

TYSON FOODS INC  
Form 424B5  
March 16, 2006  
**Table of Contents**

This prospectus supplement relates to effective registration statements under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, but is not complete and may be changed. This prospectus supplement is not an offer to sell these securities and we are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

**Subject to Completion**

**Preliminary Prospectus Supplement dated March 16, 2006**

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

**(To Prospectus dated March 15, 2006 and Prospectus dated June 1, 1998)**

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)  
Registration No. 333-53171  
Registration No. 333-132434

\$

## **Tyson Foods, Inc.**

**% Notes due 20**

---

We will pay interest on the notes on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of each year, beginning \_\_\_\_\_, 2006. The notes will mature on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_. We may redeem the notes at any time at the price specified in this prospectus supplement.

The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and will rank equally with our other senior unsecured indebtedness. The notes will be issued only in registered form in denominations of \$1,000. The notes are not and will not be listed on any securities exchange.

Investing in the notes involves risks that are described in the Risk Factors section beginning on page S-3 of this prospectus supplement.

---

	<u>Per Note</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public offering price (1)	%	\$
Underwriting discount	%	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to Tyson	%	\$

(1) Plus accrued interest from March , 2006, if settlement occurs after that date

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The notes will be ready for delivery in book-entry form only through The Depository Trust Company on or about March , 2006.

---

*Sole Book-Running Manager*

**Merrill Lynch & Co.**

---

*Joint Lead Managers*

**Barclays Capital**

**JP Morgan**

---

**Rabo Securities USA**

**Scotia Capital**

**Stephens Inc.**

**SunTrust Robinson Humphrey**



The date of this prospectus supplement is March , 2006.

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Prospectus Supplement**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>About this Prospectus Supplement</u>	ii
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	iii
<u>Prospectus Supplement Summary</u>	S-1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-3
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-9
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-9
<u>Description of the Notes</u>	S-10
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-13

**Prospectus dated March 15, 2006**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>About this Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	1
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	2
<u>The Company</u>	3
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	3
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	4
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	20
<u>Legal Matters</u>	21
<u>Experts</u>	21

**Prospectus dated June 1, 1998**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>Available Information</u>	1
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	2
<u>The Company</u>	3
<u>Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	3
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	4
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	5
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	17
<u>Legal Matters</u>	18
<u>Experts</u>	18

---

**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the terms of the offering of the notes. The second part is the accompanying prospectus dated March 15, 2006, and the accompanying prospectus dated June 1, 1998. The accompanying prospectus dated March 15, 2006, relates to the offering of \_\_\_\_\_ of the notes, and the accompanying prospectus dated June 1, 1998, relates to the offering of the remaining \$500,000,000 of the notes. We refer to the accompanying prospectus dated March 15, 2006, and the accompanying prospectus dated June 1, 1998, collectively as the accompanying prospectus. The accompanying prospectus contains a description of the notes and gives more general information, some of which may not apply to the notes.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these notes in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference is accurate only as of their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed materially since those dates.

When we refer to Tyson, the Company, we, us or our in this prospectus supplement or when we otherwise refer to ourselves in this prospectus supplement, we mean Tyson Foods, Inc., excluding, unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires, our subsidiaries.

**Table of Contents**

**SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein or therein contain forward-looking statements with respect to our current views and estimates of future economic circumstances, industry conditions, Company performance and financial results, including, without limitation, debt-levels, return on invested capital, value-added product growth, capital expenditures, tax rates, access to foreign markets and dividend policy. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of factors and uncertainties that could cause the Company's actual results and experiences to differ materially from the anticipated results and expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements. The Company wishes to caution readers not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date made. Tyson undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Among the factors that may cause actual results and experiences to differ from the anticipated results and expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements are the following: (i) fluctuations in the cost and availability of raw materials, such as live cattle, live swine or feed grains; (ii) market conditions for finished products, including competition from other global and domestic food processors, the supply and pricing of alternative proteins, and the demand for alternative proteins; (iii) risks associated with effectively evaluating derivatives and hedging activities; (iv) access to foreign markets together with foreign economic conditions, including currency fluctuations, import/export restrictions and foreign politics; (v) outbreak of a livestock disease (such as avian influenza (AI) or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)) which could have an effect on livestock owned by the Company, the availability of livestock for purchase by the Company, consumer perception of certain protein products or the Company's ability to access certain domestic and foreign markets; (vi) successful rationalization of existing facilities, and the operating efficiencies of the facilities; (vii) changes in the availability and relative costs of labor and contract growers, and the ability of the Company to maintain good relationships with employees, labor unions, contract growers and independent producers providing livestock to the Company; (viii) issues related to food safety, including costs resulting from product recalls, regulatory compliance and any related claims or litigation; (ix) changes in consumer preference and diets, and the Company's ability to identify and react to consumer trends; (x) significant marketing plan changes by large customers, or the loss of one or more large customers; (xi) adverse results from litigation; (xii) risks associated with leverage, including cost increases due to rising interest rates or changes in debt ratings or outlook; (xiii) changes in regulations and laws (both domestic and foreign), including changes in accounting standards, tax laws, environmental laws and occupational, health and safety laws; (xiv) the ability of the Company to make effective acquisitions and successfully integrate newly acquired businesses into existing operations; (xv) effectiveness of advertising and marketing programs; (xvi) the effect of, or changes in, general economic conditions; and (xvii) other risk factors described in the section of this prospectus supplement entitled "Risk Factors."

**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY**

**Our Company**

Tyson is the world's largest protein company and the second largest publicly traded food company in the Fortune 500 with one of the most recognized brand names in the food industry. Tyson produces, distributes and markets chicken, beef, pork and prepared foods and related allied products. Our primary operations are conducted in four segments: Chicken, Beef, Pork and Prepared Foods. Some of the key factors that influence our business are customer demand for our products, the ability to maintain and grow relationships with customers and introduce new and innovative products to the marketplace, accessibility of international markets, market prices for our chicken, beef and pork products, the cost of live cattle and hogs, raw materials and grain and operating efficiencies of our facilities.

Our executive offices are located at 2210 West Oaklawn Drive, Springdale, Arkansas 72762-6999, and our telephone number is (479) 290-4000.

**THE OFFERING**

The following summary contains basic information about the notes. It does not contain all the information that is important to you. For a more complete understanding of the notes, please refer to the section of this prospectus supplement entitled "Description of the Notes" and the section of the accompanying prospectus entitled "Description of Debt Securities."

<b>Issuer</b>	Tyson Foods, Inc.
<b>Notes Offered</b>	\$ _____ aggregate principal amount of _____ % Notes due 20_____.
<b>Maturity</b>	_____, 20_____.
<b>Interest Payment Dates</b>	_____ and _____ of each year, beginning _____, 2006.
<b>Ranking</b>	The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and will rank equally with our other senior unsecured indebtedness.
<b>Interest Rate Adjustment</b>	The interest rate payable on the notes will be subject to adjustment from time to time if the debt rating applicable to the notes is downgraded. See "Description of the Notes" Interest Rate Adjustment in this prospectus supplement.
<b>Optional Redemption</b>	We may redeem some or all of the notes at any time prior to maturity at the redemption prices described in this prospectus supplement. See "Description of the Notes" Optional Redemption in this prospectus supplement.

## Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

### **Covenants**

The indenture governing the notes contains certain covenants. See [Description of Debt Securities](#) [Certain Covenants](#) in the accompanying prospectus.

### **Use of Proceeds**

We expect to use the net proceeds of this offering toward the repayment of our outstanding indebtedness and for other general corporate purposes. See [Use of Proceeds](#) in this prospectus supplement.

### **Risk Factors**

See [Risk Factors](#) beginning on page S-3 of this prospectus supplement for important information regarding us and an investment in the notes.

S-1



**Table of Contents****SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA**

We have provided the following summary financial information for your reference. We have derived the summary information presented here from the financial statements we have incorporated by reference into the accompanying prospectus. You should read it together with our historical consolidated financial statements and the related notes incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) in the accompanying prospectus.

	Fiscal Year Ended			Three Months Ended	
	October 1, 2005	October 2, 2004	September 27, 2003	December 31, 2005	January 1, 2005
	(Restated)				
	(in millions)				
<b>Summary of Operations:</b>					
Sales	\$ 26,014	\$ 26,441	\$ 24,549	\$ 6,454	\$ 6,452
Cost of sales	24,274	24,550	22,805	6,106	6,089
Gross profit	1,740	1,891	1,744	348	363
Operating income	765	925	837	114	129
Interest expense	227	275	296	51	58
Provision for income taxes	156	232	186	21	28
Net income	\$ 372	\$ 403	\$ 337	\$ 39	\$ 48
<b>Balance Sheet Data (at end of period):</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 40	\$ 33	\$ 25	\$ 30	\$ 41
Total assets	10,504	10,464	10,486	10,699	10,344
Net property, plant and equipment	4,007	3,964	4,039	4,069	3,957
Total debt	2,995	3,362	3,604	2,988	3,070
Shareholders' equity	4,671	4,292	3,954	4,711	4,342
<b>Other Financial Data:</b>					
Cash flow from operations	\$ 999	\$ 932	\$ 820	\$ 183	\$ 422
Depreciation and amortization	501	490	458	125	126
Capital expenditures	571	486	402	189	110
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	2.88	3.01	2.54	1.86	2.09

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

*An investment in the notes is subject to various risks. These risks should be considered carefully with the information provided elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before deciding to invest in the notes. In addition, please read **Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements** in this prospectus supplement, where we describe additional uncertainties associated with our business and the forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.*

**Fluctuations in commodity prices and in the availability of raw materials, especially feed grains, live cattle, live swine, and ingredients, could harm our earnings.**

Our results of operations and financial condition are dependent upon the cost and supply of raw materials such as feed grains, live cattle, live swine and ingredients as well as the selling prices for many of our products, which are determined by constantly changing market forces of supply and demand over which we have limited or no control. Corn and soybean meal are major production costs in the poultry industry, representing roughly 40% of the cost of our chicken products. As a result, fluctuations in prices for these feed ingredients can significantly affect our earnings. The production of feed ingredients is affected by, among other things, weather patterns throughout the world, the global level of supply inventories and demand for grain and other feed ingredients, as well as the agricultural policies of the U.S. and foreign governments.

We do not have facilities of our own to raise cattle in the United States; however, our beef facility in Canada has a feedyard that supplies approximately 20% of its live cattle needs. At times in the United States, we raise a small number of cattle under contract at feedyards owned by third parties; however, most of the cattle we process are purchased from independent producers. We have cattle buyers located throughout cattle producing areas that visit feed yards and buy live cattle on the open spot market. We also enter into various risk-sharing and procurement arrangements with producers that help secure a supply of livestock for daily start-up operations at our facilities. The majority of our live swine supply is obtained through various procurement arrangements with independent producers. We employ buyers who purchase hogs on a daily basis, generally a few days before the animals are required for processing. In addition, we raise live swine and sell feeder pigs to independent producers for feeding to processing weight, and have contract growers feed a minimal amount of company owned live swine for our own processing needs. Any decrease in the supply of cattle or swine on the spot market could increase the price of these raw materials and further increase our per head cost of production due to lower capacity utilization, which could adversely affect our financial results.

**Market demand for our products may fluctuate due to competition from global and domestic food processors.**

We face competition from other global, national and regional food producers and processors. The factors on which we compete include:

price;

product safety and quality;

brand identification;

breadth and depth of the product offering;

availability of our products;

customer service; and

credit terms.

S-3

## **Table of Contents**

Demand for our products also is affected by competitors' promotional spending, the effectiveness of our advertising and marketing programs, and the availability or price of competing proteins which could, at times, affect demand for our products.

### **Outbreaks of livestock diseases can significantly affect our ability to conduct our operations and demand for our products.**

The demand for our products can be significantly affected by outbreaks of livestock diseases, and such occurrences can have a significant impact on our financial results. Efforts are taken to control disease risks by adherence to good production practices and extensive precautionary measures designed to ensure the health of livestock. However, the outbreaks of disease and other events which may be beyond our control, either in our own livestock or cattle and hogs owned by independent producers who sell livestock to us, could significantly affect demand for our products, consumer perceptions of certain protein products, the availability of livestock for purchase by us and our ability to conduct our operations. Moreover, the outbreak of livestock diseases, particularly in our Chicken segment, could have a significant effect on the livestock we own by requiring us to, among other things, destroy any affected livestock. Furthermore, an outbreak of disease could result in governmental restrictions on the import and export of our fresh chicken, beef or other products to or from our suppliers, facilities or customers. This could also create adverse publicity that may have an adverse effect on our ability to market our products successfully and on our financial results.

