average grant date fair value | \$ 28.97 | \$ 24.84 |
| Fair value of nonvested shares granted | \$ 1,304 | \$ 1,118 |
| Fair value of shares vested | \$ 2,324 | \$ 335 |

Stock-based compensation expense, along with the related income tax benefit, for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal years 2012 and 2011 is presented in the table below.

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>(in thousands)</u> | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 |
| Stock-based compensation expense recognized | \$ 3,062 | \$ 2,578 | \$ 14,191 | \$ 14,820 |
| Income tax benefit recognized | (1,161) | (979) | (5,381) | (5,629) |
| After-tax stock-based compensation expense | \$ 1,901 | \$ 1,599 | \$ 8,810 | \$ 9,191 |

At July 29, 2012, there was \$14.0 million of total unrecognized compensation expense from stock-based compensation arrangements granted under the plans. This compensation is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of approximately 2.7 years. During the third quarter and nine months ended July 29, 2012, cash received from stock option exercises was \$3.9 million and \$13.9 million, respectively, compared to \$6.8 million and \$50.5 million for the third quarter and nine months ended July 31, 2011. The total tax benefit to be realized for tax deductions from these option exercises for the third quarter and nine months ended July 29, 2012, was \$3.0 million and \$8.8 million, respectively, compared to \$4.2 million and \$19.1 million in the comparable periods in fiscal 2011.

Shares issued for option exercises and nonvested shares may be either authorized but unissued shares, or shares of treasury stock acquired in the open market or otherwise.

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The change in the carrying amount of goodwill for the nine months ended July 29, 2012, is presented in the table below. There were no changes in the carrying amount during the third quarter of fiscal 2012.

| <u>(in thousands)</u> | Grocery Products | Refrigerated Foods | JOTS | Specialty Foods | All Other | Total |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| Balance as of October 30, 2011 | \$ 123,316 | \$ 96,652 | \$ 203,214 | \$ 207,028 | \$ 674 | \$ 630,884 |
| Goodwill acquired | - | (9) | - | - | - | (9) |
| Balance as of July 29, 2012 | \$ 123,316 | \$ 96,643 | \$ 203,214 | \$ 207,028 | \$ 674 | \$ 630,875 |

The gross carrying amount and accumulated amortization for definite-lived intangible assets are presented in the table below.

| <u>(in thousands)</u> | July 29, 2012 | | October 30, 2011 | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization |
| Customer lists/relationships | \$ 22,148 | \$ (14,094) | \$ 22,378 | \$ (12,556) |
| Proprietary software & technology | 22,000 | (16,695) | 22,000 | (14,822) |
| Formulas & recipes | 17,854 | (11,151) | 18,354 | (10,047) |
| Distribution network | 4,120 | (3,680) | 4,120 | (3,371) |
| Other intangibles | 9,260 | (6,460) | 14,030 | (10,105) |
| Total | \$ 75,382 | \$ (52,080) | \$ 80,882 | \$ (50,901) |

Amortization expense was \$2.2 million and \$6.7 million for the third quarter and nine months ended July 29, 2012, respectively, compared to \$2.3 million and \$7.2 million for the third quarter and nine months ended July 31, 2011.

Estimated annual amortization expense (in thousands) for the five fiscal years after October 30, 2011, is as follows:

| Fiscal Year | Estimated Amortization Expense |
|--------------------|---|
| 2012 | \$ 8,906 |
| 2013 | 7,699 |
| 2014 | 6,303 |

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| | |
|------|-------|
| 2015 | 3,192 |
| 2016 | 1,023 |

The carrying amounts for indefinite-lived intangible assets are presented in the table below.

| <u>(in thousands)</u> | July 29, 2012 | October 30, 2011 |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Brands/tradenames/trademarks | \$ 94,081 | \$ 94,081 |
| Other intangibles | 7,984 | 7,984 |
| Total | \$ 102,065 | \$ 102,065 |

Table of Contents**NOTE D INVESTMENTS IN AND RECEIVABLES FROM AFFILIATES**

The Company accounts for its majority-owned operations under the consolidation method. Investments in which the Company owns a minority interest, and for which there are no other indicators of control, are accounted for under the equity or cost method. These investments, along with any related receivables from affiliates, are included in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Position as investments in and receivables from affiliates.

Investments in and receivables from affiliates consists of the following:

| <u>(in thousands)</u> | Segment | % Owned | July 29, 2012 | October 30, 2011 |
|---|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| MegaMex Foods, LLC | Grocery Products | 50% | \$ 216,076 | \$ 205,523 |
| Purefoods-Hormel Company | All Other | 40% | 59,442 | 65,140 |
| San Miguel Purefoods (Vietnam) Co. Ltd. | All Other | 49% | 12,819 | 17,442 |
| Other | Various | | 8,448 | 7,593 |
| Total | | | \$ 296,785 | \$ 295,698 |

Equity in earnings of affiliates consists of the following:

| <u>(in thousands)</u> | Segment | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 |
| MegaMex Foods, LLC | Grocery Products | \$ 9,489 | \$ 4,323 | \$ 25,614 | \$ 16,011 |
| Purefoods-Hormel Company | All Other | 1,167 | 1,017 | 5,636 | 3,821 |
| San Miguel Purefoods (Vietnam) Co. Ltd. | All Other | (1,127) | 109 | (3,495) | (902) |
| Other | Various | 294 | 113 | 885 | 209 |
| Total | | \$ 9,823 | \$ 5,562 | \$ 28,640 | \$ 19,139 |

MegaMex Foods, LLC

On October 26, 2009, the Company completed the formation of MegaMex Foods, LLC (MegaMex), a 50/50 joint venture formed by the Company and Herdez Del Fuerte, S.A. de C.V. to market Mexican foods in the United States. On October 6, 2010, MegaMex acquired 100 percent of the stock of Don Miguel Foods Corp. (Don Miguel). Don Miguel is a leading provider of branded frozen and fresh authentic Mexican appetizers, snacks, and hand-held items. On August 22, 2011, MegaMex acquired 100 percent of Fresherized Foods, which produces Wholly Guacamole®, Wholly Salsa® and Wholly Queso® products.

The Company recognized a basis difference of \$21.3 million associated with the formation of MegaMex, which is being amortized through equity in earnings of affiliates.

NOTE E **EARNINGS PER SHARE DATA**

The following table sets forth the denominator for the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share:

| <u>(in thousands)</u> | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 |
| Basic weighted-average shares outstanding | 263,359 | 266,925 | 263,638 | 266,887 |
| Dilutive potential common shares | 5,387 | 5,834 | 5,500 | 5,562 |
| Diluted weighted-average shares outstanding | 268,746 | 272,759 | 269,138 | 272,449 |

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For the third quarter and nine months ended July 29, 2012, 2.6 million and 2.1 million weighted-average stock options, respectively, were not included in the computation of dilutive potential common shares since their inclusion would have had an antidilutive effect on earnings per share, compared to 24 thousand and 0.7 million for the third quarter and nine months ended July 31, 2011.

NOTE F COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Components of comprehensive income, net of taxes, are:

| <u>(in thousands)</u> | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 |
| Net earnings | \$ 112,407 | \$ 99,964 | \$ 370,675 | \$ 360,701 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | | | |
| Deferred gain on hedging | 16,052 | 369 | 8,495 | 25,655 |
| Reclassification adjustment into net earnings | (818) | (9,483) | (9,934) | (18,477) |
| Foreign currency translation | 873 | 756 | 1,997 | 3,093 |
| Pension and post-retirement benefits | 2,538 | 2,962 | 6,107 | 11,263 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) | 18,645 | (5,396) | 6,665 | 21,534 |
| Total comprehensive income | 131,052 | 94,568 | 377,340 | 382,235 |
| Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interest | 1,252 | 1,542 | 3,304 | 3,993 |
| Comprehensive income attributable to Hormel Foods Corporation | \$ 129,800 | \$ 93,026 | \$ 374,036 | \$ 378,242 |

The components of accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of tax, are as follows:

| <u>(in thousands)</u> | July 29, 2012 | October 30, 2011 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Foreign currency translation | \$ 11,611 | \$ 9,692 |
| Pension & other benefits | (196,076) | (202,183) |
| Deferred gain on hedging | 15,569 | 17,008 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | \$ (168,896) | \$ (175,483) |

NOTE G INVENTORIES

Principal components of inventories are:

| <u>(in thousands)</u> | July 29, 2012 | October 30, 2011 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Finished products | \$ 491,799 | \$ 463,491 |
| Raw materials and work-in-process | 241,395 | 251,324 |
| Materials and supplies | 193,853 | 171,008 |
| Total | \$ 927,047 | \$ 885,823 |

Table of Contents**NOTE H DERIVATIVES AND HEDGING**

The Company uses hedging programs to manage price risk associated with commodity purchases. These programs utilize futures contracts and swaps to manage the Company's exposure to price fluctuations in the commodities markets. The Company has determined that its programs which are designated as hedges are highly effective in offsetting the changes in fair value or cash flows generated by the items hedged.

