

HORMEL FOODS CORP /DE/  
Form 11-K  
April 27, 2012  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D. C. 20549

**FORM 11-K**

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended October 30, 2011

**OR**

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**Commission file number 1-2402**

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

**Hormel Foods Corporation Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust**

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

**Hormel Foods Corporation**

**1 Hormel Place**

**Austin, MN 55912**

**507-437-5611**

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Audited Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule

Years Ended October 30, 2011 and October 31, 2010

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

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## Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Employee Benefits Committee

Hormel Foods Corporation Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Hormel Foods Corporation Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust (the Plan) as of October 30, 2011 and October 31, 2010, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan at October 30, 2011 and October 31, 2010, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of October 30, 2011, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Such information is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audits of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota

April 27, 2012

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
 Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	October 30, 2011		October 31, 2010
<b>Assets</b>			
Investments, at fair value	\$ 322,582,934	\$	287,760,848
Contributions receivable from Hormel Foods Corporation	11,319,912		11,151,067
Net assets available for benefits, at fair value	<b>333,902,846</b>		298,911,915
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for interest in fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	<b>(7,587,986)</b>		<b>(7,068,009)</b>
Net assets available for benefits	<b>\$ 326,314,860</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>291,843,906</b>

*See accompanying notes.*

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

	<b>Year Ended October 30, 2011</b>	<b>Year Ended October 31, 2010</b>
Additions:		
Contributions from Hormel Foods Corporation	\$ 11,059,411	\$ 11,041,995
Investment income	4,793,500	4,673,012
Total additions	15,852,911	15,715,007
Deductions:		
Distributions	15,778,861	11,995,055
Administrative expenses	90,023	90,510
Total deductions	15,868,884	12,085,565
Net realized and unrealized appreciation in fair value of investments	34,486,927	32,748,849
Net additions	34,470,954	36,378,291
Net assets available for benefits at beginning of year	291,843,906	255,465,615
Net assets available for benefits at end of year	\$ 326,314,860	\$ 291,843,906

*See accompanying notes.*

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

October 30, 2011

**1. Significant Accounting Policies**

The accounting records of the Hormel Foods Corporation (the Company or the Sponsor) Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust (the Plan) are maintained on an accrual basis.

Investments held by the Plan are stated at fair value. Fair value is defined 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). The Plan records financial assets and liabilities at fair value. See Note 3 for further discussion of fair value measurements.

In January 2010, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update 2010-06, *Improving Disclosures about Fair Value Measurements* (ASU 2010-06). ASU 2010-06 amended Accounting Standards Codification 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* (ASC 820), to clarify certain existing fair value disclosures and to require a number of additional disclosures. The guidance in ASU 2010-06 clarified that disclosures should be presented separately for each class of assets and liabilities measured at fair value and provided guidance on how to determine the appropriate classes of assets and liabilities to be presented. ASU 2010-06 also clarified the requirement for entities to disclose information about both the valuation techniques and inputs used in estimating Level 2 and Level 3 fair value measurements. In addition, ASU 2010-06 introduced new requirements to disclose the amounts (on a gross basis) and reasons for any significant transfers between Levels 1, 2, and 3 of the fair value hierarchy and to present information regarding the purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements of Level 3 assets and liabilities on a gross basis. With the exception of the requirement to present changes in Level 3 measurements on a gross basis, which is effective for the Plan beginning October 31, 2011, the guidance in ASU 2010-06 has been adopted for the plan year ending October 30, 2011.

In May 2011, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update 2011-04, *Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measures and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs*, (ASU 2011-04). ASU 2011-04 amended ASC 820,



to converge the fair value measurement guidance in U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs). Some of the amendments clarify the application of existing fair value measurement requirements, while other amendments change a particular principle in ASC 820. In addition, ASU 2011-04 requires additional fair value disclosures (although certain of these new disclosures will not be required for nonpublic entities). The amendments are to be applied prospectively and are effective for the plan year beginning October 29, 2012. Plan management is currently evaluating the effect that the provisions of ASU 2011-04 will have on the Plan's financial statements.

All costs and expenses incurred in connection with the operation of the Plan with regard to the purchase and sale of investments and certain professional fees are paid by the Plan.

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**1. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from the estimates.

**2. Description of the Plan**

The following description of the Plan provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The Plan's year-end is the last Sunday of October.

