

BROSS RICHARD A  
Form 4  
December 20, 2004

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**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 \*  
BROSS RICHARD A

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
HORMEL FOODS CORP /DE/ [HRL]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
1 HORMEL PLACE  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/17/2004

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Group Vice President

AUSTIN, MN 55912

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

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  | (A) or (D)   | Price                             |
| Common Stock                    | 12/17/2004                           |  | M                              |   | 24,000  | A  | \$ 12.375                         |
| Common Stock                    | 12/17/2004                           |  | F                              |   | 9,880   | D  | \$ 30.06                          |
| Common Stock                    | 12/17/2004                           |  | F                              |   | 6,136   | D  | \$ 30.06                          |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                |   | 49,413  | (2)  |                                   |

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) | 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) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Stock Options (Right to Buy)               | \$ 12.375  | 12/17/2004                           |  | M <sup>(1)</sup>               | 24,000  | 07/11/2005 01/11/2005                                    | Common Stock  | 24,000                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                        | Relationships |           |                      |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|----------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer              | Other |
| BROSS RICHARD A<br>1 HORMEL PLACE<br>AUSTIN, MN 55912 |               |           | Group Vice President |       |

## Signatures

Richard A. Bross, by Power of Attorney  
12/20/2004  
 \_\_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 6602 shares in 401(k), 8174 shares in the JEPST Trust, and 1142 shares in Founders Fund. There are also 18,866 shares held by his spouse, on which beneficial ownership is disclaimed.

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.