Cash Flow Hedges: The Company utilizes corn and soybean meal futures to offset the price fluctuation in the Company's future direct grain purchases, and has entered into various swaps to hedge the purchases of grain and natural gas at certain plant locations. The financial instruments are designated and accounted for as cash flow hedges, and the Company measures the effectiveness of the hedges on a regular basis. Effective gains or losses related to these cash flow hedges are reported in accumulated other comprehensive loss (AOCL) and reclassified into earnings, through cost of products sold, in the period or periods in which the hedged transactions affect earnings. Any gains or losses related to hedge ineffectiveness are recognized in the current period cost of products sold. The Company typically does not hedge its grain or natural gas exposure beyond the next two upcoming fiscal years. As of July 29, 2012, and October 30, 2011, the Company had the following outstanding commodity futures contracts and swaps that were entered into to hedge forecasted purchases:

| Commodity | July 29, 2012 | Volume | October 30, 2011 |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Corn | 11.3 million bushels | | 20.8 million bushels |
| Natural gas | 0.1 million MMBTU s | | 0.5 million MMBTU s |

As of July 29, 2012, the Company has included in AOCL, hedging gains of \$25.0 million (before tax) relating to these positions, compared to gains of \$27.3 million (before tax) as of October 30, 2011. The Company expects to recognize the majority of these gains over the next 12 months. The balance as of July 29, 2012, includes gains of \$1.3 million related to the Company's soybean meal futures contracts. These contracts were de-designated as cash flow hedges effective January 30, 2011, as they were no longer highly effective. These gains will remain in AOCL until the hedged transactions occur or it is probable the hedged transactions will not occur. Gains or losses related to these contracts after the date of de-designation have been recognized in earnings as incurred.

Fair Value Hedges: The Company utilizes futures to minimize the price risk assumed when forward priced contracts are offered to the Company's commodity suppliers. The intent of the program is to make the forward priced commodities cost nearly the same as cash market purchases at the date of delivery. The futures contracts are designated and accounted for as fair value hedges, and the Company measures the effectiveness of the hedges on a regular basis. Changes in the fair value of the futures contracts, along with the gain or loss on the hedged purchase commitment, are marked-to-market through earnings and are recorded on the Consolidated Statements of Financial Position as a current asset and liability, respectively. Effective gains or losses related to these fair value hedges are recognized through cost of products sold in the period or periods in which the hedged transactions affect earnings. Any gains or losses related to hedge ineffectiveness are recognized in the current period cost of products sold. As of July 29, 2012, and October 30, 2011, the Company had the following outstanding commodity futures contracts designated as fair value hedges:

| Commodity | July 29, 2012 | Volume | October 30, 2011 |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Corn | 15.2 million bushels | | 12.4 million bushels |
| Lean hogs | 0.4 million cwt | | 1.3 million cwt |

Other Derivatives: During fiscal years 2012 and 2011, the Company has held certain futures and options contract positions as part of a merchandising program and to manage the Company's exposure to fluctuations in commodity markets and foreign currencies. The Company has not applied hedge accounting to these positions.

Additionally, as of January 30, 2011, the Company de-designated its soybean meal futures contracts that were previously designated as cash flow hedges, as these contracts were no longer highly effective. Hedge accounting is no longer being applied to these contracts, and gains or losses occurring after the date of de-designation have been recognized in earnings as incurred.

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As of July 29, 2012, and October 30, 2011, the Company had the following outstanding commodity futures contracts related to other programs:

| Commodity | July 29, 2012 | Volume | October 30, 2011 |
|--------------|---------------|--------|------------------|
| Soybean meal | - | | 4,300 tons |

Fair Values: The fair values of the Company's derivative instruments (in thousands) as of July 29, 2012, and October 30, 2011, were as follows:

| | Location on Consolidated Statements of Financial Position | Fair Value (1) | |
|--|--|------------------|---------------------|
| | | July 29, 2012 | October 30, 2011 |
| <u>Asset Derivatives:</u> | | | |
| Derivatives Designated as Hedges: | | | |
| Commodity contracts | Other current assets | \$ 5,181 | \$ 58,753 |
| Derivatives Not Designated as Hedges: | | | |
| Commodity contracts | Other current assets | 49 | 121 |
| Total Asset Derivatives | | \$ 5,230 | \$ 58,874 |
| <u>Liability Derivatives:</u> | | | |
| Derivatives Designated as Hedges: | | | |
| Commodity contracts | Accounts payable | \$ 193 | \$ 351 |
| Total Liability Derivatives | | \$ 193 | \$ 351 |

(1) Amounts represent the gross fair value of derivative assets and liabilities. The Company nets the derivative assets and liabilities for each of its hedging programs, including cash collateral, when a master netting arrangement exists between the Company and the counterparty to the derivative contract. The amount or timing of cash collateral balances may impact the classification of the derivative in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position. See Note I - Fair Value Measurements for a discussion of these net amounts as reported in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Position.

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Derivative Gains and Losses: Gains or losses (before tax, in thousands) related to the Company's derivative instruments for the third quarter ended July 29, 2012, and July 31, 2011, were as follows:

| | Gain/(Loss) Recognized in AOCL (Effective Portion) (1) Three Months Ended | | Location on Consolidated Statements of Operations | Gain/(Loss) Reclassified from AOCL into Earnings (Effective Portion) (1) Three Months Ended | | Gain/(Loss) Recognized in Earnings (Ineffective Portion) (2) (3) Three Months Ended | |
|--|--|------------------|--|---|------------------|---|------------------|
| | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 |
| Cash Flow Hedges: | | | | | | | |
| Commodity contracts | \$ 25,749 | \$ 537 | Cost of products sold | \$ 1,317 | \$ 15,257 | \$ 0 | \$ (2,806) |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Gain/(Loss) Recognized in Earnings (Effective Portion) (4) Three Months Ended | | Gain/(Loss) Recognized in Earnings (Ineffective Portion) (2) (5) Three Months Ended | |
| | | | Location on Consolidated Statements of Operations | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 |
| Fair Value Hedges: | | | | | | | |
| Commodity contracts | | | Cost of products sold | \$ (2,658) | \$ (4,232) | \$ (2,407) | \$ 346 |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Gain/(Loss) Recognized in Earnings Three Months Ended | | | |
| | | | Location on Consolidated Statements of Operations | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | | |
| Derivatives Not Designated as Hedges: | | | | | | | |
| Commodity contracts | | | Cost of products sold | \$ 0 | \$ (58) | | |
| Foreign exchange contracts | | | Net sales | \$ 0 | \$ 113 | | |

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(3) There were no gains or losses resulting from the discontinuance of cash flow hedges during the third quarter or first nine months of fiscal years 2012 and 2011. However, effective January 30, 2011, the Company de-designated and discontinued hedge accounting for its soybean meal futures contracts. At the date of de-designation of these hedges, gains of \$17.7 million (before tax) were deferred in AOCL, with \$1.3 million (before tax) remaining as of July 29, 2012. These gains will remain in AOCL until the hedged transactions occur or it is probable the hedged transactions will not occur. Gains or losses related to these contracts after the date of de-designation have been recognized in earnings as incurred.

(4) Amounts represent losses on commodity contracts designated as fair value hedges that were closed during the third quarter or first nine months of fiscal years 2012 and 2011, which were offset by a corresponding gain on the underlying hedged purchase commitment. Additional gains or losses related to changes in the fair value of open commodity contracts, along with the offsetting gain or loss on the hedged purchase commitment, are also marked-to-market through earnings with no impact on a net basis.

(5) There were no gains or losses recognized as a result of a hedged firm commitment no longer qualifying as a fair value hedge during the third quarter or first nine months of fiscal years 2012 and 2011.

NOTE I **FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

Pursuant to the provisions of ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* (ASC 820), the Company measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value or discloses the fair value of certain assets and liabilities recorded at cost in the consolidated financial statements. Fair value is calculated as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (an exit price). ASC 820 establishes a fair value hierarchy which requires assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be categorized into one of three levels based on the inputs used in the

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valuation. Assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input significant to the fair value measurement. The three levels are defined as follows:

Level 1: Observable inputs based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2: Observable inputs, other than those included in Level 1, based on quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, or quoted prices for identical assets and liabilities in inactive markets.

Level 3: Unobservable inputs that reflect an entity's own assumptions about what inputs a market participant would use in pricing the asset or liability based on the best information available in the circumstances.