*H5N1.* In recent months there has been substantial publicity regarding a highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza, known as H5N1, which has been affecting Asia since 2002 and which has recently been found in other parts of the world. It is widely believed that H5N1 is being spread by migratory birds, such as ducks and geese. There have also been some cases where H5N1 is believed to have passed from birds to humans as humans came into contact with live birds that were infected with the disease. Public concerns about H5N1 have led to a reduction in demand and price for our poultry products outside of the United States. Although H5N1 has not yet been identified in North America, there have been outbreaks of low pathogenic strains of avian influenza in North America, including in the U.S. in 2002 and 2004 and in Mexico for the past several years that, from time to time, have impacted our operations. Further, these low pathogenic outbreaks have not generated the same level of concern, or received the same level of publicity or been accompanied by the same reduction in demand for poultry products in certain countries as that associated with the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain. Accordingly, even if the H5N1 strain does not spread to North America, there can be no assurance that it will not significantly adversely affect demand for North American produced poultry internationally and/or domestically, and, if it were to spread to North America, there can be no assurance that it would not significantly affect our ability to conduct our operations and/or demand for our products, in each case in a manner having a significant adverse effect on our financial results.

*BSE.* In December 2003, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that a single case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) had been diagnosed in a Washington State dairy cow. The origin of the animal was subsequently traced to a farm in Canada. Shortly after the announcement, several countries (including Japan and South Korea) closed their borders to the importation of edible beef products from the United States. Responding to the loss of export markets, live cattle prices in the United States declined by approximately 18% during the following week. Also in 2003, the Canadian government announced the first confirmed case of BSE in Canada which led the USDA to close the United States' border to the import of live Canadian cattle. This reduced the supply of live cattle available for processing at our domestic facilities and contributed to lower facility capacity utilization. The confirmed case in Canada also led several countries to close their borders to the import of edible beef products from Canada, which affected the international sales of our Lakeside, Alberta facility. In June 2005, the USDA announced a second confirmed case of BSE in the United States and in March 2006, announced the third confirmed case, furthering uncertainty as to whether or when certain closed markets may reopen, and whether or when existing open markets may close. A number of these countries subsequently reopened their borders to U.S. and Canadian beef; however, Japan recently closed its borders again due to the inadvertent shipment of restricted product by a small processor of veal.

**Table of Contents**

**We are subject to risks associated with our international operations, which could negatively affect our sales to customers in foreign countries as well as our operations and assets in such countries.**

In fiscal year 2005, we derived approximately 21% of income before taxes from foreign operations and we exported our products to more than 80 foreign countries. Our major export markets include Canada, China, the European Union, Japan, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Russia, Taiwan and South Korea. Our export sales for fiscal year 2005 totaled \$2.1 billion. In addition, we had approximately \$202 million of long-lived assets located in foreign countries, primarily Canada and Mexico, at the end of the 2005 fiscal year.

As a result, we are subject to various risks and uncertainties relating to international sales and operations, including:

the imposition of tariffs, quotas, trade barriers, other trade protection measures imposed by foreign countries in regards to the import of poultry, beef and pork products, in addition to various import or export licensing requirements imposed by various foreign countries;

the closing of borders by foreign countries to the import of poultry, beef and pork due to animal disease or other perceived health or safety issues;

the impact of currency exchange rate fluctuations between the U.S. dollar and foreign currencies, particularly the Canadian dollar, the Mexican peso, the European euro, the British pound sterling, the Brazilian real and the Chinese yuan;

foreign political and economic conditions;

difficulties and costs associated with complying with, and enforcing remedies under, a wide variety of complex domestic and international laws, treaties and regulations, including, without limitation, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act;

different regulatory structures and unexpected changes in regulatory environments;

tax rates that may exceed those in the United States and earnings that may be subject to withholding requirements and incremental taxes upon repatriation;

potentially negative consequences from changes in tax laws; and

increased costs, disruptions in shipping or reduced availability of freight transportation.

The occurrence of any of these events in the markets where we operate or in other developing markets could jeopardize or limit our ability to transact business in those markets and could adversely affect our revenues and operating results.

**We depend on the availability of, and good relations with, our employees.**

We have approximately 114,000 employees, of which approximately 34,000 are covered by collective bargaining agreements or are members of labor unions. Our operations depend on the availability and relative costs of labor and maintaining good relations with employees and the labor unions. If we fail to maintain good relations with our employees or with the unions, we may experience labor strikes or work stoppages.

**We depend on contract growers and independent producers to supply us with livestock**

We contract primarily with independent contract growers to raise our live chickens that are processed in our poultry operations. A majority of our cattle and hogs are purchased from independent producers who sell the livestock to the company under marketing contracts or on the open market. If we do not attract and maintain contracts with our growers, or maintain marketing relationships with independent producers, our production operations could be negatively impacted.

## **Table of Contents**

### **If our products become contaminated, we may be subject to product liability claims and product recalls.**

Our products may be subject to contamination by disease-producing organisms or pathogens, such as *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella* and generic *E. coli*. These pathogens are found generally in the environment and, therefore, there is a risk that they, as a result of food processing, could be present in our products. These pathogens can also be introduced to our products as a result of improper handling at the further processing, foodservice or consumer level. These risks may be controlled, but may not be eliminated, by adherence to good manufacturing practices and finished product testing. We have little, if any, control over proper handling procedures once our products have been shipped for distribution. Even an inadvertent shipment of contaminated products may be a violation of law and may lead to increased risk of exposure to product liability claims, product recalls (which may not entirely mitigate the risk of product liability claims), increased scrutiny and penalties, including injunctive relief and plant closings, by federal and state regulatory agencies, and adverse publicity which could exacerbate the associated negative consumer reaction. Any of these occurrences may have an adverse effect on our financial results.

### **Our operations are subject to the general risks of litigation.**

We are involved on an ongoing basis in litigation arising in the ordinary course of business or otherwise. Trends in litigation may include class actions involving consumers, shareholders, employees or injured persons, and claims relating to commercial, labor, employment, antitrust, securities or environmental matters. Litigation trends and the outcome of litigation cannot be predicted with certainty and adverse litigation trends and outcomes could significantly adversely affect our financial results.

### **Our level of indebtedness and the terms of our indebtedness could adversely affect our business and liquidity position.**

At December 31, 2005, we had approximately \$3.0 billion of indebtedness outstanding. Moreover, we had a borrowing capacity of \$1.5 billion, consisting of \$785 million available under our \$1.0 billion unsecured revolving credit facility and \$750 million under our accounts receivable securitization. We expect that our indebtedness, including borrowings under our credit agreement, may increase from time to time in the future for various reasons, including fluctuations in operating results, capital expenditures and possible acquisitions. Our consolidated indebtedness level could significantly affect our business because:

it may significantly limit or impair our ability to obtain financing in the future;

a downgrade in our credit rating could restrict or impede our ability to access capital markets at attractive rates and increase our borrowing costs;

it may reduce our flexibility to respond to changing business and economic conditions or to take advantage of business opportunities that may arise;

a portion of our cash flow from operations must be dedicated to interest payments on our indebtedness and is not available for other purposes, which amount would increase if prevailing interest rates rise; and

it may restrict our ability to pay dividends.

## Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

In addition, our credit agreement requires us to meet specified financial ratios and limits our ability to enter into various transactions. Our ability to meet those financial ratios can be affected by events beyond our control, and we cannot assure you that we will meet those ratios. As of March 2, 2006, we entered into an agreement with the lenders under our revolving credit facility to amend the debt/EBITDA covenant, providing us with the financial flexibility we need to operate under current market conditions. If we default on any of our indebtedness, or if we are unable to obtain necessary liquidity, our indebtedness would be due and payable immediately and our business could be significantly adversely affected.

S-6



## **Table of Contents**

### **Domestic and international government regulations could impose material costs.**

Our operations are subject to extensive federal, state and foreign laws and regulations by authorities that oversee food safety standards and the processing, packaging, storage, distribution, advertising and labeling of our products. Our facilities for processing chicken, beef, pork, prepared foods, milling feed and for housing live chickens and swine are subject to a variety of federal, state and local laws relating to the protection of the environment, including provisions relating to the discharge of materials into the environment, and to the health and safety of our employees. Our chicken, beef and pork processing facilities are participants in the government's Hazardous Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) program and are subject to the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002. In addition, our chicken, beef, pork and prepared foods products are subject to inspection prior to distribution, primarily by the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Food and Drug Administration. Loss of or failure to obtain necessary permits and registrations could delay or prevent us from meeting current product demand, introducing new products, building new facilities or acquiring new businesses and could adversely affect operating results. Additionally, we are routinely subject to new or modified laws, regulations and accounting standards. If we are found to be out of compliance with applicable laws and regulations in these or other areas, we could be subject to civil remedies, including fines, injunctions, recalls or asset seizures, as well as potential criminal sanctions, any of which could have a significant adverse effect on our financial results.

### **A material acquisition could affect our operations and financial condition.**

We continually evaluate potential acquisitions and we may seek to expand our business through the acquisition of companies, processing plants, technologies, products and services from others, which could include material acquisitions. A material acquisition may involve a number of risks, including:

failure to realize the anticipated benefits of the acquisition;

difficulty integrating acquired businesses, technologies, operations and personnel with our existing business;

diversion of management attention in connection with negotiating acquisitions and integrating the businesses acquired;

exposure to unforeseen or undisclosed liabilities of acquired companies; and

the need to obtain additional debt or equity financing for any acquisition which, if obtained, could significantly affect our various financial ratios.

We may not be able to address these problems and successfully develop these acquired companies or businesses into profitable units of our company. If we are unable to do this, expansion could adversely affect our financial results.

### **Market fluctuations could harm our operating results as we hedge certain transactions.**

## Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

Our business is exposed to fluctuating market conditions, and we use derivative financial instruments to reduce our exposure to various market risks including changes in commodity prices, interest rates and foreign exchange rates, as well as credit risk concentrations. We hold certain positions, primarily in grain and livestock futures, that do not qualify as hedges for financial reporting purposes. These positions are marked to fair value and the unrealized gains and losses are reported in earnings at each reporting date. Therefore, losses on these contracts adversely affect our reported operating results. For those positions which do qualify as hedges for financial reporting purposes, if commodity prices are decreasing, our cost of goods could be more than parties purchasing commodities on the open market. Thus, although these hedges protect us from upward movements in prices for commodity products, the use of such instruments may limit our ability to participate in cost savings from declining commodity prices.

S-7

## **Table of Contents**

### **Deterioration of economic conditions could harm our business.**

Our business may be adversely affected by changes in national or global economic conditions, including inflation, interest rates, availability of capital markets, consumer spending rates, energy availability and costs (including fuel surcharges), and the effects of governmental initiatives to manage economic conditions. Any such changes could significantly adversely affect the demand for our beef, poultry and pork products, or the cost and availability of our needed raw materials, cooking ingredients and packaging materials, thereby adversely affecting our financial results.

### **Changes in consumer preference could adversely affect our business.**

The food industry in general is subject to changing consumer trends, demands and preferences. Trends within the food industry change often and failure to identify and react to changes in these trends could lead to, among other things, reduced demand and price reductions for our products, and could have an adverse effect on our financial results.

### **The loss of one or more of our largest customers could adversely affect our business.**

Our business could suffer significant set backs in revenues and operating income if our customers' plans and/or markets should change significantly, or if we lost one or more of our largest customers, including, for example, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. who accounted for approximately 13.0% of our revenues in 2005. Many of our agreements with our customers are generally short-term, due primarily to the nature of our products, industry practice and the fluctuation in demand and price for our products.

### **Extreme weather or natural disasters could adversely affect our business.**

Extreme weather or natural disasters, including droughts, floods, excessive cold or heat, hurricanes or other storms, could impair the health or growth of our livestock or interfere with our operations due to power outages, fuel shortages, damage to our production and processing facilities or disruption of transportation channels, among other things. Any of these factors could have an adverse effect on our financial results.

