

REETZ DOUGLAS R

Form 4

December 31, 2002

FORM 4 ___ Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b). (Print or Type Responses)	UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549	OMB APPROVAL
	STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP 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	OMB Number: 3235-0287 Expires: January 31, 2005 Estimated average burden hours per response. . . 0.5

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Reetz, Douglas R. (Last) (First) (Middle) 1 Hormel Place (Street) Austin, MN 55912 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Hormel Foods Corporation HRL	4. Statement for (Month/Day/Year) December 27, 2002	6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) ___ Director ___ 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below) Vice President
	3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)	5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)	7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person ___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

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)
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			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock								339	I	Founders Fund
Common Stock								3,818	I	401(k) Trust
Common Stock								12,439	I	JEPST Trust
Common Stock	12-27-02		M		11,000	A	\$11.75			
Common Stock	12-27-02		F		7,326	D	\$22.87	11,000	D	

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)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Securities: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Name of Beneficial Owner (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares						
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$22.35							(1)	12-2-12	Common Stock	10,000				10,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$11.75	12-27-02		M			11,000		1-13-03	Common Stock	20,000				0	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$10.25								1-25-04						4,500	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$12.375								1-11-05						12,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$11.9375								11-21-05						20,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$14.65625								12-18-07						14,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$15.90625								12-23-08						14,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$19.25								1-26-10						10,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$17.6875								12-6-10						10,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$26.09								1-17-12						10,000	D	

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The option vests 25% on 12-2-03 and 25% each year thereafter.

**/s/ James W. Cavanaugh,
Power of Attorney for Douglas R. Reetz**

Dec. 30, 2002

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

* 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).

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

<http://www.sec.gov/divisions/corpfin/forms/form4.htm>

Last update: 09/05/2002