The Company's financial assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of July 29, 2012, and October 30, 2011, and their level within the fair value hierarchy, are presented in the tables below.

| <u>(in thousands)</u> | Fair Value at July 29, 2012 | Fair Value Measurements at July 29, 2012 | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) |
| Assets at Fair Value: | | | | |
| Cash equivalents (1) | \$ 356,126 | \$ 356,126 | \$ - | \$ - |
| Short-term marketable securities (2) | 77,013 | 2,329 | 74,684 | - |
| Other trading securities (3) | 108,554 | 35,816 | 72,738 | - |
| Commodity derivatives (4) | 3,215 | 3,215 | - | - |
| Total Assets at Fair Value | \$ 544,908 | \$ 397,486 | \$ 147,422 | \$ - |
| Liabilities at Fair Value: | | | | |
| Commodity derivatives (4) | \$ 193 | \$ - | \$ 193 | \$ - |
| Deferred compensation (3) | 43,704 | 14,989 | 28,715 | - |
| Total Liabilities at Fair Value | \$ 43,897 | \$ 14,989 | \$ 28,908 | \$ - |

| <u>(in thousands)</u> | Fair Value at October 30, 2011 | Fair Value Measurements at October 30, 2011 | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) |
| Assets at Fair Value: | | | | |
| Cash equivalents (1) | \$ 341,447 | \$ 341,447 | \$ - | \$ - |

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| | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Short-term marketable securities (2) | 76,077 | 358 | 75,719 | - |
| Other trading securities (3) | 105,367 | 34,588 | 70,779 | - |
| Commodity derivatives (4) | 7,174 | 7,174 | - | - |
| Total Assets at Fair Value | \$ 530,065 | \$ 383,567 | \$ 146,498 | \$ - |
| Liabilities at Fair Value: | | | | |
| Commodity derivatives (4) | \$ 351 | \$ - | \$ 351 | \$ - |
| Deferred compensation (3) | 44,956 | 15,379 | 29,577 | - |
| Total Liabilities at Fair Value | \$ 45,307 | \$ 15,379 | \$ 29,928 | \$ - |

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The following methods and assumptions were used to estimate the fair value of the financial assets and liabilities above:

- (1) The Company's cash equivalents consist of money market funds rated AAA. As these investments have a maturity date of three months or less, the carrying value approximates fair value.
- (2) The Company holds trading securities as part of a portfolio maintained to generate investment income and to provide cash for operations of the Company, if necessary. The portfolio is managed by a third party who is responsible for daily trading activities, and all assets within the portfolio are highly liquid. The cash, U.S. government securities, and highly rated money market funds held by the portfolio are classified as Level 1. The current investment portfolio also includes corporate bonds, international government securities, commercial paper, agency securities, mortgage-backed securities, and other asset-backed securities for which there is an active, quoted market. Market prices are obtained from a variety of industry standard providers, large financial institutions, and other third-party sources to calculate a representative daily market value, and therefore, these securities are classified as Level 2.
- (3) The Company also holds trading securities as part of a rabbi trust to fund certain supplemental executive retirement plans and deferred income plans. The rabbi trust is included in other assets on the Consolidated Statements of Financial Position and is valued based on the underlying fair value of each fund held by the trust. A portion of the funds held related to the supplemental executive retirement plans have been invested in fixed income funds managed by a third party. The declared rate on these funds is set based on a formula using the yield of the general account investment portfolio that supports the fund, adjusted for expenses and other charges. The rate is guaranteed for one year at issue, and may be reset annually on the policy anniversary, subject to a guaranteed minimum rate. As the value is based on adjusted market rates, and the fixed rate is only reset on an annual basis, these funds are classified as Level 2. The remaining funds held are also managed by a third party, and include equity securities, money market accounts, bond funds, or other portfolios for which there is an active quoted market. Therefore these securities are classified as Level 1. The related deferred compensation liabilities are included in other long-term liabilities on the Consolidated Statements of Financial Position and are valued based on the underlying investment selections held in each participant's account. Investment options generally mirror those funds held by the rabbi trust, for which there is an active quoted market. Therefore these investment balances are classified as Level 1. The Company also offers a fixed rate investment option to participants. The rate earned on these investments is adjusted annually based on a specified percentage of the United States Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S.) Applicable Federal Rates in effect and therefore these balances are classified as Level 2.
- (4) The Company's commodity derivatives represent futures contracts, option contracts, and swaps used in its hedging or other programs to offset price fluctuations associated with purchases of corn, soybean meal, and natural gas, and to minimize the price risk assumed when forward priced contracts are offered to the Company's commodity suppliers. The Company's futures and options contracts for corn and soybean meal are traded on the Chicago Board of Trade, while futures contracts for lean hogs are traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. These are active markets with quoted prices available and therefore these contracts are classified as Level 1. The Company's natural gas swaps are settled based on quoted prices from the New York Mercantile Exchange. As the swaps settle based on quoted market prices, but are not held directly with the exchange, the swaps are classified as Level 2. All derivatives are reviewed for potential credit risk and risk of nonperformance. The Company nets the derivative assets and liabilities for each of its hedging programs, including cash collateral, when a master netting arrangement exists between the Company and the counterparty to the derivative contract. The net balance for each program is included in other current assets or accounts payable, as appropriate, in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Position. As of July 29, 2012, the Company has recognized the right to reclaim cash collateral of \$30.9 million from, and the obligation to return cash collateral of \$32.9 million to, various counterparties. As of October 30, 2011, the Company had recognized the right to reclaim cash collateral of \$20.1 million from, and the obligation to return cash collateral of \$71.8 million to, various counterparties.

The Company's financial assets and liabilities also include cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and other liabilities, for which carrying value approximates fair value. The Company does not carry its long-term debt at fair value in its Consolidated Statements of Financial Position. Based on borrowing rates available to the Company for long-term financing with similar terms and average maturities, the fair value of long-term debt, utilizing discounted cash flows (Level 2), was \$286.2 million as of July 29, 2012, and \$266.9 million as of October 30, 2011.

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In accordance with the provisions of ASC 820, the Company also measures certain nonfinancial assets and liabilities at fair value that are recognized or disclosed on a nonrecurring basis (e.g. goodwill, intangible assets, and property, plant and equipment). During the nine months ended July 29, 2012, and July 31, 2011, there were no material remeasurements of assets or liabilities at fair value on a nonrecurring basis subsequent to their initial recognition.

NOTE J PENSION AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Net periodic benefit cost for pension and other post-retirement benefit plans consists of the following:

| <u>(in thousands)</u> | Pension Benefits | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
| | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 |
| Service cost | \$ 5,856 | \$ 6,052 | \$ 17,568 | \$ 18,155 |
| Interest cost | 12,284 | 12,570 | 36,852 | 37,711 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (17,128) | (15,747) | (51,383) | (47,242) |
| Amortization of prior service cost | (1,269) | (152) | (3,809) | (455) |
| Recognized actuarial loss | 5,032 | 4,159 | 15,097 | 12,475 |
| Net periodic cost | \$ 4,775 | \$ 6,882 | \$ 14,325 | \$ 20,644 |

| <u>(in thousands)</u> | Post-retirement Benefits | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
| | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 |
| Service cost | \$ 556 | \$ 543 | \$ 1,668 | \$ 1,628 |
| Interest cost | 4,437 | 4,683 | 13,312 | 14,049 |
| Amortization of prior service cost | 882 | 1,074 | 2,678 | 3,267 |
| Recognized actuarial gain | - | (1) | (2) | (3) |
| Net periodic cost | \$ 5,875 | \$ 6,299 | \$ 17,656 | \$ 18,941 |

During the third quarter of fiscal 2012, the Company made discretionary contributions of \$27.3 million to fund its pension plans, compared to discretionary contributions of \$23.6 million during the third quarter of fiscal 2011.

NOTE K INCOME TAXES

The amount of unrecognized tax benefits, including interest and penalties, at July 29, 2012, recorded in other long-term liabilities was \$29.8 million, of which \$20.0 million would impact the Company's effective tax rate if recognized. The Company includes accrued interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions in income tax expense, with \$1.5 million and \$1.8 million included in expense in the third quarter and first nine months, respectively, of fiscal 2012. The amount of accrued interest and penalties at July 29, 2012, associated with unrecognized tax benefits was \$8.1 million.

The Company is regularly audited by federal and state taxing authorities. During fiscal year 2012, the I.R.S. concluded its examination of the Company's consolidated federal income tax returns for the fiscal years through 2009, and opened its examination for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. The Company is in various stages of audit by several state taxing authorities on a variety of fiscal years, as far back as 2004. While it is reasonably possible that one or more of these audits may be completed within the next 12 months and that the related unrecognized tax benefits may change, based on the status of the examinations it is not possible to reasonably estimate the effect of any amount of such change to previously recorded uncertain tax positions.

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NOTE L SEGMENT REPORTING

The Company develops, processes, and distributes a wide array of food products in a variety of markets. The Company reports its results in the following five segments: Grocery Products, Refrigerated Foods, Jennie-O Turkey Store, Specialty Foods, and All Other.

The Grocery Products segment consists primarily of the processing, marketing, and sale of shelf-stable food products sold predominantly in the retail market. This segment also includes the results from the Company's MegaMex joint venture.

The Refrigerated Foods segment includes the Hormel Refrigerated operating segment and the Affiliated Business Units. This segment consists primarily of the processing, marketing, and sale of branded and unbranded pork and beef products for retail, foodservice, and fresh product customers. The Affiliated Business Units include the Farmer John, Burke Corporation, Dan's Prize, Saag's Products, Inc., and Precept Foods businesses. Precept Foods, LLC, is a 50.01 percent owned joint venture.

The Jennie-O Turkey Store segment consists primarily of the processing, marketing, and sale of branded and unbranded turkey products for retail, foodservice, and fresh product customers.

The Specialty Foods segment includes the Diamond Crystal Brands, Century Foods International, and Hormel Specialty Products operating segments. This segment consists of the packaging and sale of various sugar and sugar substitute products, salt and pepper products, liquid portion products, dessert mixes, ready-to-drink products, sports nutrition products, gelatin products, and private label canned meats to retail and foodservice customers. This segment also includes the processing, marketing, and sale of nutritional food products and supplements to hospitals, nursing homes, and other marketers of nutritional products.

The All Other segment includes the Hormel Foods International operating segment, which manufactures, markets, and sells Company products internationally. This segment also includes the results from the Company's international joint ventures and miscellaneous corporate sales.