The Plan is a defined-contribution plan covering employees of the Company and certain eligible subsidiaries. The amount contributed by the Company each year is discretionary, as authorized by the Board of Directors. The amount available to all participants is allocated in proportion of individual recognized compensation for the plan year to the recognized compensation for the plan year for all such eligible participants. The Plan contains a diversified selection of funds intended to satisfy Section 404(c) of ERISA. Certain restrictions exist, as defined in the plan document, for investing of funds in other contribution accounts.

Beginning on October 28, 2007, plan participants shall not be permitted to make nondeductible voluntary after-tax contributions to the Plan. Previously, participants were permitted to make after-tax contributions to the trust account in amounts not to exceed statutory limits.

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's and the Company's contributions and plan earnings and is charged with an allocation of administrative expenses if the employer does not pay those expenses from its own assets. Allocations are based on account balances. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can

be provided from the participant's account.

Employee contributions are always 100% vested in the participants' plan accounts. Employer contributions are 100% vested in the participants' plan accounts for those employees hired prior to October 29, 2006. Employer contributions for employees hired after October 28, 2006, vest over a graduated six-year term. Forfeitures used to reduce employer contributions for the years ended October 30, 2011 and October 31, 2010, were \$181,031 and \$100,490, respectively.

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**2. Description of the Plan (continued)**

Cumulative forfeited nonvested accounts as of October 30, 2011 and October 31, 2010, were \$236,324 and \$311,050, respectively.

Most benefits are paid upon termination of service in a lump-sum amount equal to the vested value of a participant's account, unless an eligible participant elects to defer the payment. Complete details of payment provisions are described in a Summary Plan Description, available from the Sponsor.

The Company has the right under the plan agreement to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of termination of the Plan, the assets of the Plan shall be distributed to the participants.

**3. Investments and Fair Value Measurement**

During the years ended October 30, 2011 and October 31, 2010, the Plan's investments (including investments bought, sold, as well as held during the year) appreciated in fair value as follows:

	October 30, 2011	October 31, 2010
Net appreciation in fair value during the year:		
Nonpooled separate account (containing the company's common stock)	\$ 28,489,737	\$ 21,441,825
Separate trust accounts	1,155,258	2,722,946
Pooled separate accounts	4,507,439	7,727,602
Self-directed brokerage accounts	334,493	856,476
	\$ 34,486,927	\$ 32,748,849

Participants are authorized to invest up to 100% of the fair value of their net assets available for benefits in the Hormel Foods Corporation Stock Fund, which consists of Hormel Foods Corporation common stock and cash. Such investment totaled approximately 37% and 33% of total investments at October 30, 2011 and October 31, 2010, respectively.

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**3. Investments and Fair Value Measurement (continued)**

The fair value of individual investments that represent 5% or more of the Plan's net assets is as follows:

	October 30, 2011	October 31, 2010
Nonpooled separate account:		
Hormel Foods Corporation Stock Fund	\$ 119,606,424	\$ 95,652,397
Pooled separate accounts:		
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company:		
Aggressive Option Fund	18,102,578	17,819,251
Moderate Option Fund	18,125,880	18,476,220
Growth Option Fund	17,314,808	*
Insurance company general account:		
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company:		
General Investment Account	91,396,090	84,849,548

\*Less than 5%

The Plan accounts for its financial assets and liabilities in accordance with ASC 820, which are carried at fair value on a recurring basis in its financial statements. ASC 820 establishes a fair value hierarchy that requires assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be categorized into one of three levels based on the inputs used in the 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: Inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full term of the asset or liability. Level 2 inputs include the following:

Quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets

Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active

Observable inputs other than quoted prices that are used in the valuation of the assets or liabilities (e.g., interest rate and yield curve quotes at commonly quoted intervals)

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**3. Investments and Fair Value Measurement (continued)**

Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means

- 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 following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value, including the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy.

**Pooled Separate Accounts**

Fair value represents the net asset value (NAV) of the fund shares, which is calculated based on the valuation of the funds' underlying investments at fair value at the end of the year. The investments are public investment vehicles, which are valued using the NAV provided by the administrator of the fund. The NAV is based on the value of the underlying assets owned by the fund, excluding transaction costs, minus its liabilities, and then divided by the number of shares outstanding.

The lifecycle funds include investments in highly diversified funds designed to remain appropriate for investors in terms of risk through a variety of life circumstances. These funds contain a mix of domestic and foreign equities, fixed income investments, and cash.

The U.S. equities investments include a mix of predominately U.S. common stocks, bonds, and cash.



The fixed income investments include a mix of domestic and foreign securities, including corporate obligations, government securities, and mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities, common stocks, and cash.

