

HORMEL FOODS CORP /DE/
Form 11-K
April 20, 2017
[Table of Contents](#)

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, 2016

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:

Jennie-O Turkey Store Retirement Savings Plan

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

Table of Contents

Jennie-O Turkey Store Retirement Savings Plan

Audited Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule

Years Ended October 30, 2016 and October 25, 2015

Contents

<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	1
Audited Financial Statements	
<u>Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits</u>	2
<u>Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits</u>	3
<u>Notes to the Financial Statements</u>	4
Supplemental Schedule	
<u>Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)</u>	12
<u>Signatures</u>	13
Exhibit 23	
Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	15

Table of Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Hormel Foods Corporation Employee Benefits Committee and the Trustees

Jennie-O Turkey Store Retirement Savings Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Jennie-O Turkey Store Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan) as of October 30, 2016 and October 25, 2015, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefit for the year ended October 30, 2016. 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, 2016 and October 25, 2015, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended October 30, 2016, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

The accompanying supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of October 30, 2016, have been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Jennie-O Turkey Store Retirement Savings Plan's financial statements. The information in the supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental schedule. In forming our opinion on the information, we evaluated whether such information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota

April 20, 2017

Table of Contents

Jennie-O Turkey Store Retirement Savings Plan

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	October 30, 2016	October 25, 2015
Assets		
Investments:		
Investments at fair value	\$ 140,780,545	\$ 133,365,140
Investments at contract value	26,096,445	24,630,523
Total investments	166,876,990	157,995,663
Receivables:		
Contributions from Jennie-O Turkey Store	191,093	158,427
Contributions from participants	151,540	123,268
Promissory notes from participants	13,885,037	12,655,028
Interest and dividend income	27,110	-
Total receivables	14,254,780	12,936,723
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 181,131,770	\$ 170,932,386

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Table of Contents

Jennie-O Turkey Store Retirement Savings Plan

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

	Year Ended October 30, 2016	Year Ended October 25, 2015
Additions:		
Contributions from Jennie-O Turkey Store	\$ 9,715,475	\$ 8,439,128
Contributions from participants	7,966,568	6,856,575
Employee rollover	192,137	109,308
Interest and dividend income	1,332,448	1,459,145
Interest income promissory notes receivable	564,325	505,534
Total additions	19,770,953	17,369,690
Deductions:		
Distributions	13,062,978	14,720,031
Administrative expenses	93,535	86,609
Total deductions	13,156,513	14,806,640
Net realized and unrealized appreciation in fair value of investments	3,584,944	3,818,106
Net additions	10,199,384	6,381,156
Net assets available for benefits at beginning of year	170,932,386	164,551,230
Net assets available for benefits at end of year	\$ 181,131,770	\$ 170,932,386

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Table of Contents

Jennie-O Turkey Store Retirement Savings Plan

Notes to the Financial Statements

October 30, 2016

1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the Jennie-O Turkey Store Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document or summary plan description for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering substantially all nonexempt employees of Jennie-O Turkey Store, Inc. (the Company or the Sponsor). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA).

Eligibility Employees become participants in the Plan upon completion of 180 days of continuous service.

Contributions Employees who elect to contribute to the Plan can authorize a deduction of 1% to 50% of their compensation, subject to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) limitations. Eligible employees who have not enrolled shall be deemed to have automatically elected to contribute 2% to the Plan through payroll deductions. After January 1, 2017, participants with authorized deductions of less than 5% will have their contribution percentage increased by 1% each year up to a maximum of 5% of eligible compensation. Participants receive advance notice of their right to elect out of the automatic election and increase features and are permitted to stop or change these at any time.

The Company contributes a matching contribution equal to 50% of the first 2% of pay contributed for the pay period. The Company's fixed contribution to the Plan is an amount equal to 4% of the eligible employees' earnings each pay

period.

Participant Accounts Individual accounts are maintained for each plan participant. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, the employer's contributions, and an allocation of the earnings and losses for the participant's selected investment funds. The participant's account 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.

Investments Contributions to the Plan are invested in one or more investment funds at the option of the participant. The Plan contains a diversified selection of funds intended to satisfy Section 404(c) of ERISA. Participants may also invest in self-directed brokerage accounts.

Table of Contents

Vesting Participant contributions are fully vested immediately. The employer matching and fixed contributions are fully vested after three years of vesting service.

Payment of Benefits Benefits are payable upon termination of service due to death, disability, termination, or retirement in the form of a lump sum equal to the vested value of the participant's account. Effective January 1, 2017, participants may elect to receive the vested interest of their accounts in the form of an annuity, partial payments, or installments. Complete details of payment provisions are described in a Summary Plan Description, available from the Sponsor.

Forfeitures and Unallocated Assets Forfeited balances of terminated participants' non-vested accounts are used to reduce future employer contributions or plan administrative expenses. Forfeitures used to reduce employer contributions and plan administrative expenses for the years ended October 30, 2016 and October 25, 2015, totaled \$523,299 and \$619,076, respectively. Forfeited accounts and unallocated assets (e.g. loan repayments, rollovers) as of October 30, 2016 and October 25, 2015 were \$130,983 and \$209,553, respectively.

Notes Receivable from Participants Participants may borrow from their accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum of the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balances. Loan terms range from one year to five years or up to 15 years for the purchase of a primary residence. The interest rate is 1% over the prime rate of interest published in *The Wall Street Journal* on the first business day of the month the loan originates. For the purpose of sharing in any gains or losses of the trust fund, the amount of the accounts will be deemed to have been reduced by the unpaid balance of any outstanding loans. The loans are secured by the balance in a participant's account. Participants are required to make repayments of principal and interest through payroll deductions. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the plan administrator deems the participant loan to be a distribution, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded.

Plan Termination The employer may, at its sole discretion, discontinue contributions or terminate the Plan at any time, subject to the provisions of ERISA. Upon the Plan's termination, all amounts credited to participants would become fully vested, and the assets of the Plan would be distributed to participants based on amounts previously credited to their respective accounts.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting The accounting records of the Plan are maintained on the accrual basis.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition Investments held by the Plan are stated at fair value with the exception of fully benefit-responsive investment contracts. 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). Contract value reflects the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan and is the relevant measure for the portion of assets

Table of Contents

attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts. See Note 3 Fair Value Measurements for further discussion of investment valuation.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Payment of Benefits Benefit payments to participants are recorded upon distribution. There were no distributions payable to participants as of October 30, 2016 or October 25, 2015.

Notes Receivable from Participants Promissory notes receivable from participants are valued at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of October 30, 2016 or October 25, 2015.

Administrative Expenses All costs and expenses of administering the Plan are paid by the Plan.

Use of Estimates The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (US GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Risks and Uncertainties The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market volatility, 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.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements In May 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update ASU 2015-07, *Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities That Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (or Its Equivalent)*, which removes the requirement to present investments for which the practical expedient is used to measure fair value at net asset value (NAV) within the

fair value hierarchy table. Instead, an entity would be required to include those investments as a reconciling item so that the total fair value amount of investments in the disclosure is consistent with the fair value investment balance on the statement of net assets available for benefits. The Plan elected to early adopt ASU 2015-07 as of October 25, 2015. The adoption has been reflected in Note 3 Fair Value Measurements of the financial statements.

In July 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update ASU 2015-12, *Plan Accounting: Defined Benefit Pension Plans (Topic 960), Defined Contribution Pension Plans (Topic 962), Health and Welfare Benefit Plans (Topic 965): (Part I) Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contract, (Part II) Plan Investment Disclosures, (Part III)*

Table of Contents

Measurement Date Practical Expedient, which simplifies the required disclosures related to employee benefit plans. Part I eliminates the requirement to measure and disclose the fair value of fully benefit-responsive contracts, including common collective trust assets. Contract value is the only required measure for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts. Part II eliminates the requirement to disclose individual investments which comprise 5% or more of total net assets available for benefits, as well as the net appreciation or depreciation of fair values by type. Part II also requires plans to continue to disaggregate investments that are measured using fair value by general type; however, plans are no longer required to also disaggregate investments by nature, characteristics, and risks. Furthermore, the disclosure of information about fair value measurements shall be provided by general type of plan asset. Part III allows plans to measure investments using values from the end of the calendar month closest to the plan's fiscal year end. The Plan elected to early adopt ASU 2015-12 Parts I and II as of October 25, 2015. The Plan is not adopting the provisions of ASU 2015-12 Part III.

3. Fair Value Measurements

Accounting guidance establishes a framework for measuring fair value. That framework classifies assets and liabilities measured at fair value into one of three levels based on the lowest level of input significant to the valuation. 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 following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments held by the Plan measured at fair value, including the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy.

Non-Pooled Separate Account

The non-pooled 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 reported at carrying value as maturities are less than three months. This non-pooled separate account is deemed to be a Level 1 investment. The Company has implemented a dividend pass through election for its participants.

Participants are authorized to invest up to 100% of the fair value of their net assets available for benefits in this fund. Each participant in this fund is entitled to exercise voting rights attributable

Table of Contents

to the shares allocated to their account and is notified by the Company prior to the time that such rights may be exercised. The trustee is not permitted to vote any allocated shares for which instructions have not been given by a participant. The trustee votes any unallocated shares in the same proportion as those shares that were allocated, unless the Committee directs the trustee otherwise. Participants have the same voting rights in the event of a tender or exchange offer.

Effective January 1, 2017, State Street Global Advisors was appointed as the independent fiduciary to oversee the Hormel Foods Corporation Stock Fund.

This fund is approximately 4% and 2% of the total investments in the Plan at October 30, 2016 and October 25, 2015, respectively.

Self-Directed Brokerage Assets

The self-directed brokerage assets consist of common stock and mutual funds, 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.

Separate Trust Accounts Mutual Funds

The mutual funds are held in separate investment accounts, 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, which include a mix of U.S. and international equities, fixed income investments, and cash. There are no restrictions on redemptions and no unfunded commitments.

- The U.S. equities investments include a mix of predominately U.S. common stocks, bonds, and cash.
- The international equities investment includes a mix of predominately foreign common stocks and cash.
- The fixed income investment includes a mix of domestic and foreign securities, including corporate obligations, government securities, mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities, preferred stocks, and cash.

Separate Trust Accounts Collective Trust Funds

The collective trust funds are held in separate investment accounts, 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, which include a mix of U.S. and international equities, fixed income investments, and cash. There are no restrictions on redemptions and no unfunded commitments.

- The LifePath funds are target retirement date funds and 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 funds include a mix of predominately U.S. common stocks, bonds, and cash.

Table of Contents

- The international equities fund includes a mix of predominately foreign common stocks and cash.
- The fixed income fund includes a mix of domestic and foreign securities, including corporate obligations, government securities, mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities, domestic and foreign common stocks, and cash.

The investments of the Plan that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of October 30, 2016 and October 25, 2015, and their level within the fair value hierarchy, are as follows:

	Total Fair Value	Fair Value Measurements at October 30, 2016		
		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:				
Non-pooled separate account:				
Hormel Foods Corporation Stock Fund	\$ 7,217,397	\$ 7,217,397	\$	\$
Self-directed brokerage accounts	25,122	25,122		
Total investments in the fair value hierarchy	7,242,519	\$ 7,242,519	\$	\$
Investments measured at net asset value:				
Separate trust accounts:				
Mutual funds	13,937,490			
Collective trusts	119,600,536			
Total separate trust accounts	133,538,026			
Total investments at fair value	\$ 140,780,545			

	Total Fair Value	Fair Value Measurements at October 25, 2015		
		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:				
Non-pooled separate account:				
Hormel Foods Corporation Stock Fund	\$ 2,826,375	\$ 2,826,375	\$	\$
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	2,826,375	\$ 2,826,375	\$	\$
Investments measured at net asset value:				
Separate trust accounts:				
Mutual funds	15,045,632			

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Collective trusts		115,493,133
Total separate trust accounts		130,538,765
Total investments at fair value	\$	133,365,140

Table of Contents

4. Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contract

The General Investment Account is a fully benefit-responsive investment and is reported at contract value in the statements of net assets available for benefits. The statements of changes in net assets available for benefits are also prepared on a contract value basis. 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. Contract value is the relevant measure for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because this is the amount received by participants if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. Contract value represents contributions made under each contract, plus earnings, less participant withdrawals, and administrative expenses.

The fully benefit-responsive investment contract with Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) 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 the 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.

The investment option for the General Investment Account is a Guaranteed Interest Account, provided through a group annuity contract. This contract does not allow the insurance company to terminate the agreement prior to a breach of the contract terms by the investor. The Plan may terminate the contract on the contract anniversary date with 90 days prior notice.

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.

Table of Contents

5. Income Tax Status

The Plan has received a determination letter from the IRS dated October 22, 2013, 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. Subsequent to this determination by the IRS, the Plan was amended. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualified status. The plan administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and therefore, believes the Plan, as amended, is qualified and the related trust is tax exempt.

US GAAP requires 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, 2016, 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. The plan administrator believes the Plan is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to the plan year ended October 27, 2013.

6. Related Parties

The Plan maintains the following investments that qualify as party-in-interest transactions:

- collective trust funds managed by State Street Global Markets, LLC;
- common stock of Hormel Foods Corporation; and
- General Investment Account of the record keeper, the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company.

These transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions; however, they are exempt from the prohibited transactions rules under ERISA.

7. Subsequent Events

Management evaluated subsequent events for the Plan through April 20, 2017, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Table of Contents

Jennie-O Turkey Store Retirement Savings Plan

Schedule H, Line 4i Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

EIN: 41-0734466 Plan Number: 003

October 30, 2016

Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Number of Shares/Units Held	Current Value
Insurance company general account: Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company*: General Investment Account, contract value	1,192,122 units \$	26,096,445
Non-pooled separate account: State Street Corporation*: Hormel Foods Corporation Stock Fund*	379,753 units	7,217,397
Separate trust accounts: State Street Corporation*:		
BlackRock Equity Index S&P 500	309,199 units	4,343,605
BlackRock LifePath Index 2020	1,438,958 units	16,368,823
BlackRock LifePath Index 2025	1,817,439 units	20,865,070
BlackRock LifePath Index 2030	1,711,622 units	19,823,565
BlackRock LifePath Index 2035	1,279,985 units	14,927,200
BlackRock LifePath Index 2040	732,623 units	8,588,534
BlackRock LifePath Index 2045	709,114 units	8,359,660
BlackRock LifePath Index 2050	645,626 units	7,660,842
BlackRock LifePath Index 2055	490,781 units	5,850,928
BlackRock LifePath Index 2060	3,020 units	30,066
BlackRock LifePath Index Retirement	739,605 units	8,270,983
BlackRock MSCI ACWI ex-US Index	21,589 units	218,197
BlackRock Russell 2500 Index	14,950 units	193,937
BlackRock US Debt Index	27,208 units	297,333
DFA US Large Cap Value Fund	226,630 units	2,305,163
Dodge & Cox International Stock Fund	150,850 units	2,050,126
Harbor Capital Appreciation	379,201 units	5,688,944
Prudential Core Plus Bond CIT	353,189 units	3,801,794
Wasatch Small Cap Growth Fund	67,333 units	1,024,158
Wells Fargo Advantage Intrinsic Small Cap Value	222,630 units	2,869,098
Total separate trust accounts		133,538,026

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Self-directed brokerage assets Charles Schwab & Co.			25,122
Promissory notes*	Varying maturity dates with interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 8.25%		13,885,037
Total assets (held at end of year)		\$	180,762,027

*Indicates a party-in-interest to the Plan.

Table of Contents

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.

JENNIE-O TURKEY STORE

RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

Date: April 20, 2017

By:

/s/ JAMES N. SHEEHAN
JAMES N. SHEEHAN

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial
Officer,

Hormel Foods Corporation

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit

Number

Description

23 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

14