Intersegment sales are recorded at prices that approximate cost and are eliminated in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. The Company does not allocate investment income, interest expense, and interest income to its segments when measuring performance. The Company also retains various other income and unallocated expenses at corporate. Equity in earnings of affiliates is included in segment operating profit; however, earnings attributable to the Company's noncontrolling interests are excluded. These items are included below as net interest and investment expense (income), general corporate expense, and noncontrolling interest when reconciling to earnings before income taxes.

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Sales and operating profits for each of the Company's reportable segments and reconciliation to earnings before income taxes are set forth below. The Company is an integrated enterprise, characterized by substantial intersegment cooperation, cost allocations, and sharing of assets. Therefore, the Company does not represent that these segments, if operated independently, would report the operating profit and other financial information shown below.

| (in thousands) | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 |
| Sales to Unaffiliated Customers | | | | |
| Grocery Products | \$ 297,177 | \$ 245,368 | \$ 830,649 | \$ 782,540 |
| Refrigerated Foods | 1,043,311 | 1,045,874 | 3,158,811 | 3,097,200 |
| Jennie-O Turkey Store | 351,604 | 327,809 | 1,120,028 | 1,058,279 |
| Specialty Foods | 230,072 | 207,025 | 677,043 | 603,371 |
| All Other | 86,024 | 84,516 | 273,955 | 249,801 |
| Total | \$ 2,008,188 | \$ 1,910,592 | \$ 6,060,486 | \$ 5,791,191 |
| Intersegment Sales | | | | |
| Grocery Products | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Refrigerated Foods | 2,385 | 4,313 | 7,929 | 9,765 |
| Jennie-O Turkey Store | 29,901 | 32,059 | 92,621 | 93,202 |
| Specialty Foods | 41 | 22 | 108 | 104 |
| All Other | - | - | - | - |
| Total | \$ 32,327 | \$ 36,394 | \$ 100,658 | \$ 103,071 |
| Intersegment elimination | (32,327) | (36,394) | (100,658) | (103,071) |
| Total | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Net Sales | | | | |
| Grocery Products | \$ 297,177 | \$ 245,368 | \$ 830,649 | \$ 782,540 |
| Refrigerated Foods | 1,045,696 | 1,050,187 | 3,166,740 | 3,106,965 |
| Jennie-O Turkey Store | 381,505 | 359,868 | 1,212,649 | 1,151,481 |
| Specialty Foods | 230,113 | 207,047 | 677,151 | 603,475 |
| All Other | 86,024 | 84,516 | 273,955 | 249,801 |
| Intersegment elimination | (32,327) | (36,394) | (100,658) | (103,071) |
| Total | \$ 2,008,188 | \$ 1,910,592 | \$ 6,060,486 | \$ 5,791,191 |
| Segment Operating Profit | | | | |
| Grocery Products | \$ 40,052 | \$ 30,428 | \$ 127,003 | \$ 118,038 |
| Refrigerated Foods | 60,757 | 56,820 | 167,515 | 223,204 |
| Jennie-O Turkey Store | 39,106 | 34,851 | 186,066 | 155,379 |
| Specialty Foods | 21,490 | 18,141 | 58,996 | 54,583 |
| All Other | 12,437 | 8,043 | 37,763 | 26,480 |
| Total segment operating profit | \$ 173,842 | \$ 148,283 | \$ 577,343 | \$ 577,684 |
| Net interest and investment expense (income) | 2,363 | 5,484 | 4,932 | 16,837 |
| General corporate expense | 3,225 | 2,944 | 18,040 | 26,165 |
| Noncontrolling interest | 1,240 | 1,483 | 3,226 | 3,815 |
| Earnings before income taxes | \$ 169,494 | \$ 141,338 | \$ 557,597 | \$ 538,497 |

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Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

There have been no material changes in the Company's Critical Accounting Policies, as disclosed in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 30, 2011.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Overview

The Company is a processor of branded and unbranded food products for retail, foodservice, and fresh product customers. It operates in five reportable segments as described in Note L in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

For the third quarter of fiscal 2012, the Company reported net earnings per diluted share of \$0.41, an increase of 13.9 percent compared to \$0.36 per diluted share in the third quarter of fiscal 2011. Significant factors impacting the third quarter of fiscal 2012 were:

- Grocery Products profits showed significant improvement due to strong sales of core product lines and favorable joint venture results.
- Continued strength in export sales of fresh pork and the *SPAM* family of products resulted in notable profit gains for the international operating segment.
- Jennie-O Turkey Store reported another solid quarter, as value-added sales and an improved product mix offset higher grain costs and lower commodity meat prices.
- Refrigerated Foods profits improved as value-added growth offset the impact of lower pork operating margins.
- Profitability increased for Specialty Foods as all three operating segments reported improved results.

Consolidated Results

Net earnings attributable to the Company for the third quarter of fiscal 2012 increased 12.9 percent to \$111.2 million compared to \$98.5 million in the same quarter of fiscal 2011. Diluted earnings per share for the third quarter increased to \$0.41 from \$0.36 last year. Net earnings attributable to the Company for the first nine months of fiscal 2012 increased 3.0 percent to \$367.4 million, from \$356.9 million for the first nine months of fiscal 2011, and diluted earnings per share for the same period increased 4.6 percent to \$1.37 compared to \$1.31 last year.

Net sales for the third quarter of fiscal 2012 increased 5.1 percent to \$2.01 billion, versus \$1.91 billion in fiscal 2011. Tonnage increased 3.6 percent to 1.16 billion lbs. for the third quarter compared to 1.12 billion lbs. for the same quarter of last year. Net sales for the first nine months of fiscal 2012 increased 4.7 percent to \$6.06 billion from \$5.79 billion in the nine months of fiscal 2011. Tonnage for the first nine months decreased 0.3 percent to 3.57 billion lbs. compared to 3.58 billion lbs. in 2011. Four of the five reporting segments of the Company generated top-line growth during the third quarter, and all five segments have generated year-over-year increases during the first nine months.

Value-added sales growth for Jennie-O Turkey Store and improved sales for Specialty Foods were key drivers of the increase for the third quarter, as well as gains reported by the retail and foodservice business units within Refrigerated Foods. Despite some softness in center-of-the-store sales in the first half of the year, the Grocery Products segment also regained momentum in the third quarter with growth in sales of core items including the *SPAM* family of products, *Hormel Compleats* microwave meals, and the MegaMex portfolio of Mexican foods. Top-line results for Grocery Products were also enhanced by the inclusion of sales of Don Miguel products, as the Company's retail sales force assumed responsibility for these sales beginning in the third quarter of fiscal

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2012. Strong international export sales of fresh pork and the *SPAM* family of products have also contributed to the improved top-line results throughout fiscal 2012. Tonnage reductions to date in fiscal 2012 reflect reduced commodity meat sales in both the Refrigerated Foods and Jennie-O Turkey Store segments, primarily in the first half of the year.

Gross profit for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2012 was \$307.1 million and \$980.1 million, respectively, compared to \$297.9 million and \$998.1 million for the same periods last year. Gross profit as a percentage of net sales for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2012 was 15.3 percent and 16.2 percent, respectively, versus 15.6 percent and 17.2 percent for the comparable periods in the prior year. The spread between hog costs and primal values has remained significantly below prior year levels throughout the first nine months of fiscal 2012, and was negative during much of the third quarter, resulting in substantial declines in pork operating margins on a comparative basis to fiscal 2011. Improved margins on the Company's value-added businesses within the Grocery Products and Refrigerated Foods segments were able to offset the negative results in pork operations for the third quarter, but did not offset the year-over-year margin losses that were generated in the first half of fiscal 2012. Margins also improved for the Specialty Foods segment and the Company's international export business in the third quarter, offsetting declines for the Jennie-O Turkey Store segment resulting from higher grain input costs and lower commodity meat pricing compared to the prior year. Additionally, shipping and handling expenses to date in fiscal 2012 have increased across all segments of the Company.

Entering the fourth quarter, the Company anticipates seasonally lower hog costs during the fall. Pork operating margins returned to a positive position late in the third quarter and are expected to remain positive, although below prior year levels, during the remainder of fiscal 2012. Higher grain input costs began to negatively impact margins for Jennie-O Turkey Store during the third quarter, and will continue to impact fourth quarter comparative results as the elevated costs continue to cycle through production during the remainder of the year. Commodity turkey values improved late in the third quarter but also remain considerably below the prior year. A favorable export environment, expanded value-added sales, and ongoing operational efficiencies will all be leveraged to offset the impact of these market conditions going forward.

Selling, general and administrative expenses for the third quarter and nine months of fiscal 2012 were \$145.0 million and \$446.2 million, respectively, compared to \$156.6 million and \$461.9 million last year. Selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of net sales decreased to 7.2 percent and 7.4 percent for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2012, respectively, compared to 8.2 percent and 8.0 percent for the comparable period of the prior year. Lower advertising expenses were the most significant driver of the decrease for both the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2012 compared to the prior year. The Company invested significantly in fiscal 2011 in *Make the Switch* media campaigns for *Jennie-O Turkey Store*. The Company will build upon that successful campaign with new commercials this fall, although total spending for this segment will not reach prior year levels for the full year. In the Grocery Products segment, advertising featuring the *Sir Can-A-Lot* character and the publicity around the 75th anniversary of *SPAM* also continued during the third quarter. Pension and insurance related expenses also declined during the third quarter and nine months compared to the prior year, offsetting increases in brokerage and research and development expenses. The Company expects selling, general and administrative expenses to be approximately 7.5 percent of net sales for the full year in fiscal 2012.

