HORMEL FOODS REPORTS SECOND QUARTER RESULTS

Company's leading brands, balanced business model and strong balance sheet position it to manage through the near-term uncertainty related to African swine fever in China

AUSTIN, Minn. (May 23, 2019) – Hormel Foods Corporation (NYSE: HRL), a leading global branded food company, today reported results for the second quarter of fiscal 2019. All comparisons are to the second quarter of fiscal 2018 unless otherwise noted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Volume of 1.2 billion lbs., up 1%
- Record net sales of \$2.3 billion, up 1%
- Pretax earnings of \$318 million, up 7%
- Diluted earnings per share of \$0.52
- Excluding one-time gain on the divestiture of CytoSport, adjusted diluted EPS¹ of \$0.46 per share
- Effective tax rate of 11.1% compared to 20.0% last year
- Operating margin of 13.3% compared to 12.9% last year
- Year-to-date cash flow from operations of \$366 million, down 18% due to higher working capital
- Fiscal 2019 earnings guidance decreased to \$1.71 to \$1.85 per share from \$1.77 to \$1.91 per share

COMMENTARY

"We achieved record sales this quarter as three of our four segments delivered volume and sales growth," said Jim Snee, chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer. "Many of our innovative product lines such as **Hormel[®] Bacon 1TM** cooked bacon, **Hormel[®] Fire BraisedTM** products, **Hormel[®] Natural Choice[®]** snacks and **Herdez[®]** salsa delivered double-digit sales growth. We also grew core product lines such as **Hormel[®]** pepperoni, **Dinty Moore[®]** stew and **Austin Blues[®]** authentic barbeque products."

"In spite of record sales, second quarter earnings did not meet our expectations," Snee said. "African swine fever in China started to impact global hog and pork markets this quarter, which led to rapidly increasing input costs. In response, we have announced pricing action across our branded value-added portfolio in the Grocery Products, Refrigerated Foods and International segments."

"Jennie-O Turkey Store profits declined due to a combination of plant startup costs and lower retail sales," Snee said. "We made a large investment to automate our whole-bird facility in Melrose, Minn., and the startup was more difficult than anticipated. We made excellent progress through the quarter and are now on track to deliver the production efficiencies we expected. Retail sales declined for the quarter, but we are reactivating promotional activity and advertising in order to regain distribution."

"We finalized the sale of CytoSport this quarter and used the proceeds to pay down the remaining debt from the Columbus Craft Meats acquisition and build our cash position," Snee said. "We will use our strong balance sheet to continue to grow our company through disciplined and strategic investments, including acquisitions and capacity expansion projects."

SEGMENT HIGHLIGHTS – SECOND QUARTER

Refrigerated Foods

- Volume flat
- Net sales up 1%
- Segment profit down 5%

Volume and sales growth was led by foodservice products such as **Hormel[®] Bacon 1TM** cooked bacon, **Hormel[®] Fire BraisedTM** products and **Austin Blues[®]** authentic barbeque products. Retail products such as **Hormel[®] Black Label[®]** bacon, **Hormel[®] Natural Choice[®]** products, **Hormel[®]** pepperoni and **Hormel[®]** prepared foods products for the deli also showed excellent growth. Branded value-added sales growth was offset by a double-digit decline in commodity sales.

Segment profit declined as growth in value-added profits did not fully offset a 65% decline in commodity profits. Higher operational expenses related to capacity expansion projects also impacted profitability.

Grocery Products

- Volume up 3%
- Net sales up 2%
- Segment profit up 12%

Sales increases were led by **Herdez**[®] salsas and sauces, **Wholly**[®] guacamole dips and **Skippy**[®] peanut butter, offset by lower sales of CytoSport products. Segment profit increased primarily due to higher volume and margins across many categories, such as the **SPAM**[®] family of products and **Dinty Moore**[®] stew, and lower expenses for CytoSport. The divestiture of CytoSport was completed on April 15, 2019.

Jennie-O Turkey Store

- Volume up 2%
- Net sales flat
- Segment profit down 45%

Sales for the quarter were flat as improved results in foodservice and whole-bird sales were offset by declines in retail sales due to the lingering impact of two voluntary product recalls. Foodservice sales growth was led by many categories, including **Jennie-O**[®] sliced products. Segment profit was impacted by higher-than-expected plant startup expenses, higher feed costs and lower retail sales.

International & Other

- Volume down 7%
- Net sales down 9%
- Segment profit down 31%

International volume, sales and segment profit decreased primarily due to the continued impact of tariffs on fresh pork exports along with higher freight costs. Growth in our China business was driven by increased sales of branded value-added products such as **SPAM**[®] luncheon meat and **Skippy**[®] peanut butter.