### **Members of the Tyson family can exercise significant control over us.**

As of December 31, 2005, members of the Tyson family beneficially owned, in the aggregate, 99.98% of our outstanding Class B common stock and 1.46% of our outstanding Class A common stock, giving them control of over 80% of the total voting power of our outstanding common stock. In addition, three members of the Tyson family serve on our Board of Directors. As a result, members of the Tyson family have the ability to exert substantial influence or actual control over our management and affairs and over substantially all matters requiring action by our stockholders, including amendments to our restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws, the election and removal of directors, any proposed merger, consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of our assets and other corporate transactions. This concentration of ownership may also have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control otherwise favored by our other stockholders and could depress our stock price. Additionally, as a result of the Tyson family's significant ownership of our outstanding common stock, we have relied on the controlled company exemption from certain corporate governance requirements of the New York Stock Exchange, and therefore, we have elected not to implement

## Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

rules that provide for a majority of independent directors, or a nominating committee to identify and recommend nominees to our Board of Directors. Pursuant to these exemptions, the charter of our compensation committee, which is made up of independent directors, is not required to provide the committee with the power to determine the compensation of our executive officers, including our chief executive officer.

S-8

**Table of Contents****USE OF PROCEEDS**

We estimate the net proceeds to us from the sale of the notes will be approximately \$ \_\_\_\_\_ million, after deducting the underwriters' discounts and other expenses of the offering payable by us. We expect to use the net proceeds of this offering toward the repayment of our outstanding \$750 million principal amount of 7.25% Notes due October 1, 2006 and for other general corporate purposes. Pending any specific application, the net proceeds from the offering may be invested in short-term marketable securities.

**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our consolidated capitalization as of December 31, 2005, and as adjusted to give effect to the issuance and sale of the notes and the use of the proceeds from this offering as set forth under **Use of Proceeds** above. This table should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus. See **Where You Can Find More Information** in the accompanying prospectus.

	<b>December 31, 2005</b>	
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>As Adjusted</b>
	(\$ in millions, except par value)	
<b>Long-term debt:</b>		
Senior notes and notes (rates ranging from 6.13% to 8.25%)	\$ 2,529	
Term loan (5.12% effective rate at December 31, 2005)	345	
Institutional notes (10.84% effective rate at December 31, 2005)	10	
Leveraged equipment loans (rates ranging from 4.67% to 5.99%)	57	
Other	47	
Notes offered hereby		
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Less current debt	(878)	
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total long-term debt	\$ 2,110	
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Shareholders' equity:</b>		
Common stock (\$0.10 par value):		
Class A - authorized 900 million shares; issued 268 million shares	\$ 27	\$ 27
Class B - authorized 900 million shares; issued 102 million shares	10	10
Capital in excess of par value	1,815	1,815
Retained earnings	3,057	3,057
Accumulated other comprehensive income	32	32
Less treasury stock, at cost - 15 million shares	(230)	(230)
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total shareholders' equity	4,711	4,711
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total capitalization	\$ 6,821	
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>



**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES**

*The following description of the particular terms of the notes supplements and, to the extent inconsistent therewith, replaces the description of the general terms and provisions of the debt securities set forth in the accompanying prospectus, to which description reference is hereby made. Whenever a defined term is referred to and not herein defined, the definition thereof is contained in the accompanying prospectus or in the Indenture referred to therein.*

**General**

The notes constitute a single series of debt securities to be issued pursuant to an Indenture, dated as of June 1, 1995, between the Company and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. (formerly The Chase Manhattan Bank), as Trustee. The notes will be initially limited to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in aggregate principal amount and will mature on \_\_\_\_\_.

The notes will bear interest at the rate per annum set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement from the date of issuance or from the most recent interest payment date to which interest has been paid or provided for, payable semiannually on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of each year, beginning \_\_\_\_\_, 2006, to the persons in whose names the notes are registered at the close of business on the immediately preceding \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, respectively, whether or not such day is a Business Day.

The notes will (i) rank equally with other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Company (excluding subsidiary debt) for borrowed money, of which approximately \$ \_\_\_\_\_ was outstanding at \_\_\_\_\_, 2006, (ii) be effectively subordinated (with respect to underlying collateral) to secured indebtedness of the Company (excluding subsidiary debt), of which approximately \$ \_\_\_\_\_ was outstanding at \_\_\_\_\_, 2006, and (iii) be structurally subordinated to all indebtedness of the Company's subsidiaries, of which approximately \$ \_\_\_\_\_ was outstanding at \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

**Interest Rate Adjustment**

The interest rate payable on the notes will be subject to adjustment from time to time if either Moody's Investors Service, Inc., referred to as Moody's, or Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a division of McGraw-Hill, Inc. referred to as S&P, downgrades (or subsequently upgrades) the debt rating applicable to the notes (a rating \_\_\_\_\_) as set forth below.

If the rating from Moody's is decreased to a rating set forth in the immediately following table, the interest rate on the notes will increase from those set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement by the percentage set opposite that rating:

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Ba1	.25%
Ba2	.50%

## Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

Ba3	.75%
B1 or below	1.00%

If the rating from S&P is decreased to a rating set forth in the immediately following table, the interest rate on the notes will increase from those set forth on the cover page of the prospectus supplement by the percentage set opposite that rating:

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
BB+	.25%
BB	.50%
BB-	.75%
B+ or below	1.00%

S-10



---

## **Table of Contents**

If Moody's or S&P subsequently increases its rating to the rating in effect on the date of this prospectus supplement, the interest rate on the notes will be decreased such that the interest rate for the notes equals the interest rate set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. If Moody's or S&P subsequently increases its rating to any of the threshold ratings set forth above, the interest rate on each of the notes will be decreased such that the interest rate for the notes equals the interest rate set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement plus the percentages set opposite the ratings from the tables above in effect immediately following the increase. Each adjustment required by any decrease or increase in a rating set forth above, whether occasioned by the action of Moody's or S&P, shall be made independent of any and all other adjustments. In no event shall (1) the interest rate for the notes be reduced to below the interest rate set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, and (2) the total increase in the interest rate on the notes exceed 2.00% above the interest rate set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. If Moody's increases its rating to Baa2 and S&P increases its rating to BBB+, the interest rate on each of the notes will remain at, or be decreased to, as the case may be, the interest rate set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and no subsequent downgrades in a rating shall result in an adjustment of the interest rate on the notes as provided herein.

If either Moody's or S&P ceases to provide a rating, any subsequent increase or decrease in the interest rate of the notes necessitated by a reduction or increase in the rating by the agency continuing to provide the rating shall be twice the percentage set forth in the applicable table above. No adjustments in the interest rate of the notes shall be made solely as a result of either Moody's or S&P ceasing to provide a rating. If both Moody's and S&P cease to provide a rating, the interest rate on the notes will increase to, or remain at, as the case may be, 2.00% above the interest rate set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement.

Any interest rate increase or decrease, as described above, will take effect from the first day of the interest period during which a rating change requires an adjustment in the interest rate.

## **Optional Redemption**

We may redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at any time at a redemption price equal to the greater of:

100% of the principal amount of the notes plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon to the date of redemption; or

the sum of the remaining scheduled payments of principal of and interest on the notes being redeemed (not including any portion of the payments of interest accrued as of the date of redemption), discounted to its present value as of the date of redemption on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Adjusted Treasury Rate, as determined by the Quotation Agent, plus \_\_\_\_\_ basis points, plus accrued and unpaid interest on the principal amount being redeemed to the date of redemption.

Adjusted Treasury Rate means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per annum equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date.

Comparable Treasury Issue means the United States Treasury security selected by the Quotation Agent as having an actual or interpolated maturity comparable to the remaining term of the notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of such notes.

## Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any redemption date, (i) the average of the Reference Treasury Quotations for such redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (ii) if the Trustee obtains fewer than three such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such Quotations.

S-11

**Table of Contents**

Quotation Agent means the Reference Treasury Dealer appointed by us.

Reference Treasury Dealer means Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and their successors and four other nationally recognized investment banking firms that are Primary Treasury Dealers specified from time to time by us. However, if the foregoing shall cease to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealer in New York City (a Primary Treasury Dealer), we shall substitute therefor another Primary Treasury Dealer.

Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by us, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Trustee by such Reference Treasury Dealer at 3:30 p.m., New York City time, on the third Business Day preceding such redemption date.

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of the notes to be redeemed. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the notes or portions thereof called for redemption.

**Book-Entry System**

Upon issuance, the notes will be represented by one or more global securities deposited with, or on behalf of the Depository. The global securities representing the notes will be registered in the name of the depository or its nominee. Except under the circumstances described in the accompanying prospectus under Description of Debt Securities Book-Entry System, the notes will not be issuable in definitive form. So long as the notes are represented by one or more global securities, the depository or its nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of such notes for all purposes under the Indenture, and the beneficial owners of such notes will be entitled only to those rights and benefits afforded to them in accordance with the depository's regular operating procedures. See Description of Debt Securities Book-Entry System in the accompanying prospectus.

A further description of the depository's procedures with respect to global securities is set forth in the accompanying prospectus under Description of Debt Securities Book-Entry System. The depository has confirmed to the Company, the underwriters and the Trustee that it intends to follow such procedures with respect to the notes.

**Table of Contents****UNDERWRITING**

We intend to offer the notes through the underwriters. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, is acting as representative of the underwriters named below. Subject to the terms and conditions contained in a underwriting agreement between us and the underwriters, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters and the underwriters severally have agreed to purchase from us, the principal amount of the notes listed opposite their names below.

<u>Underwriter</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	\$
Barclays Capital Inc.	
J.P. Morgan Securities Inc.	
Rabo Securities USA, Inc.	
SunTrust Capital Markets, Inc.	
Scotia Capital (USA) Inc	
Stephens Inc.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>

The underwriters have agreed to purchase all of the notes sold pursuant to the underwriting agreement if any of these notes are purchased. If an underwriter defaults, the underwriting agreement provides that the purchase commitments of the non defaulting underwriters may be increased or the underwriting agreement may be terminated.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

The underwriters are offering the notes, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued to and accepted by them, subject to approval of legal matters by their counsel, including the validity of the notes, and other conditions contained in the underwriting agreement, such as the receipt by the underwriters of officer's certificates and legal opinions. The underwriters reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part.

**Commissions and Discounts**

The underwriters have advised us that they propose initially to offer the notes to the public at the public offering price on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, and to dealers at that price less a concession not in excess of % of the principal amount of the notes. The underwriters may allow, and the dealers may reallow, a discount not in excess of % of the principal amount of the notes to other dealers. After the initial public offering, the public offering price, concession and discount may be changed.

The expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting discount, are estimated to be \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and are payable by us.

**New Issue of Notes**

The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. We do not intend to apply for listing of the notes on any national securities exchange or for quotation of the notes on any automated dealer quotation system. We have been advised by the underwriters that they presently intend to make a market in the

S-13

## **Table of Contents**

notes after completion of the offering. However, they are under no obligation to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without any notice. We cannot assure the liquidity of the trading market for the notes or that an active public market for the notes will develop. If an active public trading market for the notes does not develop, the market price and liquidity of the notes may be adversely affected.

## **Price Stabilization and Short Positions**

In connection with the offering, the underwriters are permitted to engage in transactions that stabilize the market price of the notes. Such transactions consist of bids or purchases to peg, fix or maintain the price of the notes. If the underwriters create a short position in the notes in connection with the offering, i.e., if they sell more notes than are on the cover page of this prospectus, the underwriters may reduce that short position by purchasing notes in the open market. Purchases of a security to stabilize the price or to reduce a short position could cause the price of the security to be higher than it might be in the absence of such purchases. Neither we nor any of the underwriters makes any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the notes. In addition, neither we nor any of the underwriters makes any representation that the underwriters will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

## **Other Relationships**

Some of the underwriters and their affiliates have engaged in, and may in the future engage in, investment banking and other commercial dealings in the ordinary course of business with us. They have received customary fees and commissions for these transactions. Affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders under our Five-Year Revolving Credit Agreement, dated September 28, 2005 and our Three-Year Term Loan Agreement, dated September 28, 2005. An affiliate of J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. serves as the trustee under the Indenture pursuant to which the notes will be issued.

