



Corporate Communications

News Release

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“Spirit of Excellence” Awards Presented to 47 Suppliers

AUSTIN, MINN. (March 31, 2005) – Hormel Foods Corporation has selected 47 of its suppliers to receive awards for providing quality service and/or products to the multinational marketer of consumer-branded meat and food products.

Each of the 47 firms from throughout the United States will be presented a “spirit of excellence” quality award for taking an active role in the Hormel Foods quality improvement process during 2004. Suppliers are required to meet or exceed specific requirements established by the corporation’s supplier quality management (SQM) committee to qualify for this recognition.

The company’s provisions, purchasing, procurement, logistics and engineering areas chose suppliers and co-packers to be recognized. Many of the firms honored had previously received spirit of excellence awards over the history of the 13-year-old award program.

The SQM recognition program was established in 1991 to improve the quality of products and services provided to Hormel Foods through mutually beneficial relations built on trust and respect. Firms presented awards by each company operation follow.

Contractors/Machine Manufacturers

Contractors and machine manufacturers conducting business with the company in 2004 were eligible for Spirit of Excellence awards for 2003. Ten firms honored were:

- A.J. Lysne Contracting Corp., Owatonna, Minn.
- Cozzini, Chicago, Ill.
- Environmental Land Management, Boulder, Colo.
- Fox Electric, Austin, Minn.
- GE Leblanc Inc., Saint Anselme, Quebec, Canada
- Gleeson Constructors, Sioux City, Iowa
- Himec, Rochester, Minn.
- Lou Rich Inc., Albert Lea, Minn.
- Werner Electric Supply and Van Meter Industrial, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Wolf-Tec Inc., Kingston, N.Y.

Awards were given the first time in this category in 2002. Recipients of this honor three consecutive years are: Fox Electric; GE Leblanc; Lou Rich; and Wolf-Tec.

“Each year, Hormel Foods suppliers are measured over a broad spectrum of categories relating to quality and service,” said Brad Lindberg, a buyer with the purchasing department who serves as chairperson of the supplier quality management committee. “Companies selected this year met requirements for this prestigious award. In addition, suppliers are provided feedback on their progress involving quality and service through the supplier quality management program.”

About Hormel Foods Corp.

Hormel Foods Corp., based in Austin, Minn., is a multinational manufacturer and marketer of consumer-branded meat and food products, many of which are among the best known and trusted in the food industry. The company leverages its extensive expertise, innovation and high competencies in pork and turkey processing and marketing to bring quality, value-added brands to the global marketplace. For each of the past five years, Hormel Foods was named one of “The 400 Best Big Companies in America” by *Forbes* magazine. The company enjoys a strong reputation among consumers, retail grocers, and foodservice and industrial customers for products highly regarded for quality, taste, nutrition, convenience and value. For more information about Hormel Foods, go to www.hormel.com