Equity in earnings of affiliates was \$9.8 million and \$28.6 million for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2012, respectively, compared to \$5.6 million and \$19.1 million last year. Strong growth from the Company's 50 percent owned MegaMex joint venture has been a primary driver of the increase for both the third quarter and first nine months compared to the prior year. Results have been mixed for the Company's international joint ventures, resulting in an overall decline for those operations during the first nine months of fiscal 2012 compared to the prior year.

The effective tax rate for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2012 was 33.7 and 33.5 percent, respectively, compared to 29.3 and 33.0 percent for the comparable quarter and nine months of fiscal 2011. The lower rate for both the third quarter and first nine months of the prior year was primarily due to favorable discrete items resulting from the resolution of tax matters with federal and various state tax

jurisdictions in fiscal 2011. The Company expects a full-year effective tax rate between 33.5 and 34.5 percent for fiscal 2012.

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Net sales and operating profits for each of the Company's reportable segments are set forth below. The Company is an integrated enterprise, characterized by substantial intersegment cooperation, cost allocations, and sharing of assets. Therefore, the Company does not represent that these segments, if operated independently, would report the operating profit and other financial information shown below. Additional segment financial information can be found in Note L of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

| <u>(in thousands)</u> | Three Months Ended | | | Nine Months Ended | | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | % Change | July 29, 2012 | July 31, 2011 | % Change |
| Net Sales | | | | | | |
| Grocery Products | \$ 297,177 | \$ 245,368 | 21.1 | \$ 830,649 | \$ 782,540 | 6.1 |
| Refrigerated Foods | 1,043,311 | 1,045,874 | (0.2) | 3,158,811 | 3,097,200 | 2.0 |
| Jennie-O Turkey Store | 351,604 | 327,809 | 7.3 | 1,120,028 | 1,058,279 | 5.8 |
| Specialty Foods | 230,072 | 207,025 | 11.1 | 677,043 | 603,371 | 12.2 |
| All Other | 86,024 | 84,516 | 1.8 | 273,955 | 249,801 | 9.7 |
| Total | \$ 2,008,188 | \$ 1,910,592 | 5.1 | \$ 6,060,486 | \$ 5,791,191 | 4.7 |
| Segment Operating Profit | | | | | | |
| Grocery Products | \$ 40,052 | \$ 30,428 | 31.6 | \$ 127,003 | \$ 118,038 | 7.6 |
| Refrigerated Foods | 60,757 | 56,820 | 6.9 | 167,515 | 223,204 | (24.9) |
| Jennie-O Turkey Store | 39,106 | 34,851 | 12.2 | 186,066 | 155,379 | 19.7 |
| Specialty Foods | 21,490 | 18,141 | 18.5 | 58,996 | 54,583 | 8.1 |
| All Other | 12,437 | 8,043 | 54.6 | 37,763 | 26,480 | 42.6 |
| Total segment operating profit | \$ 173,842 | \$ 148,283 | 17.2 | \$ 577,343 | \$ 577,684 | (0.1) |
| Net interest and investment expense (income) | 2,363 | 5,484 | (56.9) | 4,932 | 16,837 | (70.7) |
| General corporate expense | 3,225 | 2,944 | 9.5 | 18,040 | 26,165 | (31.1) |
| Noncontrolling interest | 1,240 | 1,483 | (16.4) | 3,226 | 3,815 | (15.4) |
| Earnings before income taxes | \$ 169,494 | \$ 141,338 | 19.9 | \$ 557,597 | \$ 538,497 | 3.5 |

Grocery Products

The Grocery Products segment consists primarily of the processing, marketing, and sale of shelf-stable food products sold predominantly in the retail market. This segment also includes the results from the Company's MegaMex joint venture.

Grocery Products net sales increased 21.1 percent and 6.1 percent for the third quarter and nine months of fiscal 2012, respectively, compared to the same fiscal 2011 periods. Tonnage increased 16.2 percent for the third quarter and 1.7 percent for the first nine months compared to the prior year. The comparative results reflect the addition of Don Miguel Foods Corp. sales (additional product lines within the MegaMex joint venture) as the Company's retail sales force assumed responsibility for these sales beginning in the third quarter of fiscal 2012. These sales contributed \$46.1 million to the top-line results for the third quarter.

This segment did see significant improvement in core product lines in the third quarter, driven by successful advertising and new product introductions. Sales for the *SPAM* family of products were enhanced by an advertising campaign featuring the *Sir Can-A-Lot* character, publicity around the 75th anniversary, and the introduction of new black pepper and jalapeno varieties of *SPAM*. *Hormel Compleats* microwave meals also experienced growth in the third quarter. The Company is in the process of introducing new cheesy pasta *Compleats* meals, as well as other new microwaveable items such as Hormel *Sandwich Makers* and *SPAM* meals,

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which should enhance results for this product line going forward. Sales of Mexican food products within the MegaMex joint venture also continued to grow in the third quarter, led by salsas, tortillas, and Wholly Guacamole® dips. Offsetting these gains for the quarter were decreased sales of *Hormel* chunk meats and *Hormel* chili, driven by aggressive competitive initiatives during the quarter.

Segment profit for Grocery Products increased 31.6 percent and 7.6 percent for the third quarter and first nine months compared to fiscal 2011. Volume increases in the key brands noted above drove the strong results for both the quarter and nine months. This segment also experienced lower pork and beef input costs during the third quarter, which improved margins. Equity in earnings results from the MegaMex joint venture have also been favorable throughout fiscal 2012, which has further enhanced profitability.

Looking forward, the Company expects input costs to remain stable for Grocery Products during the remainder of the fiscal year. Additionally, the Company believes the ongoing new product initiatives and advertising support for its core brands should continue the positive momentum of this segment into the fourth quarter. The MegaMex portfolio is also expected to perform favorably for the duration of fiscal 2012.

Refrigerated Foods

The Refrigerated Foods segment includes the Hormel Refrigerated operating segment and the Affiliated Business Units. This segment consists primarily of the processing, marketing, and sale of branded and unbranded pork and beef products for retail, foodservice, and fresh product customers. The Affiliated Business Units include the Farmer John, Burke Corporation, Dan's Prize, Saag's Products, Inc., and Precept Foods businesses. Precept Foods, LLC, is a 50.01 percent owned joint venture.

Net sales for the Refrigerated Foods segment decreased 0.2 percent for the third quarter and increased 2.0 percent for the first nine months of fiscal 2012, compared to the same periods of fiscal 2011. Tonnage increased 0.8 percent for the third quarter and decreased 1.1 percent for the first nine months, compared to last year. Hog supplies remained tight throughout the third quarter, and the flat top-line results primarily reflect reduced sales of commodity fresh pork items resulting from reduced harvest levels and lower commodity markets. However, several value-added product categories did continue to grow during the third quarter, offsetting the decline in fresh pork sales.

Within the Meat Products retail business, notable sales gains were reported in the third quarter for *Hormel Natural Choice* deli meats, *Hormel* party trays, *Hormel* bacon, and *Hormel* pepperoni. Foodservice sales were also higher, led by sales of branded products including *Hormel Natural Choice* deli meats and *Hormel* premium bacon. Advertising campaigns supporting the *Hormel* brand have benefitted top-line results for this segment throughout fiscal 2012 and should continue to enhance top-line results in upcoming quarters.

Segment profit for Refrigerated Foods increased 6.9 percent for the third quarter and decreased 24.9 percent for the first nine months of fiscal 2012, respectively, compared to the prior year. Pork operating margins compared to fiscal 2011 have declined significantly as the spread between hog costs and primal values has remained below prior year levels throughout the first nine months of the fiscal year, and was negative during much of the third quarter. The strong results from the Meat Products and Foodservice business units noted above were able to offset that decline during the third quarter, but have not been able to fully recover the year-over-year losses incurred to date in fiscal 2012.

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The Company expects the value-added businesses within Refrigerated Foods to continue to deliver strong results during the remainder of the fiscal year. The Company also anticipates seasonally lower hog costs during the fall. Although pork operating margins returned to a positive position recently and are expected to remain positive, they are likely to remain below prior year levels in the fourth quarter.

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Jennie-O Turkey Store

The Jennie-O Turkey Store (JOTS) segment consists primarily of the processing, marketing, and sale of branded and unbranded turkey products for retail, foodservice, and fresh product customers.

JOTS net sales increased 7.3 percent and 5.8 percent for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2012, respectively, versus the comparable periods of fiscal 2011. Tonnage increased 3.4 percent for the third quarter and decreased 2.4 percent for the first nine months, compared to prior year results. Gains for both the third quarter and nine months reflect continued growth in value-added products, as sales of *Jennie-O Turkey Store* retail tray pack items and turkey burgers have been solid throughout fiscal 2012. This growth, along with increased sales of whole birds, more than offset declines in commodity meat sales due to reduced volumes and pricing versus last year.

Segment profit for JOTS increased 12.2 percent for the third quarter and 19.7 percent for the first nine months of fiscal 2012, compared to the prior year. Value-added sales growth, an improved product mix, and lower advertising expenses were key drivers of the improved profitability, as well as higher whole bird pricing. These factors more than offset the impact of challenging market conditions. Due to the drought seen in many key growing areas, grain markets were volatile and moved considerably higher during the third quarter, resulting in feed costs that exceeded the prior year. Commodity meat pricing also decreased during the third quarter and averaged considerably lower than fiscal 2011.

