



Corporate Communications

News Release

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“Spirit of Excellence” Awards Presented to 51 Suppliers

AUSTIN, MINN. (April 17, 2006) – Hormel Foods Corporation has selected 51 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 51 firms from across 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 2005. 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, 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 14-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.

Provisions

The provisions department will honor Fieldale Farms Corp., Baldwin, Ga. Fieldale Farms has received this award the past nine years.

Purchasing

The purchasing department selected 26 suppliers for awards. They were:

- Alcan Packaging, Chicago, Ill.
- Bagcraft Papercon, Chicago, Ill.
- Berry Plastics Corp., Evansville, Ind.
- Crown Cork & Seal Co. Inc., (cans), Philadelphia, Pa.
- Crown Cork & Seal Co. Inc., (closure), Philadelphia, Pa.
- Cryovac Division, Sealed Air Corp. (film), Duncan, S.C.
- Curwood Inc., Oshkosh, Wis.
- Dickson Industries Inc., Des Moines, Iowa
- Ecolab Inc., St. Paul, Minn.
- Gamer Packaging Inc., Minneapolis, Minn.
- Graphic Packaging International Inc., Bow, N.H.
- Hydrite Chemical Co., Brookfield, Wis.

- Meyers Printing Co., Minneapolis, Minn.
- Minnesota Corrugated Box Inc., Albert Lea, Minn.
- Moore Wallace North America Inc., Bannockburn, Ill.
- Multisorb Technologies Inc., Buffalo, N.Y.
- Newly Weds Foods, Chicago, Ill.
- Precision Industries, Omaha, Neb.
- Red Arrow Products Co., Manitowoc, Wis.
- Silgan Containers Corp., Woodland Hills, Calif.
- Smurfit-Stone Container Corp., Clayton, Mo.
- Smyth Companies Inc., St. Paul, Minn.
- Teepak Inc., Lisle, Ill.
- Vista International Packaging, Kenosha, Wis.
- Weyerhaeuser, Montgomery, Ill.
- xpedx, Pewaukee, Wis.

Spirit of excellence awards have been given the past 13 years to Minnesota Corrugated, Hydrite Chemical and Silgan Containers. Teepak has received this honor 12 years in a row and xpedx has been honored eight consecutive years.

Eligible companies were selected according to various criteria, including performances involving deliveries, product quality, customer service, administration and plant quality audits.

Logistics

Eleven transport companies were chosen for spirit of excellence awards by the logistics department. They were:

- Colton & Associates, Polk City, Iowa
- Commercial Services, Algona, Iowa
- Continental Express Inc., Sidney, Ohio
- Decker Truck Lines, Fort Dodge, Iowa
- Dickey Transport Inc., Packwood, Iowa
- Hirschbach Motor Lines Inc., South Sioux City, Neb.
- Holiday Express Corp., Estherville, Iowa
- Kennamer Brothers Inc., Guntersville, Ala.
- McFarland Truck Lines Inc., Austin, Minn.
- Midwest Coast Transport, Sioux Falls, S.D.
- Van-Pak Inc., Fountain City, Wis.

These companies provided various transport services involving refrigerated, nonrefrigerated and liquid tank trailers during 2005.

McFarland Truck Lines has been presented an award every year since 1994 and Holiday Express has received this honor the past nine years.

Contractors/Machine Manufacturers

Contractors and machine manufacturers conducting business with the company in 2005 were eligible for spirit of excellence awards. Thirteen firms honored were:

- A.J. Lysne Contracting Corp., Owatonna, Minn.

- Alkar-RapidPak Inc., Lodi, Wis.
- 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.
- Multivac, Kansas City, Mo.
- Preston Refrigeration Co., Kansas City, Mo.
- The Joseph Company, Austin, 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 four consecutive years are: Fox Electric; GE Leblanc; Lou Rich; Werner Electric Supply; and Wolf-Tec.

“Hormel Foods congratulates all winners of the 2005 Spirit of Excellence award,” said Brad Lindberg, a buyer with the purchasing department who serves as chairperson of the supplier quality management committee. “Each of these companies must have demonstrated a commitment to continuous improvement to achieve this honor. Based on the last five years results of these companies, recipients of the Hormel #1 award will be announced in September.”

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 six 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.