The pooled separate accounts are deemed to be Level 2 investments unless the separate account includes a general investment account. A general investment account is adjusted for contract value and therefore deemed to be a Level 3 investment. See below for a description of the general investment account included within the Stable Value Fund.

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**3. Investments and Fair Value Measurement (continued)**

**Separate Trust Accounts**

The separate trust accounts consist primarily of marketable securities valued at the last reported sales price on the last business day of the year and therefore deemed to be a Level 1 investment.

The U.S. equities investments include a mix of predominately U.S. common stocks and cash.

The international equities investments include a mix of predominately foreign common stocks and cash.

The fixed income investments include a mix of U.S. and foreign-issued corporate bonds, common stocks, and cash.

**Nonpooled Separate Account**

The nonpooled separate account consists of common stock of Hormel Foods Corporation, which is valued at the last reported sales price on the last business day of the year, and a portion of uninvested cash, which is recorded at carrying value as maturities are less than three months. The nonpooled separate account is deemed to be a Level 1 investment.

**Self-Directed Brokerage Assets**

The self-directed brokerage assets consist of common stock, preferred stock, mutual funds, and federal bonds, which are valued at the last reported sales price on the last business day of the year, and uninvested cash, which is recorded at carrying value as maturities are less than three months. These assets are deemed to be a Level 1 investment.

### **Stable Value Fund**

The investment in the stable value fund (insurance company general account) is reported at fair value with a reported adjustment to contract value shown in the statements of net assets available for benefits. Therefore the general investment account is deemed to be a Level 3 investment. The statements of changes in net assets available for benefits are prepared on a contract value basis. The Plan's insurance company general account contract is fully benefit-responsive. Benefit responsiveness is defined as the extent to which a contract's terms and the Plan permit or require participant-initiated withdrawals at contract value.

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**3. Investments and Fair Value Measurement (continued)**

The Plan has entered into a benefit-responsive investment contract with Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) that is a general account evergreen group annuity contract. MassMutual maintains the contributions in a general account. Specific securities within the general account are not attributed to the investment contract with the Plan. The Plan owns a series of guarantees that are embedded in the insurance contract. The contractual guarantees are backed up by the full faith and credit of MassMutual, the contract issuer. The account is credited with earnings on the underlying investments and charged for participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. MassMutual is contractually obligated to repay the principal and a specified interest rate that is guaranteed to the Plan. There are no reserves against contract value for credit risk of the contract issuer or otherwise. The crediting interest rate is based on a formula agreed upon with the issuer and includes such factors as investment year method experience of the underlying contract or pool; projected levels of cash flows within the current interest rate environment; and the projected maturity of the underlying investments. Such interest rates are reviewed on a semiannual basis for resetting.

Certain events limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the issuer. Such events include the following: (i) amendments to the plan documents (including complete or partial plan termination or merger with another plan); (ii) changes to the Plan's prohibition on competing investment options or deletion of equity wash provisions; (iii) bankruptcy of the Sponsor or other Sponsor event (e.g., divestures or spin-offs of a subsidiary) that causes a significant withdrawal from the Plan; or (iv) the failure of the trust to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA. The plan administrator does not believe that the occurrence of any such event, which would limit the Plan's ability to transact at contract value with participants, is probable.

The Guaranteed Income Account contract does not allow the insurance company to terminate the agreement prior to a breach of the contract terms by the investor or on the contract anniversary date with 90 days prior notice.

The crediting interest rate on the General Investment Account was 3.55% and 3.80% as of October 30, 2011 and October 31, 2010, respectively. The average yield was 3.15% during plan year 2011 and 3.81% during plan year 2010,

which approximates the actual interest rate credited to the plan participants.

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**3. Investments and Fair Value Measurement (continued)**

The investments of the Plan that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of October 30, 2011 and October 31, 2010, and their level within the fair value hierarchy, are as follows:

	Fair Value Measurements at October 30, 2011			
	Fair Value 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)
Investments at fair value:				
Pooled separate accounts:				
Lifecycle funds	\$ 55,335,774	\$	\$ 53,543,266	\$ 1,792,508
U.S. equity funds	13,350,706		13,350,706	
Fixed income fund	3,939,967		3,939,967	
Total pooled separate accounts	72,626,447		70,833,939	1,792,508
Separate trust accounts:				
U.S. equity funds	17,665,905	17,665,905		
International equity funds	8,688,375	8,688,375		
Fixed income fund	4,287,667	4,287,667		
Total separate trust accounts	30,641,947	30,641,947		
Nonpooled separate account:				
Hormel Foods Corporation stock fund	119,606,424	119,606,424		
Self-directed brokerage accounts	8,312,026	8,312,026		
General Investment Account	91,396,090			91,396,090
	\$ 322,582,934	\$ 158,560,397	\$ 70,833,939	\$ 93,188,598