Looking forward, the Company expects value-added growth to remain strong for JOTS. This segment has benefitted from the *Make the Switch* media campaign that ran in the latter half of fiscal 2011, and intends to build upon that successful campaign with new commercials this fall featuring turkey bacon and sausage. Margins in the fourth quarter will continue to be impacted by high and volatile grain costs, which will only be partially offset by the Company's hedging programs. Commodity pricing also remains below the prior year but has shown some improvement recently as the high summer temperatures have tempered industry supply. A continued push for value-added sales growth and efficiency improvements is ongoing to mitigate these market conditions, but more moderate year-over-year growth is likely to continue through the remainder of the fiscal year.

Specialty Foods

The Specialty Foods segment includes the Diamond Crystal Brands (DCB), Century Foods International (CFI), and Hormel Specialty Products (HSP) operating segments. This segment consists of the packaging and sale of various sugar and sugar substitute products, salt and pepper products, liquid portion products, dessert mixes, ready-to-drink products, sports nutrition products, gelatin products, and private label canned meats to retail and foodservice customers. This segment also includes the processing, marketing, and sale of nutritional food products and supplements to hospitals, nursing homes, and other marketers of nutritional products.

Specialty Foods net sales increased 11.1 percent for the third quarter and 12.2 percent for the first nine months of fiscal 2012, compared to the same periods of fiscal 2011. Tonnage increased 3.9 percent and 2.3 percent for the third quarter and first nine months, respectively, compared to the prior year. Continued strong sales of bulk and nutritional items at CFI led the sales growth, resulting from successful efforts to expand the customer base. Strong sales for HSP were also seen in the third quarter for private canned meats and ingredients. DCB posted sales gains in blended products, but experienced declines in sugar, sugar substitutes, and other core products.

Specialty Foods segment profit increased 18.5 percent in the third quarter and 8.1 percent for the first nine months, compared to fiscal 2011 results. All three operating segments reported segment profit gains for the third quarter. Segment profit gains were primarily driven by the higher sales of key product categories noted above. Prior pricing actions in response to higher raw material costs continued to aid profitability, and overall improvements in both product mix and the customer base have also contributed to the profit growth for this segment for both the third quarter and nine months compared to fiscal 2011.

The Company expects Specialty Foods to continue its positive momentum in the fourth quarter. Raw material costs and competitive initiatives will remain challenging. However, efforts to secure new business and to leverage operational efficiencies are ongoing and should benefit future quarters.

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All Other

The All Other segment includes the Hormel Foods International (HFI) operating segment, which manufactures, markets, and sells Company products internationally. This segment also includes the results from the Company's international joint ventures and miscellaneous corporate sales.

All Other net sales increased 1.8 percent and 9.7 percent for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2012, respectively, as compared to fiscal 2011. Segment profit also increased significantly, up 54.6 percent for the third quarter and 42.6 percent for the first nine months of fiscal 2012, compared to fiscal 2011 results. Strong export sales of the *SPAM* family of products and fresh pork were key for both the third quarter and nine month gains compared to the prior year. The strong volumes, pricing initiatives, and lower raw material costs have all provided a benefit throughout fiscal 2012. In addition, results for both the Company's Philippine joint venture, Purefoods-Hormel Company, and its China operations improved during the third quarter due to increased value-added sales and favorable raw material costs.

The Company expects HFI to provide strong profit results again in the fourth quarter, as pork exports are expected to remain favorable for the duration of the fiscal year.

Unallocated Income and Expenses

The Company does not allocate investment income, interest expense, and interest income to its segments when measuring performance. The Company also retains various other income and unallocated expenses at corporate. Equity in earnings of affiliates is included in segment operating profit; however, earnings attributable to the Company's noncontrolling interests are excluded. These items are included in the segment table for the purpose of reconciling segment results to earnings before income taxes.

Net interest and investment expense (income) for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2012 represented a net expense of \$2.4 million and \$4.9 million, respectively, compared to a net expense of \$5.5 million and \$16.8 million for the comparable quarter and nine months of fiscal 2011. The decrease for both the third quarter and nine months primarily reflects lower interest expense, resulting from reduced debt levels and interest rates compared to fiscal 2011. Interest expense of \$9.7 million for the first nine months of fiscal 2012 has decreased from \$19.4 million in the prior year and the Company anticipates that interest expense will approximate \$12.0 to \$14.0 million for the full year in fiscal 2012. Improved returns on the Company's rabbi trust for supplemental executive retirement plans and deferred income plans also contributed to the overall expense decrease for both the third quarter and nine months compared to the prior year.

General corporate expense for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2012 was \$3.2 million and \$18.0 million, respectively, compared to \$2.9 million and \$26.2 million for the comparable periods of fiscal 2011. Comparative expenses for both the third quarter and nine months were impacted by a reduction in the lower of cost or market inventory reserve in the third quarter of fiscal 2011. Offsetting that impact was a reduction in salary-related expenses in the third quarter and lower pension and insurance expenses for both the third quarter and nine months compared to fiscal 2011. Higher compensation related expenses were also incurred in the first half of fiscal 2011, partially due to the prior year vesting of options under the Universal Stock Option award granted to all employees in 2007.

Net earnings attributable to the Company's noncontrolling interests were \$1.2 million and \$3.2 million for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2012, respectively, compared to \$1.5 million and \$3.8 million for the comparable periods of fiscal 2011. The decreases to date in fiscal 2012 primarily reflect lower results from the Company's Precept Foods business.

Related Party Transactions

There has been no material change in the information regarding Related Party Transactions that was disclosed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 30, 2011.

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LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Cash and cash equivalents were \$533.2 million at the end of the third quarter of fiscal year 2012 compared to \$497.4 million at the end of the comparable fiscal 2011 period.

Cash provided by operating activities was \$284.1 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2012 compared to \$319.4 million in the same period of fiscal 2011. Increased earnings and an incremental \$16.6 million of dividends received from the Company's joint venture operations in fiscal 2012 were offset by unfavorable overall changes in working capital balances to generate the decrease compared to the prior year. Additionally, the Company made a discretionary contribution of \$27.3 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2012 to fund its pension plans, compared to a contribution of \$23.6 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2011.

Cash used in investing activities was \$72.9 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2012, which was comparable to \$73.0 million in the same period of fiscal 2011. Fiscal 2011 included a net investment of \$20.0 million in marketable securities that did not reoccur in the current year. This was offset by increased fixed asset expenditures, which were \$93.9 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2012 versus \$56.3 million in the comparable period of fiscal 2011. The Company currently estimates its fiscal 2012 fixed asset expenditures to be approximately \$120.0 to \$130.0 million.

Cash used in financing activities was \$141.9 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2012 compared to \$219.1 million in the same period of fiscal 2011. In fiscal 2011, the Company repaid \$350.0 million of 6.625% senior unsecured notes that matured in the third quarter and issued \$250.0 million of new 4.125% notes due in 2021, resulting in a net outflow that did not reoccur in fiscal 2012. The Company also used \$50.7 million for common stock repurchases in the first nine months of fiscal 2012, compared to \$80.6 million in the same period of the prior year. For additional information pertaining to the Company's share repurchase plans or programs, see Part II, Item 2 Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds. Offsetting these items was a reduction in proceeds generated from the Company's stock option plan exercises, which decreased \$36.6 million in fiscal 2012, primarily due to the prior year vesting of options under the Universal Stock Option award granted to all employees in 2007.

Cash dividends paid to the Company's shareholders also continue to be an ongoing financing activity for the Company. Dividends paid in the first nine months of fiscal 2012 were \$112.7 million compared to \$96.0 million in the comparable period of fiscal 2011. For fiscal 2012, the annual dividend rate was increased to \$0.60 per share, representing the 46th consecutive annual dividend increase. The Company has paid dividends for 336 consecutive quarters and expects to continue doing so.

The Company is required, by certain covenants in its debt agreements, to maintain specified levels of financial ratios and financial position. At the end of the third quarter of fiscal 2012, the Company was in compliance with all of these debt covenants.

Cash flows from operating activities continue to provide the Company with its principal source of liquidity. The Company does not anticipate a significant risk to cash flows from this source in the foreseeable future because the Company operates in a relatively stable industry and has strong brands across many product lines.

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Maximizing the value returned to shareholders through dividend payments remains a priority for use of the Company's strong cash position going forward. Capital spending to enhance and expand current operations is ongoing, and share repurchase activity is also expected to continue throughout the remainder of the fiscal year. The Company remains well positioned to take advantage of strategic acquisition opportunities and continues to evaluate options in that area.

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Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments

The Company records income taxes in accordance with the provisions of ASC 740, *Income Taxes*. The Company is unable to determine its contractual obligations by year related to this pronouncement, as the ultimate amount or timing of settlement of its reserves for income taxes cannot be reasonably estimated. The total liability for unrecognized tax benefits, including interest and penalties, at July 29, 2012, was \$29.8 million.

There have been no other material changes to the information regarding the Company's future contractual financial obligations that was disclosed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 30, 2011.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

The Company currently provides a renewable standby letter of credit for \$4.8 million to guarantee obligations that may arise under workers compensation claims of an affiliated party. This potential obligation is not reflected in the Company's Consolidated Statement of Financial Position.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report contains forward-looking information within the meaning of the federal securities laws. The forward-looking information may include statements concerning the Company's outlook for the future as well as other statements of beliefs, future plans, strategies, or anticipated events and similar expressions concerning matters that are not historical facts.

