

ASSIGNMENT

FOR GOOD AND VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, the receipt, sufficiency and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, Hormel Foods Corporation, a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Austin, MN, does hereby, effective August 30, 1998:

SELL, ASSIGN AND TRANSFER to Hormel Foods, LLC, a Minnesota corporation (the "Assignee"), having a place of business at Austin, MN, the entire right, title and interest for the United States in and to any and all improvements which are disclosed in the United States Letters Patent and in the applications for United States Letters Patent listed on Attachment "A" hereto, such applications and all divisional, continuing, substitute, renewal, reissue and all other applications for patent which have been or shall be filed in the United States on any of such improvements; and all original and reissued patents which have been or shall be issued in the United States on such improvements.

AUTHORIZE AND REQUEST the issuing authority to issue any and all United States patents granted on such improvements to the Assignee;

WARRANT AND COVENANT that no assignment, grant, mortgage, license or other agreement affecting the rights and property herein conveyed has been or will be made to others by the undersigned, and that the full right to convey the same as herein expressed is possessed by the undersigned;

COVENANT, when requested and at the expense of the Assignee, to carry out in good faith the intent and purpose of this assignment, the undersigned will execute all divisional, continuing, substitute, renewal, reissue, and all other patent applications on any and all such improvements; execute all rightful oaths, declarations, assignments, powers of attorney and other papers; communicate to the Assignee all facts known to the undersigned relating to such improvements and the history thereof; and generally do everything possible which the Assignee shall consider desirable for vesting title to such improvements in the Assignee, and for securing, maintaining and enforcing proper patent protection for such improvements;

TO BE BINDING on the heirs, assigns, representatives and successors of the undersigned and extend to the successors, assigns and nominees of the Assignee.

HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION

Signature: 
Name: Don J. Hodapp
Title: Executive Vice President

Date: August 28, 1998

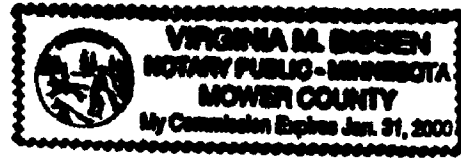
STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF MOWER

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This instrument was acknowledged before me on August 28, 1998, by Don J. Hodapp, Executive Vice President of Hormel Foods Corporation, a Delaware Corporation, on behalf of said Company.

Virginia M. Bissen
Notary Public



ATTACHMENT "A"

PATENTS

CHEMICAL TREATMENT & PACKAGING PROCESS TO IMPROVE
APPEARANCE & SHELF LIFE OF FRESH PORK

U.S. Patent No. 5,780,085

Issued: July 14, 1998

Expires: October 4, 2016

CONTAINER FOR ACTIVE MICROWAVE HEATING

U.S. Patent No. 5,593,610

Issued: January 14, 1997

Expires: August 4, 2015

LOIN SEPARATION APPARATUS & METHOD OF OPERATION
THEREFOR

U.S. Patent No. 5,580,306

issued: December 3, 1996

Expires: February 2, 2016

LOIN SEPARATION APPARATUS & METHOD OF OPERATION
THEREFOR

U.S. Patent No. 5, 514,032

Issued: May 7, 1996

Expires: February 17, 2015

LOW FAT MEAT PROCESS

U.S. Patent No. 5,474,790

Issued: December 12, 1995

Expires: May 6, 2014

FOOD CONTAINER

U.S. Patent No. D 366,828

Issued: February 6, 1996

Expires: February 6, 2010

COMBINED BOTTLE AND BOWL PACKAGE

U.S. Patent No. D 364,341

Issued: November 21, 1995

Expires: November 21, 2009

SEALING THERMOPLASTIC MEMBER DEVOID OF CONDUCTIVE MATERIAL

U.S. Patent No. 5,191,181

Issued: March 2, 1993

Expires: March 2, 2010

VACUUM CHILLING FOR PROCESSING MEAT

U.S. Patent No. 4,942,053

Issued: July 17, 1990

Expires: July 17, 2007

MICROWAVEABLE FOOD PACKAGE

U.S. Patent No. Des. 311,488

Issued: October 23, 1990

Expires: October 23, 2004

CONTAINER

U.S. Patent No. 307,716

Issued: May 8, 1990

Expires: May 8, 2004

APPARATUS & METHOD FOR STRIPPING CASING FROM SAUSAGES

U.S. Patent No. 4,682,387

Issued: July 28, 1987

Expires: July 28, 2004

PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR CUTTING HOG CARCASSES

U.S. Patent No. 4,662,029

Issued: May 5, 1987

Expires: May 5, 2004

CARCASS SPLITTING APPARATUS

U.S. Patent No. 4,653,150

Issued: March 31, 1987

Expires: March 31, 2004

DECLIPPER APPARATUS

U.S. Patent No. 4,592,112

Issued: June 3, 1986

Expires: June 3, 2003

SHOULDER SKINNING DEVICE

U.S. Patent No. 4,433,453

Issued: February 28, 1984

Expires: February 28, 2001

MID-SECTION SKINNING APPARATUS

U.S. Patent No. 4, 417,367

Issued: November 29, 1983

Expires: November 29, 2000

**METHOD & APPARATUS FOR REMOVING SKIN FROM ANIMAL
CARCASSES**

U.S. Patent No. 4,351,088

Issued: September 28, 1982

Expires: September 28, 1999

HAM SKINNING APPARATUS

U.S. Patent No. 4,327,633

Issued: May 4, 1982

Expires: May 4, 1999

HIND LEG SKINNER

U.S. Patent No. 4,322,873

Issued: April 6, 1982

Expires: April 6, 1999

PALLET STORAGE RACK ATTACHMENT

U.S. Patent No. 4,291,812

Issued: September 29, 1981

Expires: September 29, 1998

PENDING U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

| Patent Application Serial No.: | Title: | Filing Date: |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------|
| 09/114, 867 | Packaging System to Improve the Appearance & Shelf Life of Fresh Pork (CIP extending to other animal proteins) | July 13, 1998 |
| 09/087,316 | Method of Making Partially Split Slices of Bacon | May 29, 1998 |
| 09/072,947 | Method of Reducing Leakage and Contamination During Processing Meat and Poultry | May 5, 1998 |
| 09/062,153 | Packaging System to Improve the Appearance & Shelf Life of Fresh Pork (CIP for lactate & diacetate) | April 17, 1998 |
| 08/866,519 | Application of Spices to Food Items | May 30, 1997 |
| 08/839,234 | Press Rack | April 24, 1997 |
| 08/730,927 | Collagen or Gelatin Crumb Composition | October 18, 1996 |
| 09/062,265 | Packaging System to Improve the Appearance & Shelf Life of Fresh Pork (CIP for other than display purposes) | April 17, 1998 |



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Patent and Trademark Office**

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MARCH 22, 1999

PTAS

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