SELECTED FINANCIAL DETAILS

Income Statement

- Selling, general and administrative expenses decreased primarily due to a one-time gain resulting from the CytoSport divestiture and lower selling expenses.
- Advertising investments were \$35 million compared to \$37 million last year. Advertising investments for the full year are expected to be modestly lower compared to the prior year due to the CytoSport divestiture.
- Operating margin was 13.3% compared to 12.9% last year.
- The effective tax rate was 11.1% compared to 20.0% last year. The decrease was due to the impact of the tax gain from the CytoSport divestiture. The full-year effective tax rate for fiscal 2019 is expected to be between 17.5% and 19.5%.

Cash Flow Statement

- Capital expenditures in the second quarter were \$48 million compared to \$87 million last year. The
 full-year outlook for capital expenditures decreased to approximately \$310 million, primarily due
 to weather delays and project timing. Key projects for the full year include an expansion of our
 Burke Corporation pizza-toppings facility in Nevada, Iowa, an expansion at our Fontanini facility
 in McCook, Ill., and multiple other projects designed to increase value-added capacity.
- Depreciation and amortization expense in the second quarter was \$41 million, flat to last year. The full-year expense is expected to be approximately \$160 million.
- Share repurchases for the quarter totaled \$23 million, representing 0.6 million shares purchased.
- The company repaid the remaining \$375 million in debt related to the Columbus Craft Meats acquisition.
- The company paid its 363rd consecutive quarterly dividend on May 15, 2019, at the annual rate of \$0.84 per share, a 12% increase over the prior year.

Balance Sheet

- Working capital increased to \$1,199 million from \$911 million at the beginning of the year, primarily related to the proceeds received from the CytoSport divestiture.
- Cash on hand increased to \$639 million from \$459 million at the beginning of the year.
- The company remains in a strong financial position to fund additional capital needs.

OUTLOOK

"Over the past three years, the intentional actions we have taken as part of Our Path Forward, which include evolving to a broader global branded food company, accelerating our foodservice business, modernizing our supply chain and divesting nonstrategic assets, has made our company stronger," Snee said. "Our experienced management team, leading brands, focus on innovation, strong balance sheet and diversified businesses allow us to manage through times of uncertainty and volatility, as we are currently experiencing with African swine fever."

The company's revised fiscal 2019 earnings guidance range is based on the input cost increases experienced in the second quarter and a forecast for volatile domestic pork prices in the second half of fiscal 2019. The company has a proven ability to operate in elevated market conditions but expects short-term margin compression as branded value-added pricing actions lag input cost increases. Additionally, expectations for Jennie-O Turkey Store have been lowered as the company reinvests in the **Jennie-O**[®] brand in order to regain retail distribution.

	Revised Fiscal 2019 Outlook	Prior Fiscal 2019 Outlook
Net Sales Guidance (in billions)	\$9.50 - \$10.0	\$9.70 - \$10.20
Earnings Per Share Guidance	\$1.71 - \$1.85	\$1.77 - \$1.91

PRESENTATION

A conference call will be webcast at 8:00 a.m. CT on Thursday, May 23, 2019. Access is available at www.hormelfoods.com by clicking on "Investors." The call will also be available via telephone by dialing 800-263-0877 and providing the access code 5051059. An audio replay is available by going to www.hormelfoods.com. The webcast replay will be available at 11:00 a.m. CT, Thursday, May 23, 2019, and will remain on the website for one year.

ABOUT HORMEL FOODS - Inspired People. Inspired Food.™

Hormel Foods Corporation, based in Austin, Minn., is a leading global branded food company with over \$9 billion in annual revenues across more than 80 countries worldwide. Its brands include *Skippy*[®], SPAM[®], *Hormel*[®] *Natural Choice*[®], *Columbus*[®], *Applegate*[®], *Justin's*[®], *Wholly*[®], *Hormel*[®] *Black Label*[®] and more than 30 other beloved brands. The company is a member of the S&P 500 Index and the S&P 500 Dividend Aristocrats, was named one of "The 100 Best Corporate Citizens" by Corporate Responsibility Magazine for the 11th year in a row, and has received numerous other awards and accolades for its corporate responsibility and community service efforts. In 2016, the company celebrated its 125th anniversary and announced its new vision for the future - Inspired People. Inspired Food.TM - focusing on its legacy of innovation. For more information, visit www.hormelfoods.com and http:// csr.hormelfoods.com/.