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**3. Investments and Fair Value Measurement (continued)**

	Fair Value Measurements at October 31, 2010			
	Fair Value at October 31, 2010	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Investments at fair value:				
Pooled separate accounts:				
Lifecycle funds	\$ 51,807,555	\$	\$ 49,876,579	\$ 1,930,976
U.S. equity funds	17,364,715		17,364,715	
Fixed income fund	4,357,340		4,357,340	
Total pooled separate accounts	73,529,610		71,598,634	1,930,976
Separate trust accounts:				
U.S. equity funds	9,861,246	9,861,246		
International equity funds	9,886,955	9,886,955		
Fixed income fund	5,278,706	5,278,706		
Total separate trust accounts	25,026,907	25,026,907		
Nonpooled separate account:				
Hormel Foods Corporation stock fund	95,652,397	95,652,397		
Self-directed brokerage accounts	8,702,386	8,702,386		
General Investment Account	84,849,548			84,849,548
	\$ 287,760,848	\$ 129,381,690	\$ 71,598,634	\$ 86,780,524

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**3. Investments and Fair Value Measurement (continued)**

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending balance of the investments measured at fair value using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) is as follows:

Balance, October 25, 2009	\$ 107,757,961
Purchases, issuances, and settlements net	(32,279,204)
Interest and dividend income	2,916,746
Realized gains	4,606,562
Unrealized gains	3,778,459
Balance, October 31, 2010	86,780,524
Purchases, issuances, and settlements net	<b>3,026,194</b>
Interest and dividend income	<b>2,778,361</b>
Realized gains	<b>72,553</b>
Unrealized gains	<b>530,966</b>
Balance, October 30, 2011	<b>\$ 93,188,598</b>

**4. Income Tax Status**

The Plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) dated March 13, 2003, stating that the Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code), and therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualification. The Plan was amended and restated subsequent to the IRS determination letter. The Sponsor believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes the Plan, as amended and restated, is qualified and the related trust is tax-exempt.

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles require plan management to evaluate uncertain tax positions taken by the Plan. The financial statement effects of a tax position are recognized when the position is more likely than not,



based on the technical merits, to be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that as of October 30, 2011, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken. The Plan has recognized no interest or penalties related to uncertain tax positions. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**5. Risks and Uncertainties**

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities could occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

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Hormel Foods Corporation  
Joint Earnings Profit Sharing Trust

Schedule H, Line 4i Schedule of Assets

(Held at End of Year)

EIN: 41-0319970 Plan Number: 030

October 30, 2011

Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Number of Shares/Units Held	Current Value
Nonpooled separate account:		
State Street Corporation:*		
Hormel Foods Corporation Stock Fund	3,195,835 units	\$ 119,606,424
Insurance company general account:		
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company:*		
General Investment Account, contract value	4,473,712 units	83,808,104
Pooled separate accounts:		
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company:*		
Aggressive Option Fund	1,619,247 units	18,102,578
Moderate Option Fund	1,624,253 units	18,125,880
Conservative Option Fund	164,443 units	1,792,508
Growth Option Fund	1,556,086 units	17,314,808
Select Fundamental Value Fund (Wellington)	41,168 units	6,045,757
Select Large Cap Value Fund (Davis)	23,556 units	4,314,985
Select Indexed Equity Fund (Northern Trust)	24,241 units	2,989,964
Premier Core Bond Fund (Babson Capital)	1,997 units	3,939,967
Total pooled separate accounts		72,626,447
Separate trust accounts:		
State Street Corporation:*		
CRM Small Cap Value Fund	358,250 units	4,046,143
Black Rock High Yield Bond Fund	270,462 units	4,287,667
Dodge & Cox International Fund	831,102 units	8,688,375
Mainstay Large Cap Growth Fund	587,286 units	6,222,540
John Hancock III Rainier Growth Class I Fund	229,612 units	2,298,519
Wasatch Small Cap Growth Fund	518,624 units	5,098,703
Total separate trust accounts		30,641,947

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Self-directed brokerage assets		8,312,026
Total assets (held at end of year)	\$	314,994,948

\*Indicates a party in interest to the Plan.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have duly caused this annual report to be signed on their behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION  
JOINT EARNINGS PROFIT SHARING  
TRUST

Date: April 27, 2012

By: /s/ JODY H. FERAGEN  
JODY H. FERAGEN  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
23	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm