

Zanetich Thomas N
 Form 4
 February 22, 2012

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
 Zanetich Thomas N

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 2711 NORTH HASKELL AVENUE, SUITE 3400
 (Street)

DALLAS, TX 75204

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 DEAN FOODS CO [DF]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 02/17/2012

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Executive Vice President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount or Price		
Common Stock	02/18/2012		M		9,058 (1)	A	\$ 0 23,949 D
Common Stock	02/18/2012		F		2,816 (1)	D	\$ 12.07 21,133 D

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

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 (9-02)

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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 Underlying (Instr. 3 and 4)			
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 12.07	02/17/2012		A	59,190	02/17/2013 ⁽²⁾	02/17/2022			Common Stock
Restricted Stock Units	\$ 0	02/17/2012		A	41,551	02/17/2013 ⁽³⁾	02/17/2022			Common Stock
Restricted Stock Units (DU005648)	\$ 0	02/18/2012		M	9,058 ⁽¹⁾	02/18/2012 ⁽³⁾	02/18/2021			Common Stock

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Zanetich Thomas N 2711 NORTH HASKELL AVENUE SUITE 3400 DALLAS, TX 75204			Executive Vice President	

Signatures

Richard Stephens,
Attorney-In-Fact

02/22/2012

**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).

The reporting person received a total of 9,058 shares of Common Stock of the Issuer pursuant to the vesting provisions in the award of (1) restricted stock units. A total of 2,816 shares were surrendered to satisfy tax obligations of the reporting person, resulting in the issuance of a total of 6,242 net shares of Common Stock.

(2) The shares of common stock subject to the option vest annually, on a pro rata basis, over a three year period beginning on the first anniversary of the grant date, subject to the terms and conditions of the award agreement.

(3) The reporting person has received an award of restricted stock units which is the right to receive shares of Common Stock of the Issuer in the future, subject to the terms and conditions of the award agreement. The restricted stock units vest annually, on a pro rata basis, over a three year period beginning on the first anniversary of the grant date.

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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