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the Reform Act) provides a safe harbor for forward-looking statements to encourage companies to provide prospective information. The Company is filing this cautionary statement in connection with the Reform Act. When used in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, the Company's Annual Report to Stockholders, other filings by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission), the Company's press releases, and oral statements made by the Company's representatives, the words or phrases should result, believe, intend, plan, are expected to, targeted, will continue, will approximate, is anticipated, estimated, or similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Reform Act. Such statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from historical earnings and those anticipated or projected.

In connection with the safe harbor provisions of the Reform Act, the Company is identifying risk factors that could affect financial performance and cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from opinions or statements expressed with respect to future periods. The discussion of risk factors in Part II, Item 1A of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains certain cautionary statements regarding the Company's business, which should be considered by investors and others. Such risk factors should be considered in conjunction with any discussions of operations or results by the Company or its representatives, including any forward-looking discussion, as well as comments contained in press releases, presentations to securities analysts or investors, or other communications by the Company.

In making these statements, the Company is not undertaking, and specifically declines to undertake, any obligation to address or update each or any factor in future filings or communications regarding the Company's business or results, and is not undertaking to address how any of these factors may have caused changes to discussions or information contained in previous filings or communications. Though the Company has attempted to list comprehensively these important cautionary risk factors, the Company wishes to caution investors and others that other factors may in the future prove to be important in affecting the Company's business or results of operations.

The Company cautions readers not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which represent current views as of the date made. Forward-looking statements are inherently at risk to any changes in the national and worldwide economic environment, which could include, among other things, economic conditions, political developments, currency exchange rates, interest and inflation rates, accounting standards, taxes, and laws and regulations affecting the Company and its markets.

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Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Hog Markets: The Company's earnings are affected by fluctuations in the live hog market. To minimize the impact on earnings, and to ensure a steady supply of quality hogs, the Company has entered into contracts with producers for the purchase of hogs at formula-based prices over periods of up to 10 years. Purchased hogs under contract accounted for 98 percent and 95 percent of the total hogs purchased by the Company during the first nine months of fiscal 2012 and 2011, respectively. The majority of these contracts use market-based formulas based on hog futures, hog primal values, or industry reported hog markets. Other contracts use a formula based on the cost of production, which can fluctuate independently from hog markets. Under normal, long-term market conditions, changes in the cash hog market are offset by proportional changes in primal values. Therefore, a hypothetical 10 percent change in the cash hog market would have had an immaterial effect on the Company's results of operations.

Certain procurement contracts allow for future hog deliveries (firm commitments) to be forward priced. The Company generally hedges these firm commitments by using hog futures contracts. These futures contracts are designated and accounted for as fair value hedges. The change in the market value of such futures contracts is highly effective at offsetting changes in price movements of the hedged item, and the Company evaluates the effectiveness of the contracts on a regular basis. Changes in the fair value of the futures contracts, along with the gain or loss on the firm commitment, are marked-to-market through earnings and are recorded on the Consolidated Statements of Financial Position as a current asset and liability, respectively. The fair value of the Company's open futures contracts as of July 29, 2012, was \$(0.3) million compared to \$(3.1) million as of October 30, 2011.

The Company measures its market risk exposure on its hog futures contracts using a sensitivity analysis, which considers a hypothetical 10 percent change in market prices. A 10 percent increase in market prices would have negatively impacted the fair value of the Company's July 29, 2012, open contracts by \$7.6 million, which in turn would lower the Company's future cost of purchased hogs by a similar amount.

Turkey and Hog Production Costs: The Company raises or contracts for live turkeys and hogs to meet some of its raw material supply requirements. Production costs in raising turkeys and hogs are subject primarily to fluctuations in feed prices, and to a lesser extent, fuel costs. Under normal, long-term market conditions, changes in the cost to produce turkeys and hogs are offset by proportional changes in their respective markets.

To reduce the Company's exposure to changes in grain prices, the Company utilizes a hedge program to offset the fluctuation in the Company's future direct grain purchases. This program currently utilizes corn futures, and these contracts are accounted for under cash flow hedge accounting. The open contracts are reported at their fair value with an unrealized gain of \$21.4 million, before tax, on the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as of July 29, 2012, compared to an unrealized gain of \$13.7 million, before tax, as of October 30, 2011.

The Company measures its market risk exposure on its grain futures contracts using a sensitivity analysis, which considers a hypothetical 10 percent change in the market prices for grain. A 10 percent decrease in the market price for grain would have negatively impacted the fair value of the Company's July 29, 2012, open grain contracts by \$8.6 million, which in turn would lower the Company's future cost on purchased grain by a similar amount.

Natural Gas: Production costs at the Company's plants and feed mills are also subject to fluctuations in fuel costs. To reduce the Company's exposure to changes in natural gas prices, the Company utilizes a hedge program to offset the fluctuation in the Company's future natural gas purchases. This program utilizes natural gas swaps, and these contracts are accounted for under cash flow hedge accounting. The open contracts are reported at their fair value with an unrealized loss of \$0.2 million, before tax, on the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as of July 29, 2012, compared to an unrealized loss of \$0.4 million, before tax, as of October 30, 2011.

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The Company measures its market risk exposure on its natural gas contracts using a sensitivity analysis, which considers a hypothetical 10 percent change in the market prices for natural gas. A 10 percent decrease in the market price for natural gas would have negatively impacted the fair value of the Company's July 29, 2012, open natural gas contracts by an immaterial amount, which in turn would lower the Company's future cost on natural gas purchases by a similar amount.

Long-Term Debt: A principal market risk affecting the Company is the exposure to changes in interest rates on the Company's fixed-rate, long-term debt. Market risk for fixed-rate, long-term debt is estimated as the potential increase in fair value, resulting from a hypothetical 10 percent decrease in interest rates, and amounts to approximately \$5.1 million. The fair value of the Company's long-term debt was estimated using discounted future cash flows based on the Company's incremental borrowing rate for similar types of borrowing arrangements.

Investments: The Company holds trading securities as part of a rabbi trust to fund certain supplemental executive retirement plans and deferred income plans, and as part of an investment portfolio. As of July 29, 2012, the balance of these securities totaled \$185.6 million. A portion of these securities represent fixed income funds. The Company is subject to market risk due to fluctuations in the value of the remaining investments, as unrealized gains and losses associated with these securities are included in the Company's net earnings on a mark-to-market basis. A 10 percent decline in the value of the investments not held in fixed income funds would have a direct negative impact to the Company's pretax earnings of approximately \$11.3 million, while a 10 percent increase in value would have a positive impact of the same amount.

International: While the Company does have international operations and operates in international markets, it considers its market risk in such activities to be immaterial.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

(a) Disclosure Controls and Procedures.

As of the end of the period covered by this report (the Evaluation Date), the Company carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of its disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act)). In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognized that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives. Based on that evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of the Evaluation Date, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective to provide reasonable assurance that information the Company is required to disclose in reports it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in Commission rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

(b) Internal Controls.

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During the third quarter of fiscal year 2012, there has been no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

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PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

The Company is a party to various legal proceedings related to the on-going operation of its business, including claims both by and against the Company. At any time, such proceedings typically involve claims related to product liability, contract disputes, wage and hour laws, employment practices, or other actions brought by employees, consumers, competitors, or suppliers. The Company establishes accruals for its potential exposure, as appropriate, for claims against the Company when losses become probable and reasonably estimable. However, future developments or settlements are uncertain and may require the Company to change such accruals as proceedings progress. Resolution of any currently known matters, either individually or in the aggregate, is not expected to have a material effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations, or liquidity.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

The Company's operations are subject to the general risks of the food industry.

The food products manufacturing industry is subject to the risks posed by:

§ food spoilage;

§ food contamination caused by disease-producing organisms or pathogens, such as *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella*, and pathogenic *E coli*;

§ food allergens;

§ nutritional and health-related concerns;

§ federal, state, and local food processing controls;

§ consumer product liability claims;

§ product tampering; and

§ the possible unavailability and/or expense of liability insurance.

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The pathogens which may cause food contamination are found generally in livestock and in the environment and thus may be present in our products as a result of food processing. These pathogens also can be introduced to our products as a result of improper handling by customers or consumers. We do not have control over handling procedures once our products have been shipped for distribution. If one or more of these risks were to materialize, the Company's brand and business reputation could be negatively impacted. In addition, revenues could decrease, costs of doing business could increase, and the Company's operating results could be adversely affected.

Deterioration of economic conditions could harm the Company's business.

The Company's business may be adversely affected by changes in national or global economic conditions, including inflation, interest rates, availability of capital markets, energy availability and costs (including fuel surcharges), and the effects of governmental initiatives to manage economic conditions. Decreases in consumer spending rates and shifts in consumer product preferences could also negatively impact the Company.

The recent volatility in financial markets and the deterioration of national and global economic conditions could impact the Company's operations as follows:

§ The financial stability of our customers and suppliers may be compromised, which could result in additional bad debts for the Company or non-performance by suppliers; and

§ The value of our investments in debt and equity securities may decline, including most significantly the Company's trading securities held in an investment portfolio and as part of a rabbi trust to fund supplemental executive retirement plans and deferred income plans, and the Company's assets held in pension plans.

