

HORMEL FOODS CORP /DE/
Form 4
December 06, 2004

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
JOHNSON JOEL W

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
HORMEL FOODS CORP /DE/ [HRL]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
1 HORMEL PLACE
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
12/02/2004

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
Chairman and CEO

AUSTIN, MN 55912

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
			Code	V	Amount	Price		
Common Stock	12/02/2004		M		200,000	\$ 11.9375	357,089	D
Common Stock	12/02/2004		F		54,383	\$ 30.91	302,706	D
Common Stock	12/02/2004		S		79,000	\$ 30.4936	223,706 ⁽²⁾	D

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

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number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)				
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount Number Shares
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$ 11.9375	12/02/2004		M ⁽¹⁾	200,000	05/21/1996	11/21/2005			Common Stock	200,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
JOHNSON JOEL W 1 HORMEL PLACE AUSTIN, MN 55912	X		Chairman and CEO	

Signatures

Joel W. Johnson, by Power of Attorney
 12/06/2004

__Signature of Reporting Person
 Date

Explanation of Responses:

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

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

(1) Reporting Person has exercised Stock Withholding Rights in connection with this option exercise, as reflected on Table I.

Includes 50,000 shares subject to certain restrictions (including possible forfeiture) applicable to restricted stock granted under the 2000

(2) Stock Incentive Plan and Restricted Stock Award Agreement. Reporting Person also holds 46,909.82 phantom shares in his Deferred Stock Account, and indirectly holds 478 shares in Founders Fund.

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

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