REPORTING SEGMENTS

At the beginning of fiscal 2019, the Hormel Deli Solutions division combined all deli businesses, including the Jennie-O Turkey Store deli division, into one division within the Refrigerated Foods segment. In addition, the ingredients business was realigned from the Grocery Products segment to the Refrigerated Foods segment. Fiscal 2018 second quarter and year-to-date segment net sales and segment profit reflect the new operating segments. These segment changes have no effect on previously reported consolidated net sales, operating profit, net earnings or earnings per share.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This news release contains forward-looking information based on management's current views and assumptions. Actual events may differ materially. Please refer to the cautionary statement regarding "Forward-Looking Statements" and "Risk Factors" that appears on pages 31-36 in the company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended Jan. 27, 2019, which can be accessed at hormelfoods.com in the "Investors" section.

¹ COMPARISON OF U.S. GAAP TO NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASUREMENTS

The non-GAAP adjusted financial measurement of adjusted earnings per share is presented to provide investors additional information to facilitate the comparison of past and present operations. The company believes this non-GAAP financial measurement provides useful information to investors because it is a measurement used to evaluate performance on a comparable year-over-year basis. This non-GAAP measurement is not intended to be a substitute for a U.S. GAAP measurement in analyzing financial performance. This non-GAAP measurement is not in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and may be different from non-GAAP measures used by other companies.

Adjusted earnings per share excludes the one-time gain associated with the divestiture of the CytoSport business, which was recognized in Net Unallocated Expense and Provision for Income Taxes. The tax benefit was driven by the sale of shares of the CytoSport legal entity. The table below shows the calculations to reconcile from the non-GAAP adjusted measure to the GAAP measure in the second quarter.

	Second Quarter 2019				
	2019 Non- GAAP Adjusted Earnings	C	Gain on ytoSport Sale	2019 GAAP Earnings	
Grocery Products	\$ 104,499	\$	— \$	104,499	
Refrigerated Foods	158,088			158,088	
Jennie-O Turkey Store	17,749			17,749	
International & Other	14,325			14,325	
Total segment profit	\$ 294,661	\$	— \$	294,661	
Net Unallocated Expense	(6,709)		(16,469)	(23,178)	
Noncontrolling interest	207			207	
Earnings Before Income Taxes	\$ 301,577	\$	16,469 \$	318,046	
Provision for income taxes	52,382		(16,972)	35,410	
Net Earnings	\$ 249,195	\$	33,441 \$	282,636	
Less: Net earnings attributable to noncontrolling interest	207		—	207	
Net Earnings attributable to Hormel Foods Corporation	\$ 248,988	\$	33,441 \$	282,429	
Diluted Earnings Per Share	\$ 0.46	\$	0.06 \$	0.52	

HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION SEGMENT DATA (Unaudited) (In thousands)

	Thirteen Weeks Ended						
	April 28, 2019			April 29, 2018*	% Change		
NET SALES							
Grocery Products	\$	635,319	\$	621,492	2.2		
Refrigerated Foods		1,257,884		1,245,066	1.0		
Jennie-O Turkey Store		305,256		303,875	0.5		
International & Other		146,285		160,135	(8.6)		
TOTAL	\$	2,344,744	\$	2,330,568	0.6		
SEGMENT PROFIT							
Grocery Products	\$	104,499	\$	93,206	12.1		
Refrigerated Foods		158,088		166,920	(5.3)		
Jennie-O Turkey Store		17,749		32,073	(44.7)		
International & Other		14,325		20,850	(31.3)		
TOTAL SEGMENT PROFIT		294,661		313,049	(5.9)		
Net unallocated expense		(23,178)		16,304	(242.2)		
Noncontrolling interest		207		138	50.0		
EARNINGS BEFORE INCOME TAX	\$	318,046	\$	296,883	7.1		

* FY18 segment results have been adjusted to reflect the changes in the Grocery Products, Refrigerated Foods and Jennie-O Turkey Store segments.

	Twenty-Six Weeks Ended							
		April 28, April 29, 2019 2018*			% Change			
NET SALES								
Grocery Products	\$	1,242,144	\$	1,225,069	1.4			
Refrigerated Foods		2,536,631		2,499,703	1.5			
Jennie-O Turkey Store		626,490		626,635				
International & Other		299,834		310,454	(3.4)			
TOTAL	\$	4,705,099	\$	4,661,861	0.9			
SEGMENT PROFIT								
Grocery Products	\$	199,796	\$	190,751	4.7			
Refrigerated Foods	φ	320,681	φ	324,451	4.7			
6		· · · · ·		69,797	· · · ·			
Jennie-O Turkey Store		55,653		,	(20.3)			
International & Other		39,303		45,505	(13.6)			
TOTAL SEGMENT PROFIT		615,433		630,504	(2.4)			
Net unallocated expense		(9,287)		28,698	(132.4)			
Noncontrolling interest		301		242	24.4			
EARNINGS BEFORE INCOME TAX	\$	625,021	\$	602,048	3.8			

* FY18 segment results have been adjusted to reflect the changes in the Grocery Products, Refrigerated Foods and Jennie-O Turkey Store segments.

HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS (Unaudited) (In thousands, except per share amounts)

	Thirteen Weeks Ended			Twenty-Six Weeks Ended				
	1	April 28, 2019	1	April 29, 2018*	1	April 28, 2019	I	April 29, 2018*
Net sales	\$ 2	2,344,744	\$ 1	2,330,568	\$ 4	4,705,099	\$ 4	4,661,861
Cost of products sold		1,875,595		1,837,765		3,747,616	-	3,670,762
GROSS PROFIT		469,149		492,803		957,483		991,099
Selling, general and administrative		170,076		204,549		363,620		424,421
Equity in earnings of affiliates		13,291		13,486		24,749		37,017
OPERATING INCOME		312,364		301,740		618,612		603,695
Interest & investment income (expense)		11,297		2,144		18,171		10,083
Interest expense		(5,615)		(7,001)		(11,762)		(11,730)
EARNINGS BEFORE INCOME TAXES		318,046		296,883		625,021		602,048
Provision for income taxes		35,410		59,361		100,866		61,315
(effective tax rate)		11.1%		20.0%		16.1%		10.2%
NET EARNINGS		282,636		237,522		524,155		540,733
Less: Net earnings attributable to noncontrolling interest		207		138		301		242
NET EARNINGS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION	\$	282,429	\$	237,384	\$	523,854	\$	540,491
NET EARNINGS PER SHARE								
Basic	\$	0.53	\$	0.45	\$	0.98	\$	1.02
Diluted	\$	0.52	\$	0.44	\$	0.96	\$	1.00
WEIGHTED-AVERAGE SHARES OUTST	ANI	DING						
Basic		535,480		529,799		534,988		529,626
Diluted		546,330		542,811		546,724		543,146
Dividends declared per share	\$	0.2100	\$	0.1875	\$	0.4200	\$	0.3750

*Restated per ASU 2017-07, Compensation - Retirement Benefits: Improving the Presentation of Net Periodic Pension Cost and Net Periodic Postretirement Benefit Cost (Topic 715).

HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION (Unaudited) (In thousands)

	April 28, 2019	0	october 28, 2018
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 639,327	\$	459,136
Short-term marketable securities	6,675		
Accounts receivable	537,447		600,438
Inventories	1,030,574		963,527
Income taxes receivable	293		3,995
Prepaid expenses	24,219		16,342
Other current assets	12,132		6,662
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	 2,250,667		2,050,100
Goodwill	2,486,635		2,714,116
Other intangibles	1,040,392		1,207,219
Pension assets	205,229		195,153
Investments in and receivables from affiliates	276,478		273,153
Other assets	181,777		189,951
Property, plant & equipment, net	1,494,567		1,512,600
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 7,935,745	\$	8,142,292
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' INVESTMENT			
Accounts payable	\$ 523,673	\$	618,830
Accrued expenses	59,144		48,298
Accrued worker's compensation	24,935		24,594
Accrued marketing	126,252		118,887
Employee-related expenses	182,720		224,736
Taxes payable	22,154		2,490
Interest and dividends payable	 112,798		101,079
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,051,676		1,138,914
Long-term debt, less current maturities	250,000		624,840
Pension and post-retirement benefits	488,479		477,557
Other long-term liabilities	101,378		99,070
Deferred income taxes	142,428		197,093
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(278,135)		(243,498)
Other shareholder's investment	 6,179,919		5,848,316
TOTAL LIABILITIES & SHAREHOLDERS' INVESTMENT	\$ 7,935,745	\$	8,142,292

HORMEL FOODS CORPORATION CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (Unaudited) (In thousands)

	venty-Six V April 28, 2019	Veeks Ended April 29, 2018		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES	 			
Net earnings	\$ 524,155	\$	540,733	
Depreciation and amortization of intangibles	80,743		80,316	
(Increase) decrease in working capital	(166,487)		(77,785)	
Other	(72,818)		(99,923)	
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	 365,593		443,341	
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Net (purchase) sale of securities	(6,664)		—	
Proceeds from sale of business	473,885		—	
Acquisitions of businesses/intangibles			(857,673)	
Net purchases of property/equipment	(56,454)		(134,721)	
Decrease in investments, equity in affiliates, and other assets	14,060		5,934	
NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES	 424,827		(986,460)	
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Net proceeds (payments) from short-term debt			185,000	
Net (payments) proceeds from long-term debt	(374,840)		374,763	
Dividends paid on common stock	(212,287)		(189,139)	
Share repurchase	(67,622)		(44,741)	
Other	44,277		29,978	
NET CASH (USED IN) PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES	 (610,472)		355,861	
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	243		4,707	
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	 180,191		(182,551)	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	459,136		444,122	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF QUARTER	\$ 639,327	\$	261,571	