RAY GARY J Form 4 January 05, 2005

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL OMB

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5 Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

obligations

may continue.

See Instruction

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

2 Jaguar Nama and Tiakar or Trading

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

RAY GARY J			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol HORMEL FOODS CORP /DE/ [HRL]					Issuer (Check all applicable)			
(Last) 1 HORMEI	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/03/2005				_X Director 10% Owner Sofficer (give title Other (specify below) Executive Vice President				
AUSTIN, N	(Street)		4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)				6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting				
AUSTIN, N					1	Person					
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Tab	ole I - Non-	Derivative	Secur	rities Acqu	ired, Disposed of,	or Beneficiall	ly Owned	
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Da (Month/Day/Year		n Date, if	3. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securition Dispose (Instr. 3, 4	ed of (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)	
Common Stock	01/03/2005			M	44,000	A	\$ 12.375	169,252.477	D		
Common Stock	01/03/2005			F	17,368	D	\$ 31.35	151,884.477	D		
Common Stock	01/03/2005			F	11,976	D	\$ 31.35	139,908.477 (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)			Expiration Date		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$ 12.375	01/03/2005		M <u>(1)</u>		44,000	07/11/1995	01/11/2005	Common Stock	44,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address		Relationships
	·	

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

RAY GARY J

1 HORMEL PLACE X Executive Vice President

AUSTIN, MN 55912

Signatures

Gary J. Ray, by Power of Attorney 01/05/2005

**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.
- (2) Reporting Person holds indirectly 610 shares in the 401(k) Trust, 674 shares in JEPST, and 1,143 shares in Founders Fund. Reporting Person also holds 26,470 phantom shares in his deferred stock account.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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