The Company also utilizes hedging programs to reduce its exposure to various commodity market risks, which qualify for hedge accounting for financial reporting purposes. Volatile fluctuations in market conditions could

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cause these instruments to become ineffective, which could require any gains or losses associated with these instruments to be reported in the Company's earnings each period. These instruments may also limit the Company's ability to benefit from market gains if commodity prices become more favorable than those that have been secured under the Company's hedging programs.

Additionally, if a high pathogenic disease outbreak developed in the United States, it may negatively impact the national economy, demand for Company products, and/or the Company's workforce availability, and the Company's financial results could suffer. The Company has developed contingency plans to address infectious disease scenarios and the potential impact on its operations, and will continue to update these plans as necessary. There can be no assurance given, however, that these plans will be effective in eliminating the negative effects of any such diseases on the Company's operating results.

Fluctuations in commodity prices of pork, poultry, and feed ingredients could harm the Company's earnings.

The Company's results of operations and financial condition are largely dependent upon the cost and supply of pork, poultry, and feed grains as well as the selling prices for many of our products, which are determined by constantly changing market forces of supply and demand.

The live hog industry has evolved to very large, vertically integrated, year-round operations operating under long-term supply agreements. This has resulted in fewer hogs being available on the cash spot market. Additionally, overall hog production in the U.S. has declined. The decrease in the supply of hogs could diminish the utilization of harvest and production facilities and increase the cost of the raw materials they produce. Consequently, the Company uses long-term supply contracts based on market-based formulas or the cost of production to ensure a stable supply of raw materials while minimizing extreme fluctuations in costs over the long term. This may result, in the short term, in costs for live hogs that are higher than the cash spot market depending on the relationship of the cash spot market to contract prices. Market-based pricing on certain product lines, and lead time required to implement pricing adjustments, may prevent all or part of these cost increases from being recovered, and these higher costs could adversely affect our short-term financial results.

Jennie-O Turkey Store raises turkeys and also contracts with turkey growers to meet its raw material requirements for whole birds and processed turkey products. Additionally, the Company owns various hog raising facilities that supplement its supply of raw materials. Results in these operations are affected by the cost and supply of feed grains, which fluctuate due to climate conditions, production forecasts, and supply and demand conditions at local, regional, national, and worldwide levels. The Company attempts to manage some of its short-term exposure to fluctuations in feed prices by forward buying, using futures contracts, and pursuing pricing advances. However, these strategies may not be adequate to overcome sustained increases in market prices due to alternate uses for feed grains or other changes in these market conditions.

Outbreaks of disease among livestock and poultry flocks could harm the Company's revenues and operating margins.

The Company is subject to risks associated with the outbreak of disease in pork and beef livestock, and poultry flocks, including Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), pneumo-virus, Porcine Circovirus 2 (PCV2), Porcine Reproduction & Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), and Avian Influenza. The outbreak of disease could adversely affect the Company's supply of raw materials, increase the cost of production, and reduce operating margins. Additionally, the outbreak of disease may hinder the Company's ability to market and sell products both domestically and internationally. The Company has developed business continuity plans for various disease scenarios and will continue to update these plans as necessary. There can be no assurance given, however, that these plans will be effective in eliminating the

negative effects of any such diseases on the Company's operating results.

Market demand for the Company's products may fluctuate due to competition from other producers.

The Company faces competition from producers of various meats and protein sources, including pork, beef, turkey, chicken, and fish. The bases on which the Company competes include:

§ price;

§ product quality;

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§ brand identification;

§ breadth of product line; and

§ customer service.

Demand for the Company's products is also affected by competitors' promotional spending and the effectiveness of the Company's advertising and marketing programs. The Company may be unable to compete successfully on any or all of these bases in the future.

The Company's operations are subject to the general risks associated with acquisitions.

The Company has made several acquisitions in recent years and regularly reviews opportunities for strategic growth through acquisitions. Potential risks associated with acquisitions include the inability to integrate new operations successfully, the diversion of management's attention from other business concerns, the potential loss of key employees and customers of the acquired companies, the possible assumption of unknown liabilities, potential disputes with the sellers, potential impairment charges if purchase assumptions are not achieved or market conditions decline, and the inherent risks in entering markets or lines of business in which the Company has limited or no prior experience. Any or all of these risks could impact the Company's financial results and business reputation. In addition, acquisitions outside the United States may present unique challenges and increase the Company's exposure to the risks associated with foreign operations.

The Company's operations are subject to the general risks of litigation.

The Company is involved on an ongoing basis in litigation arising in the ordinary course of business. Trends in litigation may include class actions involving employees, consumers, competitors, suppliers, shareholders, or injured persons, and claims relating to product liability, contract disputes, intellectual property, advertising, and labeling, wage and hour laws, employment practices, or environmental matters. Litigation trends and the outcome of litigation cannot be predicted with certainty and adverse litigation trends and outcomes could adversely affect the Company's financial results.

Government regulation, present and future, exposes the Company to potential sanctions and compliance costs that could adversely affect the Company's business.

The Company's operations are subject to extensive regulation by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, federal and state taxing authorities, and other state and local authorities that oversee workforce immigration laws, tax regulations, animal welfare, food safety standards, and the processing, packaging, storage, distribution, advertising, and labeling of the Company's products. The Company's manufacturing facilities and products are subject to constant inspection by federal, state, and local authorities. Claims or enforcement proceedings could be brought against the Company in the future. Additionally, the Company is subject to new or modified laws, regulations, and accounting standards. The Company's failure or inability to comply with such requirements could subject the Company to civil remedies, including fines, injunctions, recalls, or seizures, as well as potential criminal sanctions.

The Company is subject to stringent environmental regulation and potentially subject to environmental litigation, proceedings, and investigations.

The Company's past and present business operations and ownership and operation of real property are subject to stringent federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations pertaining to the discharge of materials into the environment, and the handling and disposition of wastes (including solid and hazardous wastes) or otherwise relating to protection of the environment. Compliance with these laws and regulations, and the ability to comply with any modifications to these laws and regulations, is material to the Company's business. New matters or sites may be identified in the future that will require additional investigation, assessment, or expenditures. In addition, some of the Company's facilities have been in operation for many years and, over time, the Company and other prior operators of these facilities may have generated and disposed of wastes that now may be considered hazardous. Future discovery of contamination of property underlying or in the vicinity of the Company's present or former properties or manufacturing facilities and/or waste disposal sites could require the Company to incur additional expenses. The occurrence of any of these events, the implementation of new laws and regulations, or stricter interpretation of existing laws or regulations, could adversely affect the Company's financial results.

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The Company's foreign operations pose additional risks to the Company's business.

The Company operates its business and markets its products internationally. The Company's foreign operations are subject to the risks described above, as well as risks related to fluctuations in currency values, foreign currency exchange controls, compliance with foreign laws, and other economic or political uncertainties. International sales are subject to risks related to general economic conditions, imposition of tariffs, quotas, trade barriers and other restrictions, enforcement of remedies in foreign jurisdictions and compliance with applicable foreign laws, and other economic and political uncertainties. All of these risks could result in increased costs or decreased revenues, which could adversely affect the Company's financial results.

Deterioration of labor relations or increases in labor costs could harm the Company's business.

The Company has approximately 19,700 domestic and foreign employees, of which approximately 5,700 are represented by labor unions, principally the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. A significant increase in labor costs or a deterioration of labor relations at any of the Company's facilities that results in work slowdowns or stoppages could harm the Company's financial results. The union contract at the Company's facility in Stockton, California will expire during fiscal 2012, covering approximately 100 employees. Negotiations at this facility currently are taking place. The company also is currently negotiating a new contract at its Clougherty Packing (Farmer John) foodservice facility, covering approximately 115 people.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds**Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities in the Third Quarter of Fiscal 2012**

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased¹ | Average Price Paid Per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs² | Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs² |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| April 30, 2012 - June 3, 2012 | 1,100 | \$ 28.49 | 1,100 | 1,873,300 |
| June 4, 2012 - July 1, 2012 | 25,032 | 29.10 | 25,000 | 1,848,300 |
| July 2, 2012 - July 29, 2012 | 276,300 | 28.40 | 276,300 | 1,572,000 |
| Total | 302,432 | \$ 28.45 | 302,400 | |

¹The 32 shares repurchased during the quarter, other than through publicly announced plans or programs, represent purchases for a Company employee award program.

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2On May 26, 2010, the Company announced that its Board of Directors had authorized the Company to repurchase up to 5,000,000 shares of common stock with no expiration date. On November 22, 2010, the Board of Directors also authorized a two-for-one split of the Company's common stock. As part of the resolution to approve that stock split, the number of shares remaining to be repurchased was adjusted proportionately. The stock split was approved by shareholders and was subsequently effected on February 1, 2011. All numbers in the table above reflect the impact of this stock split.

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Item 6. Exhibits

| | |
|---------|---|
| 31.1 | Certification Required Under Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 31.2 | Certification Required Under Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 32.1 | Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels Linkbase Document |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document |

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SIGNATURES

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 thereunto duly authorized.

HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION

(Registrant)

Date: September 7, 2012

By /s/ JODY H. FERAGEN
JODY H. FERAGEN
Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer,
and Director
(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: September 7, 2012

By /s/ JAMES N. SHEEHAN
JAMES N. SHEEHAN
Vice President and Controller
(Principal Accounting Officer)