**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS**

# **Tyson Foods, Inc.**

## **Debt Securities**

---

We may offer debt securities from time to time in one or more series. We will provide specific terms of any offering of these debt securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, as well as the documents incorporated and deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus, carefully before you invest.

---

**These securities have not been approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities commission, nor have these organizations determined that this prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

---

We may sell these debt securities on a continuous or delayed basis directly, through agents, dealers or underwriters as designated from time to time, or through a combination of these methods. We reserve the sole right to accept, and together with any agents, dealers and underwriters, reserve the right to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of debt securities. If any agents, dealers or underwriters are involved in the sale of any debt securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth any applicable commissions or discounts. Our net proceeds from the sale of debt securities also will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

---

The date of this prospectus is March 15, 2006.

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Prospectus**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>About this Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	1
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	2
<u>The Company</u>	3
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	3
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	4
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	20
<u>Legal Matters</u>	21
<u>Experts</u>	21

---

We have not authorized any person to give any information or to make any representation in connection with this offering other than those contained or incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and, if given or made, such information or representation must not be relied upon as having been so authorized. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorized, or in which the person is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. Neither the delivery of this prospectus nor any sale hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in our affairs since the date hereof, that the information contained herein is correct as of any time subsequent to its date, or that any information incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein is correct as of any time subsequent to its date.



**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of an automatic shelf registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, as a well-known seasoned issuer as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. Under the automatic shelf process, we may, over time, sell the debt securities described in this prospectus or in any applicable prospectus supplement in one or more offerings. The exhibits to our registration statement contain the full text of certain contracts and other important documents we have summarized in this prospectus. Since these summaries may not contain all the information that you may find important in deciding whether to purchase the debt securities we offer, you should review the full text of these documents. The registration statement and the exhibits can be obtained from the SEC as indicated under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the debt securities we may offer. Each time we sell debt securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the terms of those debt securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, together with the documents incorporated and deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the additional information described below under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

When we refer to Tyson, the Company, we, us or our in this prospectus or when we otherwise refer to ourselves in this prospectus, we mean Tyson Foods, Inc., excluding, unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires, our subsidiaries.

---

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public from the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C. located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE. You may also inspect the information we file with the SEC at the NYSE's offices at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. Information about us, including certain SEC filings, is also available at our Internet site at <http://ir.tysonfoodsinc.com>. However, the information on our Internet site is not a part of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference in this prospectus the information in other documents that we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and information in documents that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede information contained in documents filed earlier with the SEC or contained in this prospectus. We incorporate by reference in this prospectus the documents listed below and any future filings that we may make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, prior to the termination of the offering under this prospectus; *provided, however*, that we are not incorporating, in each case, any documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended October 1, 2005, and Amendment No. 1 on Form 10-K/A to such Form 10-K;

Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended December 31, 2005; and

**Table of Contents**

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed October 3, 2005, October 12, 2005, November 10, 2005, January 30, 2006 (as to Item 4.02) and March 7, 2006.

You may obtain a copy of any or all of the documents referred to above which may have been or may be incorporated by reference into this prospectus (excluding certain exhibits to the documents) at no cost to you by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Investor Relations Department

Tyson Foods, Inc.

P.O. Box 2020 Springdale, AR 72765-2020

(479) 290-5410

**SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus and the documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus contain forward-looking statements with respect to our current views and estimates of future economic circumstances, industry conditions, Company performance and financial results, including, without limitation, debt-levels, return on invested capital, value-added product growth, capital expenditures, tax rates, access to foreign markets and dividend policy. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of factors and uncertainties that could cause the Company's actual results and experiences to differ materially from the anticipated results and expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements. The Company wishes to caution readers not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date made. Tyson undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Among the factors that may cause actual results and experiences to differ from the anticipated results and expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements are the following: (i) fluctuations in the cost and availability of raw materials, such as live cattle, live swine or feed grains; (ii) market conditions for finished products, including competition from other global and domestic food processors, the supply and pricing of alternative proteins, and the demand for alternative proteins; (iii) risks associated with effectively evaluating derivatives and hedging activities; (iv) access to foreign markets together with foreign economic conditions, including currency fluctuations, import/export restrictions and foreign politics; (v) outbreak of a livestock disease (such as avian influenza (AI) or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)) which could have an effect on livestock owned by the Company, the availability of livestock for purchase by the Company, consumer perception of certain protein products or the Company's ability to access certain domestic and foreign markets; (vi) successful rationalization of existing facilities, and the operating efficiencies of the facilities; (vii) changes in the availability and relative costs of labor and contract growers, and the ability of the Company to maintain good relationships with employees, labor unions, contract growers and independent producers providing livestock to the Company; (viii) issues related to food safety, including costs resulting from product recalls, regulatory compliance and any related claims or litigation; (ix) changes in consumer preference and diets, and the Company's ability to identify and react to consumer trends; (x) significant marketing plan changes by large customers, or the loss of one or more large customers; (xi) adverse results from litigation; (xii) risks associated with leverage, including cost increases due to rising interest rates or changes in debt ratings or outlook; (xiii) changes in regulations and laws (both domestic and foreign), including changes in accounting standards, tax laws, environmental laws and occupational, health and safety laws; (xiv) the ability of the Company to make effective acquisitions and successfully integrate newly acquired businesses into existing operations; (xv) effectiveness of advertising and marketing programs; (xvi) the effect of, or changes in, general economic conditions; and (xvii) other risk factors described in documents filed by the Company from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**Table of Contents**

**THE COMPANY**

Tyson Foods, Inc. and its subsidiaries, with world headquarters in Springdale, Arkansas, produce, distribute and market chicken, beef, pork, prepared foods and related allied products. We commenced business in 1935, were incorporated in Arkansas in 1947, and were reincorporated in Delaware in 1986. We have engaged in a number of acquisitions, including the acquisition of IBP, inc. (now called Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc.) in 2001. In addition to being the world's largest processor and marketer of chicken, beef and pork products, we are also the second largest publicly traded food company in the Fortune 500 with one of the most recognized brand names in the food industry.

We operate a totally integrated poultry production process. Through our wholly-owned subsidiary, Cobb-Vantress, we are the number one breeding stock supplier in the world. We invest in breeding stock research and development which allows us to breed into our flocks the natural characteristics found to be most desirable. Our integrated operations consist of breeding and raising chickens, as well as the processing, further-processing and marketing of these food products and related allied products, including animal and pet food ingredients.

We are also involved in the processing of live fed cattle and hogs and fabrication of dressed beef and pork carcasses into primal and sub-primal meat cuts, case-ready products and fully-cooked beef and pork products. In addition, we derive value from allied products such as hides and variety meats for sale to further processors.

We produce a wide range of fresh, value-added, frozen and refrigerated food products. Our products are marketed and sold to national and regional grocery retailers, regional grocery wholesalers, meat distributors, clubs and warehouse stores, military commissaries, industrial food processing companies, national and regional chain restaurants or their distributors, international export companies and domestic distributors who service restaurants, foodservice operations such as plant and school cafeterias, convenience stores, hospitals and other vendors. Sales are made by our sales staff primarily located in Springdale, Arkansas, and Dakota Dunes, South Dakota. Additionally, sales to the military and a portion of sales to international markets are made through independent brokers and trading companies.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, the net proceeds from the sale of the debt securities to which this prospectus relates will be used for general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes may include repayment of debt, acquisitions, additions to working capital, capital expenditures and investments in our subsidiaries. Net proceeds may be temporarily invested prior to use.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

The debt securities will be issued under an indenture dated as of June 1, 1995, as supplemented (the Indenture ), between the Company and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Trustee (the Trustee ). The following statements are subject to the detailed provisions of the Indenture. We have filed a copy of the Indenture as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The Indenture is also available for inspection at the office of the Trustee. Section references are to the Indenture. The following summarizes the material terms of the Indenture; however, the following summaries of certain provisions of the Indenture are not complete. Wherever particular provisions of the Indenture are referred to, such provisions, including definitions of certain terms, are incorporated by reference as part of such summaries or terms, which are qualified in their entirety by such reference to the provisions of the Indenture.

**General**

The Indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities which may be issued under the Indenture and provides that the debt securities may be issued from time to time in one or more series. The debt securities will be direct, unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Company. Except as described under Certain Covenants, the Indenture does not limit other indebtedness or securities which may be incurred or issued by the Company or any of its subsidiaries or contain financial or similar restrictions on the Company or any of its subsidiaries. The Company's rights and the rights of its creditors, including holders of debt securities, to participate in any distribution of assets of any subsidiary upon the latter's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise are effectively subordinated to the claims of the subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that the Company or any of its creditors may itself be a creditor of that subsidiary.

The prospectus supplement which accompanies this prospectus sets forth where applicable the following terms of and information relating to the debt securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered ( Offered Securities ) offered by the prospectus supplement:

the designation of the Offered Securities;

the aggregate principal amount of the Offered Securities;

the date or dates on which principal of, and premium, if any, on the Offered Securities is payable;

the rate or rates at which the Offered Securities shall bear interest, if any, or the method by which such rate shall be determined, and the basis on which interest shall be calculated if other than a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months, the date or dates from which such interest will accrue and on which such interest will be payable and the related record dates;

if other than the offices of the Trustee, the place where the principal of and any premium or interest on the Offered Securities will be payable;

any redemption, repayment or sinking fund provisions;

if other than denominations of \$1,000 or multiples of \$1,000, the denominations in which the Offered Securities will be issuable;

## Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

if other than the principal amount of such debt security, the portion of the principal amount due upon acceleration;

if other than U.S. dollars, the currency or currencies (including composite currencies) in which the Offered Securities are denominated or payable;

whether the Offered Securities shall be issued in the form of a global security or securities;

any other specific terms of the Offered Securities; and

the identity of any trustees, depositories, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars with respect to the Offered Securities. (Section 2.3)

## **Table of Contents**

The debt securities will be issued either in certificated, fully registered form, without coupons, or as global securities under a book-entry system, as specified in the accompanying prospectus supplement. See **Book-Entry System**.

Unless otherwise specified in the accompanying prospectus supplement, principal and premium, if any, will be payable, and the debt securities will be transferable and exchangeable without any service charge, at the office of the Trustee. However, the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with any such transfer or exchange. (Sections 2.7, 4.1 and 4.2)

Unless otherwise specified in the accompanying prospectus supplement, interest on any series of debt securities will be payable on the interest payment dates set forth in the accompanying prospectus supplement to the persons in whose names the debt securities are registered at the close of business on the related record date and will be paid, at the option of the Company, by wire transfer or by checks mailed to such persons. (Sections 2.7, 4.1 and 4.2)

If the debt securities are issued as Original Issue Discount Securities (as defined in the Indenture) bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates and are to be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, the federal income tax consequences and other special considerations applicable to such Original Issue Discount Securities will be generally described in the prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise described in the accompanying prospectus supplement, there are no covenants or provisions contained in the Indenture which afford the holders of the debt securities protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving the Company.

## **Book-Entry System**

The debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global debt securities. Global debt securities will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository identified in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the series. Global debt securities may be issued in either registered or bearer form and in either temporary or permanent form. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for individual certificates evidencing debt securities, a global debt security may not be transferred except as a whole by the depository to its nominee or by the nominee to the depository, or by the depository or its nominee to a successor depository or to a nominee of the successor depository.

We anticipate that global debt securities will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, or **DTC**, New York, New York and that global debt securities will be registered in the name of **DTC**'s nominee, Cede & Co. We also anticipate that the following provisions will apply to the depository arrangements with respect to global debt securities. Additional or differing terms of the depository arrangements will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

DTC has advised us that it is:

a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law;

Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law;

a member of the Federal Reserve System;

a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code; and

a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC holds securities that its participants deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the settlement among its participants of securities transactions, including transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through



## **Table of Contents**

electronic computerized book-entry changes in participants' accounts, which eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and other organizations. DTC is owned by a number of its direct participants and by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange, Inc. and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Access to the DTC system is also available to others, sometimes referred to in this prospectus as indirect participants, that clear transactions through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant either directly or indirectly. Indirect participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies. The rules applicable to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

Purchases of debt securities within the DTC system must be made by or through direct participants, which will receive a credit for the debt securities on DTC's records. The ownership interest of the actual purchaser or beneficial owner of a debt security is, in turn, recorded on the direct and indirect participants' records. Beneficial owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchases, but beneficial owners are expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transactions, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the direct or indirect participants through which they purchased the debt securities. Transfers of ownership interests in debt securities are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of participants acting on behalf of beneficial owners. Beneficial owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the debt securities, unless use of the book-entry system for the debt securities is discontinued or in other limited circumstances.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all debt securities deposited by participants with DTC will be registered in the name of DTC's nominee, Cede & Co. The deposit of debt securities with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. will not change the beneficial ownership of the debt securities. DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the debt securities. DTC's records reflect only the identity of the direct participants to whose accounts the debt securities are credited. Those participants may or may not be the beneficial owners. The participants are responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to direct participants, by direct participants to indirect participants and by direct and indirect participants to beneficial owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any legal requirements in effect from time to time.

Redemption notices shall be sent to DTC or its nominee. If less than all of the debt securities of a series are being redeemed, DTC will reduce the amount of the interest of each direct participant in the debt securities under its procedures.

In any case where a vote may be required with respect to the debt securities of any series, neither DTC nor Cede & Co. will give consents for or vote the global debt securities. Under its usual procedures, DTC will mail an omnibus proxy to us as soon as possible after the record date. The omnibus proxy assigns the consenting or voting rights of Cede & Co. to those direct participants to whose accounts the debt securities are credited on the record date identified in a listing attached to the omnibus proxy.

Principal and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the global debt securities will be paid to Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit direct participants' accounts on the relevant payment date unless DTC has reason to believe that it will not receive payments on the payment date. Payments by direct and indirect participants to beneficial owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the account of customers in bearer form or registered in street name. Those payments will be the responsibility of participants and not of DTC or us, subject to any legal requirements in effect from time to time. Payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest, if any, to Cede & Co. is our responsibility, disbursement of payments to direct participants is the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of payments to the beneficial owners is the responsibility of direct and indirect participants.



## **Table of Contents**

Except as described in this prospectus, beneficial owners of interests in a global debt security will not be entitled to have debt securities registered in their names and will not receive physical delivery of debt securities. Accordingly, each beneficial owner must rely on the procedures of DTC to exercise any rights under the debt securities and the indenture.

The laws of some jurisdictions may require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of securities in definitive form. These laws may impair the ability to transfer or pledge beneficial interests in global debt securities.

DTC is under no obligation to provide its services as depository for the debt securities of any series and may discontinue providing its services at any time. Neither we nor the trustee will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC or its participants or indirect participants under the rules and procedures governing DTC. As noted above, beneficial owners of debt securities generally will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the debt securities. However, if

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as a depository for the global debt securities of any series or if DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act and a successor depository is not appointed within 90 days of the notification or of our becoming aware of DTC's ceasing to be so registered, as the case may be,

we determine, in our sole discretion, not to have the debt securities of any series represented by one or more global debt securities, or

an Event of Default under the indenture has occurred and is continuing with respect to the debt securities of any series,

we will prepare and deliver certificates for the debt securities of that series in exchange for beneficial interests in the global debt securities. Any beneficial interest in a global debt security that is exchangeable under the circumstances described in the preceding sentence will be exchangeable for debt securities in definitive certificated form registered in the names that the depository shall direct. It is expected that these directions will be based upon directions received by the depository from its participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the global debt securities.

We obtained the information in this section and elsewhere in this prospectus concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system from sources that we believe to be reliable, but we take no responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

## **Certain Covenants**

*Restrictions on Liens.* The Indenture provides that the Company will not, and will not permit any Restricted Subsidiary (as defined below) to, create, incur or suffer to exist any mortgage or pledge, as security for any indebtedness, on or of any shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary (as defined below) or any Principal Property (as defined below) of the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary, whether such shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or Principal Property is owned at the date of the Indenture or acquired after the date of the Indenture, unless the Company secures or causes such Restricted Subsidiary to secure the outstanding debt securities equally and ratably with all indebtedness secured by such mortgage or pledge, so long as such indebtedness shall be so secured. This covenant will not apply in the case of:

## Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

(i) the creation of any mortgage, pledge or other lien on any shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any Principal Property acquired after the date of the Indenture (including acquisitions by way of merger or consolidation) by the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary contemporaneously with such acquisition, or within 180 days after such acquisition, to secure or provide for the payment or financing of any part of the purchase price of such acquisition, or the assumption of

**Table of Contents**

any mortgage, pledge or other lien upon any shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any Principal Property acquired after the date of the Indenture existing at the time of such acquisition, or the acquisition of any shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any Principal Property subject to any mortgage, pledge or other lien without the assumption of such mortgage, pledge or other liens, provided that every such mortgage, pledge or lien referred to in this clause (i) will attach only to the shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any Principal Property so acquired and fixed improvements on such Principal Property;

(ii) any mortgage, pledge or other lien on any shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any Principal Property existing at the date of this Indenture;

(iii) any mortgage, pledge or other lien on any shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any Principal Property in favor of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary;

(iv) any mortgage, pledge or other lien on Principal Property being constructed or improved securing loans to finance such construction or improvements;

(v) any mortgage, pledge or other lien on shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any Principal Property incurred in connection with the issuance of tax-exempt governmental obligations; and

(vi) any renewal of or substitution for any mortgage, pledge or other lien permitted by any of the preceding clauses (i) through (v),

provided, in the case of a mortgage, pledge or other lien permitted under clause (i), (ii) or (iv), the indebtedness secured is not increased nor the lien extended to any additional shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any additional Principal Property.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary may create or assume liens in addition to those permitted by this paragraph, and renew, extend or replace such liens, provided that at the time of such creation, assumption, renewal, extension or replacement, and after giving effect to such creation, assumption, renewal, extension or replacement, Exempted Debt (as defined below) does not exceed 10% of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets (as defined below). (Section 4.3)

*Restrictions on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions.* The Indenture provides that the Company will not, and will not permit any Restricted Subsidiary to, sell or transfer, directly or indirectly, except to the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary, any Principal Property as an entirety, or any substantial portion of such property, with the intention of taking back a lease of such property, except a lease for a period of three years or less at the end of which it is intended that the use of such property by the lessee will be discontinued; provided that, notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary may sell any such Principal Property and lease it back for a longer period (i) if the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary would be entitled, pursuant to the provisions described above under Restrictions on Liens, to create a mortgage on the property to be leased securing Funded Debt (as defined below) in an amount equal to the Attributable Debt (as defined below) with respect to such sale and lease-back transaction without equally and ratably securing the outstanding debt securities or (ii) if (A) the Company promptly informs the Trustee of such transaction, (B) the net proceeds of such transaction are at least equal to the fair value (as determined by board resolution of the Company) of such property and (C) the Company causes an amount equal to the net proceeds of the sale to be applied to the retirement, within 180 days after receipt of such proceeds, of Funded Debt incurred or assumed by the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary (including the debt securities); provided further that, in lieu of applying all of or any part of such net proceeds to such

Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

retirement, the Company may, within 75 days after such sale, deliver or cause to be delivered to the applicable trustee for cancellation either debentures or notes evidencing Funded Debt of the

---

## **Table of Contents**

Company (which may include the outstanding debt securities) or of a Restricted Subsidiary previously authenticated and delivered by the applicable trustee, and not previously tendered for sinking fund purposes or called for a sinking fund or otherwise applied as a credit against an obligation to redeem or retire such notes or debentures, and an officers' certificate (which will be delivered to the Trustee and each paying agent and which need not contain the statements prescribed by the second paragraph of Section 10.4 of the Indenture) stating that the Company elects to deliver or cause to be delivered such debentures or notes in lieu of retiring Funded Debt as provided in the Indenture. If the Company shall so deliver debentures or notes to the applicable trustee and the Company shall duly deliver such officers' certificate, the amount of cash which the Company will be required to apply to the retirement of Funded Debt under this provision of the Indenture shall be reduced by an amount equal to the aggregate of the then applicable optional redemption prices (not including any optional sinking fund redemption prices) of such debentures or notes or, if there are no such redemption prices, the principal amount of such debentures or notes; provided, that in the case of debentures or notes which provide for an amount less than the principal amount of such debentures or notes to be due and payable upon a declaration of the maturity of such debentures or notes, such amount of cash shall be reduced by the amount of principal of such debentures or notes that would be due and payable as of the date of such application upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity of such debentures or notes pursuant to the terms of the Indenture pursuant to which such debentures or notes were issued. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary may enter into sale and lease-back transactions in addition to those permitted by this paragraph and without any obligation to retire any outstanding debt securities or other Funded Debt, provided that at the time of entering into such sale and lease-back transactions and after giving effect to such transactions, Exempted Debt does not exceed 10% of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets. (Section 4.4)

## **Certain Definitions**

The term **Attributable Debt** as defined in the Indenture means, as to any particular lease under which any Person (as defined in the Indenture) is at the time liable, other than a capital lease, and at any date as of which the amount of such lease is to be determined, the total net amount of rent required to be paid by such Person under such lease during the initial term of such lease as determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, discounted from the last date of such initial term to the date of determination at a rate per annum equal to the discount rate which would be applicable to a capital lease with like term in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The net amount of rent required to be paid under any such lease for any such period shall be the aggregate amount of rent payable by the lessee with respect to such period after excluding amounts required to be paid on account of insurance, taxes, assessments, utility, operating and labor costs and similar charges. In the case of any lease which is terminable by the lessee upon the payment of a penalty, such net amount shall also include the amount of such penalty, but no rent shall be considered as required to be paid under such lease subsequent to the first date upon which it may be so terminated. **Attributable Debt** means, as to a capital lease under which any Person is at the time liable and at any date as of which the amount of such lease is to be determined, the capitalized amount of such lease that would appear on the face of a balance sheet of such Person in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The term **Consolidated Net Tangible Assets** as defined in the Indenture means the excess over the current liabilities of the Company of all of its assets as determined by the Company and as would be set forth in a consolidated balance sheet of the Company and its Subsidiaries, on a consolidated basis, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as of a date within 90 days of the date of such determination, after deducting goodwill, trademarks, patents, other like intangibles and minority interests of others.

The term **Exempted Debt** as defined in the Indenture means the sum, without duplication, of the following items outstanding of the date Exempted Debt is being determined:

(i) indebtedness of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries incurred after the date of the Indenture and secured by liens created, assumed or otherwise incurred or permitted to exist pursuant to the provision described in the last sentence under **Certain Covenants** **Restrictions on Liens** and





**Table of Contents**

(ii) Attributable Debt of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries in respect of all sale and lease-back transactions with regard to any Principal Property entered into pursuant to the provision described in the last sentence under Certain Covenants Restrictions on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions.

The term Funded Debt as defined in the Indenture means all indebtedness for money borrowed, including purchase money indebtedness, having a maturity of more than one year from the date of its creation or having a maturity of less than one year but by its terms being renewable or extendible, at the option of the obligor in respect of such indebtedness, beyond one year from its creation.

The term Principal Property as defined in the Indenture means:

(i) land, land improvements, buildings and associated factory equipment owned or leased pursuant to a capital lease and used by the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary primarily for processing, producing, packaging or storing its products, raw materials, inventories or other materials and supplies and located within the United States of America and having an acquisition cost plus capitalized improvements in excess of 1% of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets as of the date of such determination;

(ii) certain property referred to in the Indenture; and

(iii) any asset held by Tyson Foods, Inc., but shall not include any such property or assets described in clauses (i), (ii) or (iii) that is financed through the issuance of tax exempt governmental obligations, or any such property or assets that has been determined by board resolution of the Company not to be of material importance to the respective businesses conducted by the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary, effective as of the date such resolution is adopted.

The term Restricted Subsidiary as defined in the Indenture means any Subsidiary organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America and the principal business of which is carried on within the United States of America which owns or is a lessee pursuant to a capital lease of any Principal Property or owns shares of capital stock or indebtedness of another Restricted Subsidiary other than:

(i) each Subsidiary the major part of whose business consists of finance, banking, credit, leasing, insurance, financial services or other similar operations, or any combination of such operations; and

(ii) each Subsidiary formed or acquired after the date of the Indenture for the purpose of acquiring the business or assets of another person and which does not acquire all or any substantial part of the business or assets of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary;

provided, however, the Board of Directors of the Company may declare any such Subsidiary to be a Restricted Subsidiary effective as of the date such resolution is adopted.

## Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

The term "Subsidiary" as defined in the Indenture means, with respect to any Person, any corporation, association or other business entity of which more than 50% of the outstanding Voting Stock (as defined in the Indenture) is owned, directly or indirectly, by such Person and one or more other Subsidiaries of such Person.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Restrictions on Consolidations, Mergers and Sales of Assets**

The Indenture provides that the Company will not consolidate with, merge with or into, or sell, convey, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its property and assets (as an entirety or substantially an entirety in one transaction or a series of related transactions) to, any Person (other than a consolidation with or merger with or into a Subsidiary) or permit any Person to merge with or into the Company unless:

(a) either

(i) the Company will be the continuing Person or

(ii) the Person (if other than the Company) formed by such consolidation or into which the Company is merged or that acquired or leased such property and assets of the Company shall be a corporation organized and validly existing under the laws of the United States of America or any jurisdiction of the United States of America and shall expressly assume, by a supplemental indenture, executed and delivered to the Trustee, all of the obligations of the Company on all of the debt securities and the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an opinion of counsel stating that such consolidation, merger or transfer and such supplemental indenture complies with this provision and that all conditions precedent provided for in the Indenture relating to such transaction have been complied with; and

(b) immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no Default (as defined in the Indenture) shall have occurred and be continuing. (Section 5.1)

### **Events of Default**

An Event of Default, as defined in the Indenture and applicable to debt securities, will occur with respect to the debt securities of any series if:

(a) the Company defaults in the payment of the principal of any debt security of such series when the same becomes due and payable at maturity, upon acceleration, redemption, mandatory repurchase or otherwise;

(b) the Company defaults in the payment of interest on any debt security of such series when the same becomes due and payable, and such default continues for a period of 30 days;

(c) the Company defaults in the performance of or breaches any other covenant or agreement of the Company in the Indenture with respect to the debt securities of such series and such default or breach continues for a period of 30 consecutive days after written notice to the Company by the Trustee or to the Company and the Trustee by the Holders (as defined in the Indenture) of 25% or more in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of such series;

(d) an involuntary case or other proceeding shall be commenced against the Company with respect to it or its debts under any bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar law seeking the appointment of a trustee, receiver, liquidator, custodian or other similar official of it or any substantial part of its property, and such involuntary case or other proceeding shall remain undismissed and unstayed for a period of 60 days; or an order for relief shall be entered against the Company under the federal bankruptcy laws;

---

**Table of Contents**

(e) the Company

(i) commences a voluntary case under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar law, or consents to the entry of an order for relief in an involuntary case under any such law,

(ii) consents to the appointment of or taking possession by a receiver, liquidator, assignee, custodian, trustee, sequestrator or similar official of the Company or for all or substantially all of the property and assets of the Company or

(iii) effects any general assignment for the benefit of creditors; or

(f) any other Events of Default set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement occurs. (Section 6.1)

The Indenture provides that if an Event of Default described in clauses (a), (b), (c) or (f) above (if such Event of Default under clause (c) or (f) is with respect to one or more but not all series of debt securities then outstanding) occurs and is continuing, then, and in each and every such case, except for any series of debt securities the principal of which shall have already become due and payable, either the Trustee or the Holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of each such series then outstanding under the Indenture (each such series voting as a separate class) by notice in writing to the Company (and to the Trustee if given by Holders), may declare the entire principal (or, if the debt securities of any such series are Original Issue Discount Securities, such portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of such series and set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement) of all debt securities of all such series, and the interest accrued on such debt securities, if any, to be due and payable immediately, and upon any such declaration the same shall become immediately due and payable. If an Event of Default described in clause (c) or (f) occurs and is continuing with respect to all series of debt securities then outstanding, then and in each and every such case, unless the principal of all the debt securities shall have already become due and payable, either the Trustee or the Holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of all the debt securities then outstanding under the Indenture (treated as one class), by notice in writing to the Company (and to the Trustee if given by Holders), may declare the entire principal (or, if any debt securities are Original Issue Discount Securities, such portion of the principal as may be specified in the terms of such Original Issue Discount Securities and set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement) of all the debt securities then outstanding and interest accrued on such debt securities, if any, to be due and payable immediately, and upon any such declaration the same shall become immediately due and payable. If an Event of Default described in clause (d) or (e) occurs and is continuing, then the principal amount (or, if any debt securities are Original Issue Discount Securities, such portion of the principal as may be specified in the terms of such Original Issue Discount Securities and set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement) of all the debt securities then outstanding and interest accrued on such debt securities, if any, shall be and become immediately due and payable, without any notice or other action by any Holder or the Trustee, to the full extent permitted by applicable law.

The provisions described in the paragraph above, however, are subject to the condition that if, at any time after the principal (or, if the debt securities are Original Issue Discount Securities, such portion of the principal as may be specified in the terms of such Original Issue Discount Securities and set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement) of the debt securities of any series (or of all the debt securities, as the case may be) shall have been so declared due and payable, and before any judgment or decree for the payment of the moneys due shall have been obtained or entered as provided in the Indenture, the Company will pay or will deposit with the Trustee a sum sufficient to pay all matured installments of interest upon all the debt securities of each such series (or of all the debt securities, as the case may be) and the principal of any and all debt securities of each such series (or of all the debt securities, as the case may be) which shall have become due otherwise than by acceleration (with interest upon such principal and, to the extent that payment of such interest is enforceable under applicable law, on overdue installments of interest, at the same rate as the rate of interest or yield to



**Table of Contents**

maturity (in the case of Original Issue Discount Securities) specified in the debt securities of each such series and set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement to the date of such payment or deposit) and such amount as shall be sufficient to cover all amounts owing to the Trustee and each predecessor Trustee, their respective agents, attorneys and counsel, and all other expenses and liabilities incurred, and all advances made, by the Trustee and each predecessor Trustee except as a result of negligence or bad faith, and if any and all Events of Default under the Indenture, other than the non-payment of the principal of debt securities which shall have become due by acceleration, shall have been cured, waived or otherwise remedied as provided in the Indenture, then and in every such case the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of all the debt securities of each such series, or of all the debt securities, in each case voting as a single class, then outstanding, by written notice to the Company and to the Trustee, may waive all defaults with respect to each such series (or with respect to all the debt securities, as the case may be) and rescind and annul such declaration and its consequences, but no such waiver or rescission and annulment will extend to or shall affect any subsequent default or shall impair any right consequent on such default. For all purposes under the Indenture, if a portion of the principal of any Original Issue Discount Securities shall have been accelerated and declared due and payable pursuant to the provisions described above, then, from and after such declaration, unless such declaration has been rescinded and annulled, the principal amount of such Original Issue Discount Securities will be deemed, for all purposes under the Indenture, to be such portion of the principal of such Original Issue Discount Securities as shall be due and payable as a result of such acceleration, and payment of such portion of the principal of such Original Issue Discount Securities as shall be due and payable as a result of such acceleration, together with interest, if any, on such Original Issue Discount Securities and all other amounts owing under the Indenture, shall constitute payment in full of such Original Issue Discount Securities. (Section 6.2)

The Indenture contains a provision under which, subject to the duty of the Trustee during a default to act with the standard of care required by law:

(i) the Trustee may rely and will be protected in acting or refraining from acting upon any resolution, certificate, statement, instrument, opinion, report, notice, request, direction, consent, order, bond, debenture, note, other evidence of indebtedness or other paper or document believed by it to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper person, and the Trustee need not investigate any fact or matter stated in the document, but the Trustee, in its discretion, may make such further inquiry or investigation into such facts or matters as it may see fit;

(ii) before the Trustee acts or refrains from acting, it may require an officers certificate or an opinion of counsel, and the Trustee shall not be liable for any action it takes or omits to take in good faith in reliance on such certificate or opinion;

(iii) the Trustee may act through its attorneys and agents and shall not be responsible for the misconduct or negligence of any agent appointed with due care;

(iv) the Trustee shall be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers vested in it by the Indenture at the request or direction of any of the Holders, unless such Holders shall have offered to the Trustee reasonable security or indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that might be incurred by it in compliance with such request or direction;

(v) the Trustee shall not be liable for any action it takes or omits to take in good faith that it believes to be authorized or within its rights or powers or for any action it takes or omits to take in accordance with the direction of the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities relating to the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred upon the Trustee, under the Indenture; and

Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

(vi) the Trustee may consult with counsel and the written advice of such counsel or any opinion of counsel shall be full and complete authorization and protection in respect of any action taken, suffered or omitted by it under the Indenture in good faith and in reliance on such advice or opinion. (Section 7.2)



## **Table of Contents**

Subject to such provisions in the Indenture for the indemnification of the Trustee and certain other limitations, the Holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected (each such series voting as a separate class) may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee; provided, that the Trustee may refuse to follow any direction that conflicts with law or the Indenture, that may involve the Trustee in personal liability, or that the Trustee determines in good faith may be unduly prejudicial to the rights of Holders not joining in the giving of such direction; and provided further, that the Trustee may take any other action it deems proper that is not inconsistent with any directions received from Holders of debt securities pursuant to this paragraph. (Section 6.5)

The Indenture provides that no Holder of any debt security of any series may institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the Indenture or the debt securities of such series, or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any other remedy under the Indenture, unless:

(i) such Holder has previously given to the Trustee written notice of a continuing Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of such series;

(ii) the Holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of outstanding debt securities of such series shall have made written request to the Trustee to institute proceedings in respect of such Event of Default in its own name as Trustee under the Indenture;

(iii) such Holder or Holders have offered to the Trustee indemnity reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee against any costs, liabilities or expenses to be incurred in compliance with such request;

(iv) the Trustee for 60 days after its receipt of such notice, request and offer of indemnity has failed to institute any such proceeding; and

(v) during such 60-day period, the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series have not given the Trustee a direction that is inconsistent with such written request.

A Holder may not use the Indenture to prejudice the rights of another Holder or to obtain a preference or priority over such other Holder. (Section 6.6)

The Indenture contains a covenant that the Company will file annually, not more than 90 days after the end of its fiscal year, with the Trustee a certification from the principal executive officer, principal financial officer or principal accounting officer that a review has been conducted of the activities of the Company and its Subsidiaries and the Company's and its Subsidiaries' performance under the Indenture and that the Company has complied with all conditions and covenants under the Indenture. (Section 4.6)

## **Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance**

## Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

The Indenture provides that, except as provided below, the Company may terminate its obligations under the debt securities of any series and the Indenture with respect to debt securities of such series if:

(i) all debt securities of such series previously authenticated and delivered (other than destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities of such series that have been replaced or debt securities of such series that are fully paid or debt securities of such series for whose payment money or debt securities have previously been held in trust and subsequently repaid to the Company, as provided in the Indenture) have been delivered to the Trustee for cancellation and the Company has paid all sums payable by it under the Indenture; or

---

**Table of Contents**

(ii) (A) the debt securities of such series mature within one year or all of them are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the Trustee for giving the notice of redemption, (B) the Company irrevocably deposits in trust with the Trustee, as trust funds solely for the benefit of the Holders of such debt securities for that purpose, money or U.S. Government Obligations (as defined in the Indenture) or a combination of money and U.S. Government Obligations sufficient (in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants expressed in a written certification of such firm delivered to the Trustee), without consideration of any reinvestment, to pay principal of and interest on the debt securities of such series to maturity or redemption, as the case may be, and to pay all other sums payable by it under the Indenture, (C) no default with respect to the debt securities of such series has occurred and is continuing on the date of such deposit, (D) such deposit does not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, the Indenture or any other agreement or instrument to which the Company is a party or by which it is bound and (E) the Company delivers to the Trustee an officers certificate and an opinion of counsel, in each case stating that all conditions precedent provided for in the Indenture relating to the satisfaction and discharge of the Indenture have been complied with.

With respect to the foregoing clause (i), only the Company's obligations under Section 7.7 of the Indenture in respect of the debt securities of such series shall survive. With respect to the foregoing clause (ii), only the Company's obligations in Sections 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.11, 4.2, 7.7, 7.8, 8.5 and 8.6 of the Indenture in respect of the debt securities of such series shall survive until the debt securities of such series are no longer outstanding. Once there are no longer any debt securities of a particular series outstanding, only the Company's obligations in Sections 7.7, 8.5 and 8.6 of the Indenture in respect of the debt securities of such series shall survive. After any such irrevocable deposit, the Trustee upon request shall acknowledge in writing the discharge of the Company's obligations under the debt securities of such series and this Indenture with respect to the debt securities of such series except for those surviving obligations specified above. (Section 8.1)

The Indenture provides that, except as provided below, the Company will be deemed to have paid and will be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the debt securities of any series after the period specified in clause (D)(2)(z) of this paragraph, and the provisions of the Indenture will no longer be in effect with respect to the debt securities of such series, and the Trustee, at the expense of the Company, shall execute proper instruments acknowledging the same; provided, that the following conditions shall have been satisfied:

(i) the Company has irrevocably deposited in trust with the Trustee as trust funds solely for the benefit of the Holders for payment of the principal of and interest on the debt securities of such series, money or U.S. Government Obligations or a combination of money or U.S. Government Obligations sufficient (in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants expressed in a written certification of such firm delivered to the Trustee) without consideration of any reinvestment and after payment of all federal, state and local taxes or other charges and assessments in respect of such funds payable by the Trustee, to pay and discharge the principal of and accrued interest on the outstanding debt securities of such series to maturity or earlier redemption (irrevocably provided for under arrangements satisfactory to the Trustee), as the case may be;

(ii) such deposit will not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, the Indenture or any other agreement or instrument to which the Company is a party or by which it is bound;

(iii) no Default (as defined in the Indenture) with respect to the debt securities of such series shall have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit or at any time during the period specified in clause (iv)(2)(z) below;

(iv) the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee (1) either (x) a ruling directed to the Trustee received from the Internal Revenue Service to the effect that the Holders of the debt securities



**Table of Contents**

of such series will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of the Company's exercise of its option under this provision of the Indenture and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such option had not been exercised or (y) an opinion of counsel to the same effect as the ruling described in clause (x) above and based on a change in law and (2) an opinion of counsel to the effect that (x) the creation of the defeasance trust does not violate the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, (y) the Holders of the debt securities of such series have a valid first priority security interest in the trust funds, and (z) after the passage of 123 days following the deposit (except after one year following the deposit, with respect to any trust funds for the account of any Holder of the debt securities of such series who may be deemed to be an insider as to an obligor on the debt securities of such series for purposes of the United States Bankruptcy Code), the trust funds will not be subject to the effect of Section 547 of the United States Bankruptcy Code or Section 15 of the New York Debtor and Creditor Law in a case commenced by or against the Company under either such statute, and either (I) the trust funds will no longer remain the property of the Company (and therefore will not be subject to the effect of any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally) or (II) if a court were to rule under any such law in any case or proceeding that the trust funds remained in the property of the Company, to the extent not paid to such Holders, the Trustee will hold, for the benefit of such Holders, a valid and perfected first priority security interest in such trust funds that is not avoidable in bankruptcy or otherwise (except for the effect of Section 552(b) of the United States Bankruptcy Code on interest on the trust funds accruing after the commencement of a case under such statute) and the Holders of the debt securities of such series will be entitled to receive adequate protection of their interests in such trust funds if such trust funds are used in such case or proceeding;

(v) if the debt securities of such series are then listed on a national securities exchange, the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the defeasance contemplated by this provision of the Indenture of the debt securities of such series will not cause the debt securities of such series to be delisted; and

(vi) the Company has delivered to the Trustee an officers, certificate and an opinion of counsel, in each case stating that all conditions precedent provided for in the Indenture relating to the defeasance contemplated by this provision of the Indenture of the debt securities of such series have been complied with. Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the end of the 123-day (or one year) period referred to in clause (iv)(2)(z) of this paragraph, none of the Company's obligations under the Indenture with respect to the debt securities of such series shall be discharged. Subsequent to the end of such 123-day (or one year) period, the Company's obligations in Sections 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.11, 4.2, 7.7, 7.8, 8.5 and 8.6 of the Indenture with respect to the debt securities of such series shall survive until such debt securities are no longer outstanding. Once there are no longer any debt securities of a particular series outstanding, only the Company's obligations in Sections 7.7, 8.5 and 8.6 of the Indenture with respect to the debt securities of such series shall survive. If and when a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service or an opinion of counsel referred to in clause (iv)(1) of this paragraph is able to be provided specifically without regard to, and not in reliance upon, the continuance of the Company's obligations under Section 4.1 of the Indenture, then the Company's obligations under such Section 4.1 of the Indenture with respect to the debt securities of such series shall cease upon delivery to the Trustee of such ruling or opinion of counsel and compliance with the other conditions precedent provided for in this provision of the Indenture relating to the defeasance contemplated by this provision of the Indenture. (Section 8.2)

The Indenture provides that the Company may omit to comply with any term, provision or condition described under Certain Covenants, and such omission shall be deemed not to be an Event of Default, with respect to the outstanding debt securities of any series if:

(i) the Company has irrevocably deposited in trust with the Trustee as trust funds solely for the benefit of the Holders of the debt securities of such series for payment of the principal of and interest, if

**Table of Contents**

any, on the debt securities of such series money or U.S. Government Obligations or a combination of money or U.S. Government Obligations in an amount sufficient (in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants expressed in a written certification of such firm delivered to the Trustee) without consideration of any reinvestment and after payment of all federal, state and local taxes or other charges and assessments in respect of such funds payable by the Trustee, to pay and discharge the principal of and interest on the outstanding debt securities of such series to maturity or earlier redemption (irrevocably provided for under arrangements satisfactory to the Trustee), as the case may be;

(ii) such deposit will not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, the Indenture or any other agreement or instrument to which the Company is a party or by which it is bound;

(iii) no Default with respect to the debt securities of such series shall have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit;

(iv) the Company has delivered to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that (A) the creation of the defeasance trust does not violate the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, (B) the Holders of the debt securities of such series have a valid first-priority security interest in the trust funds, (C) such Holders will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit and covenant defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such deposit and defeasance had not occurred and (D) after the passage of 123 days following the deposit (except after one year following the deposit, with respect to any trust funds for the account of any Holder of the debt securities of such series who may be deemed to be an insider as to an obligor on the debt securities of such series for purposes of the United States Bankruptcy Code), the trust funds will not be subject to the effect of Section 547 of the United States Bankruptcy Code or Section 15 of the New York Debtor and Creditor Law in a case commenced by or against the Company under either such statute, and either (1) the trust funds will no longer remain the property of the Company (and therefore will not be subject to the effect of any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally) or (2) if a court were to rule under any such law in any case or proceeding that the trust funds remained property of the Company, to the extent not paid to such Holders, the Trustee will hold, for the benefit of such Holders, a valid and perfected first priority security interest in such trust funds that is not avoidable in bankruptcy or otherwise (except for the effect of Section 552(b) of the United States Bankruptcy Code on interest on the trust funds accruing after the commencement of a case under such statute), and the Holders of the debt securities of such series will be entitled to receive adequate protection of their interests in such trust funds if such trust funds are used in such case or proceeding;

(v) if the debt securities of such series are then listed on a national securities exchange, the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the covenant defeasance contemplated by this provision of the Indenture of the debt securities of such series will not cause the debt securities of such series to be delisted; and

(vi) the Company has delivered to the Trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, in each case stating that all conditions precedent provided for in the Indenture relating to the covenant defeasance contemplated by this provision of the Indenture of the debt securities of such series have been complied with. (Section 8.3)

## **Table of Contents**

### **Modification of the Indenture**

The Indenture provides that the Company and the Trustee may amend or supplement the Indenture or the debt securities of any series without notice to or the consent of any Holder:

(i) to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the Indenture; provided, that such amendments or supplements shall not adversely affect the interests of the Holders in any material respect;

(ii) to comply with Article 5 of the Indenture;

(iii) to comply with any requirements of the Commission in connection with the qualification of the Indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;

(iv) to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment under the Indenture with respect to the debt securities of any or all series by a successor Trustee;

(v) to establish the form or forms or terms of debt securities of any series or of the coupons appertaining to such debt securities as permitted by the Indenture;

(vi) to provide for uncertificated debt securities and to make all appropriate changes for such purpose; or

(vii) to make any change that does not materially and adversely affect the rights of any Holder. (Section 9.1)

The Indenture also provides that, without prior notice to any Holders, the Company and the Trustee may amend the Indenture and the debt securities of any series outstanding under the Indenture with the written consent of the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected by such supplemental indenture (all such series voting as one class). The Indenture also provides that the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected by such supplemental indenture (all such series voting as one class) by written notice to the Trustee may waive future compliance by the Company with any provision of the Indenture or the debt securities of such series. Notwithstanding the foregoing provision, without the consent of each Holder of the debt securities of each series affected by such supplemental indenture, an amendment or waiver, including a waiver pursuant to Section 6.4 of the Indenture, may not:

(i) extend the stated maturity of the principal of, or any sinking fund obligation or any installment of interest on, such Holder's debt security;

## Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

(ii) reduce the principal amount of such debt security or the rate of interest on such debt security (including any amount in respect of original issue discount), or any premium payable with respect to such debt security;

(iii) adversely affect the rights of such Holder under any mandatory repurchase provision or any right of repurchase at the option of such Holder;

(iv) reduce the amount of the principal of an Original Issue Discount Security that would be due and payable upon an acceleration of the maturity of such debt security pursuant to the Indenture or the amount of such debt security provable in bankruptcy;

(v) change any place of payment where, or the currency in which, any debt security of such series or any premium or the interest on such debt security is payable;



**Table of Contents**

(vi) impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment on or after the stated maturity of such debt security (or, in the case of redemption, on or after the redemption date or, in the case of mandatory repurchase, the date of such repurchase);

(vii) reduce the percentage in principal amount of outstanding debt security of such series the consent of whose Holders is required for any such supplemental indenture, for any waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the Indenture or certain Defaults and their consequences provided for in the Indenture;

(viii) waive a Default in the payment of principal of or interest on, any debt security of such series;

(ix) cause any debt security of such series to be subordinated in right of payment to any obligation of the Company; or

(x) modify any of the provisions of this section of the Indenture, except to increase any such percentage or to provide that certain other provisions of the Indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the Holder of each outstanding debt security of any series affected by such supplemental indenture.

A supplemental indenture which changes or eliminates any covenant or other provision of the Indenture which has expressly been included solely for the benefit of one or more particular series of debt securities, or which modifies the rights of Holders of debt securities of such series with respect to such covenant or provision, shall be deemed not to affect the rights under the Indenture of the Holders of debt securities of any other series or of the coupons appertaining to such debt securities. It shall not be necessary for the consent of the Holders under this section of the Indenture to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment, supplement or waiver, but it shall be sufficient if such consent approves the substance of such proposed amendment, supplement or waiver. After an amendment, supplement or waiver under this section of the Indenture becomes effective, the Company shall give to the Holders affected by such amendment, supplement or waiver a notice briefly describing such amendment, supplement or waiver. The Company will mail supplemental indentures to Holders upon request. Any failure of the Company to mail such notice, or any defect in such notice, shall not, however, in any way impair or affect the validity of any such supplemental indenture or waiver. (Section 9.2)

**Governing Law**

The Indenture and the debt securities will be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

**Concerning the Trustee**

The Company and its subsidiaries maintain ordinary banking relationships with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. and its affiliates and a number of other banks. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. and its affiliates along with a number of other banks have extended credit facilities to the Company and its subsidiaries.



**Table of Contents**

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We may sell the debt securities:

through underwriters or dealers;

through agents; or

directly to purchasers.

The debt securities may be sold in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, or at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices relating to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

We will describe in a prospectus supplement the particular terms of the offering of the debt securities, including the following:

the names of any underwriters or agents;

the proceeds we will receive from the sale;

any discounts and other items constituting underwriters or agents compensation;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchanges on which the applicable debt securities may be listed.

If we use underwriters in the sale, such underwriters will acquire the debt securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the debt securities in one or more transactions, at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, or at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices relating to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

The debt securities may be offered to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the debt securities will be subject to certain conditions. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the debt securities of the series offered if any of the debt securities are purchased.

## Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

We may sell debt securities through agents or dealers designated by us. Any agent or dealer involved in the offer or sale of the debt securities for which this prospectus is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by us to that agent or dealer will be set forth, in the prospectus supplement. Unless indicated in the prospectus supplement, the agents will agree to use their reasonable efforts to solicit purchases for the period of their appointment and any dealer will purchase debt securities from us as principal and may resell those debt securities at varying prices to be determined by the dealer.

We also may sell debt securities directly. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved.

Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of the debt securities may be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act, and any discounts or commissions received by them from us and any profit on the resale of the debt securities by them may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act.

We may have agreements with the underwriters, dealers and agents to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act or to contribute with respect to payments which the underwriters, dealers or agents may be required to make.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us or our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of their businesses.

## **Table of Contents**

In order to facilitate the offering of the debt securities, any underwriters or agents, as the case may be, involved in the offering of such securities may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of such securities or other securities the prices of which may be used to determine payments on the securities. Specifically, the underwriters or agents, as the case may be, may overallocate in connection with the offering, creating a short position in such securities for their own account. In addition, to cover overallocations or to stabilize the price of the securities or of such other securities, the underwriters or agents, as the case may be, may bid for, and purchase, such securities in the open market. Finally, in any offering of such securities through a syndicate of underwriters, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allotted to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing such securities in the offering if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed securities in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities above independent market levels. The underwriters or agents, as the case may be, are not required to engage in these activities, and may end any of these activities at any time.

We may solicit offers to purchase debt securities directly from, and we may sell debt securities directly to, institutional investors or others. The terms of any of those sales, including the terms of any bidding or auction process, if utilized, will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Some or all of the debt securities may be new issues of securities with no established trading market. We cannot and will not give any assurances as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of our securities.

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the debt securities and certain other matters will be passed upon for us by Sidley Austin LLP, Chicago, Illinois. Davis Polk & Wardwell, New York, New York, will act as counsel for any underwriters or agents.

## **EXPERTS**

Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, have audited our consolidated financial statements and schedule included in our Annual Report, as amended, on Form 10-K/A for the year ended October 1, 2005 and management's assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of October 1, 2005, as set forth in its reports (which conclude, among other things that Tyson Foods, Inc. did not maintain effective internal control over financial reporting as of October 1, 2005, based on Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission, because of the effects of the material weakness described therein), which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement. Such financial statements and schedule and management's assessment have been incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon Ernst & Young LLP's reports, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

**\$500,000,000**

**TYSON FOODS, INC.**

**DEBT SECURITIES**

---

Tyson Foods, Inc. (the **Company**) intends to issue from time to time debt securities (the **Debt Securities**), which will be direct, unsecured obligations of the Company and offered to the public on terms determined by market conditions at the time of sale. The Company may sell Debt Securities for proceeds of up to \$500,000,000, or the equivalent thereof in one or more foreign currencies or composite currencies, (i) directly to purchasers, (ii) through agents designated from time to time, (iii) to dealers, or (iv) through underwriters or a group of underwriters.

The Debt Securities may be issued in one or more series with the same or various maturities at or above par or with an original issue discount. The specific designation, aggregate principal amount, authorized denominations, purchase price, maturity, rate (or method of calculation) and time of payment of any interest, any terms for redemption or repurchase or conversion, the currency or composite currency in which the Debt Securities shall be denominated or payable, any listing on a securities exchange, whether the Debt Securities will be issued in the form of a Global Security (as hereafter defined) or securities, or other specific terms of the Debt Securities in respect of which this Prospectus is being delivered (**Offered Securities**) are set forth in the accompanying supplement to the Prospectus (the **Prospectus Supplement**), together with the terms of offering of the Offered Securities. Unless otherwise indicated in the Prospectus Supplement, the Company does not intend to list any of the Debt Securities on a national securities exchange. See **Plan of Distribution**.

---

THESE SECURITIES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED BY THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION NOR HAS THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION PASSED UPON THE ACCURACY OR ADEQUACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS OR ANY SUPPLEMENT HERETO. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

---

THE DATE OF THIS PROSPECTUS IS JUNE 1, 1998.

**Table of Contents**

No person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representations not contained or incorporated by reference in this Prospectus or the accompanying Prospectus Supplement and, if given or made, such information or representation must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the Company or any agent, dealer or underwriter. Neither the delivery of this Prospectus or the accompanying Prospectus Supplement nor any sale made hereunder or thereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that the information contained herein or in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement is correct as of any date subsequent to the date hereof or thereof or that there has been no change in the affairs of the Company since the date hereof or thereof. Neither this Prospectus nor the accompanying Prospectus Supplement constitutes an offer to sell or solicitation of an offer to buy Debt Securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation.

**AVAILABLE INFORMATION**

The Company is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), and in accordance therewith files reports and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission ). Such reports, proxy statements and other information can be inspected and copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the Commission at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Room 1024, Washington, D.C. 20549 and at the following regional offices of the Commission: Seven World Trade Center, Suite 1300, New York, New York 10048, and Citicorp Center, 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1400, Chicago, Illinois 60661. Copies of such material can be obtained by mail at prescribed rates from the Public Reference Section of the Commission at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. The Commission also maintains a Web Site at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy statements and other information. Reports and other information concerning the Company can also be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005, on which certain of the Company's securities are listed.

This Prospectus constitutes a part of a Registration Statement on Form S-3, as amended (the Registration Statement ) filed by the Company with the Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act ). This Prospectus and the accompanying Prospectus Supplement omit certain of the information contained in the Registration Statement in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission. Reference is hereby made to the Registration Statement and related exhibits for further information with respect to the Company and the Debt Securities. Statements contained herein concerning the provisions of any document are not necessarily complete and, in each instance, reference is made to the copy of such document filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement or otherwise filed with the Commission. Each such statement is qualified in its entirety by such reference.

**Table of Contents**

**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE**

The following documents previously filed by the Company with the Commission are incorporated by reference in this Prospectus:

1. The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 27, 1997;
2. The Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 16, 1997;
3. The Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 2, 1998;
4. The Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 9, 1998;
5. The Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 26, 1998;
6. The Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 4, 1998;
7. The Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended December 27, 1997;
8. The Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated April 27, 1998; and
9. The Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 28, 1998.

All documents filed by the Company pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act subsequent to the date of this Prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering hereunder shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Prospectus and to be a part hereof from the date of the filing of such documents.

Any statement contained herein or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of the Registration Statement and this Prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of the Registration Statement



or this Prospectus.

The Company will provide, without charge, to each person to whom this Prospectus is delivered, on the written or oral request of any such person, a copy of any or all of the documents which have been incorporated herein by reference, other than exhibits to such documents (unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into such documents). Requests should be directed to Corporate Secretary, Tyson Foods, Inc., 2210 West Oaklawn Drive, Springdale, Arkansas 72762-6999, telephone: (501) 290-4000.

**Table of Contents****THE COMPANY**

Tyson Foods, Inc. and its various subsidiaries produce, market and distribute a variety of food products consisting of value-enhanced poultry, fresh and frozen poultry, value-enhanced seafood products, fresh and frozen seafood products, prepared foods, and other products such as flour and corn tortillas and chips. Additionally, the Company has live swine, animal feed and pet food ingredient operations. The Company's integrated operations consist of breeding and rearing chickens, and harvesting seafood, as well as the processing, further processing and marketing of these food products. The Company's products are marketed and sold to national and regional grocery chains, regional grocery wholesalers, clubs and warehouse stores, military commissaries, industrial food processing companies, national and regional chain restaurants and their distributors, international export companies and domestic distributors who service restaurants, food service operations such as plant and school cafeterias, convenience stores, hospitals and other vendors.

As of March 28, 1998, Don Tyson, Senior Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company, directly and through the Tyson Limited Partnership, of which he is the managing general partner, beneficially owned 0.4% and 99.9% of the Company's Class A Common Stock, \$.10 par value per share, and Class B Common Stock, \$.10 par value per share, respectively which represented approximately 88.9% of the combined voting power of the shares of such Class A Common Stock and Class B Common Stock on such date.

The Company commenced business in 1935, was incorporated in Arkansas in 1947, and was reincorporated in Delaware in 1986. The Company's executive offices are located at 2210 West Oaklawn Drive, Springdale, Arkansas 72762- 6999 and its telephone number is (501) 290-4000.

**RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The following table sets forth the ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the Company for each year in the five year period ended September 27, 1997 and for the six months ended March 28, 1998. For the purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of income from continuing operations before income taxes and fixed charges (excluding capitalized interest). Fixed charges consist of (i) interest on indebtedness, whether expensed or capitalized, but excluding interest to fifty-percent-owned subsidiaries (ii) the Company's proportionate share of interest of fifty-percent-owned subsidiaries, (iii) that portion of rental expense the Company believes to be representative of interest (one-third of rental expense) and (iv) amortization of debt discount and expense.

<b>SIX MONTHS ENDED</b>	<b>FISCAL YEAR ENDED</b>				
	<b>1997</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1993</b>
<b>MARCH 28, 1998</b>	3.37	1.84	3.59	2.14	4.48
	2.38				

**Table of Contents**

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

The Company intends to use the net proceeds from the sale of the Debt Securities to refinance existing indebtedness, to finance acquisitions as opportunities may arise, and for other general corporate purposes. Further details relating to the uses of the net proceeds of any such offering will be set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement. The Company expects to engage in additional financing as needs arise.

---

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

The Debt Securities will be issued under an Indenture dated as of June 1, 1995, as supplemented, (hereinafter referred to as the Indenture ), between the Company and The Chase Manhattan Bank, as Trustee (hereinafter referred to as the Trustee ). The following statements are subject to the detailed provisions of the Indenture, a copy of which is filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and which is also available for inspection at the office of the Trustee. Section references are to the Indenture. The following summarizes the material terms of the Indenture; however, the following summaries of certain provisions of the Indenture do not purport to be complete, and wherever particular provisions of the Indenture are referred to, such provisions, including definitions of certain terms, are incorporated by reference as part of such summaries or terms, which are qualified in their entirety by such reference to the provisions of the Indenture.

**General**

The Indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of Debt Securities which may be issued thereunder and provides that the Debt Securities may be issued from time to time in one or more series. The Debt Securities will be direct, unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Company. Except as described under Certain Covenants, the Indenture does not limit other indebtedness or securities which may be incurred or issued by the Company or any of its subsidiaries or contain financial or similar restrictions on the Company or any of its subsidiaries. The Company's rights and the rights of its creditors, including holders of Debt Securities, to participate in any distribution of assets of any subsidiary upon the latter's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise are effectively subordinated to the claims of the subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that the Company or any of its creditors may itself be a creditor of that subsidiary.

The Prospectus Supplement which accompanies this Prospectus sets forth where applicable the following terms of and information relating to the Offered Securities offered thereby: (i) the designation of the Offered Securities; (ii) the aggregate principal amount of the Offered Securities; (iii) the date or dates on which principal of, and premium, if any, on the Offered Securities is payable; (iv) the rate or rates at which the Offered Securities shall bear interest, if any, or the method by which such rate shall be determined, and the basis on which interest shall be calculated if other than a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months, the date or dates from which such interest will accrue and on which such interest will be payable and the related record dates; (v) if other than the offices of the Trustee, the place where the principal of and any premium or interest on the Offered Securities will be payable; (vi) any redemption, repayment or sinking fund provisions; (vii) if other than denominations of \$1,000 or multiples thereof, the denominations in which the Offered Securities will be issuable; (viii) if other than the principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount due upon acceleration; (ix) if other than U.S. dollars, the currency or currencies (including composite currencies) in which the Offered Securities are denominated or payable; (x) whether the Offered Securities shall be issued in the form of a Global Security or securities; (xi) any other specific terms of the Offered Securities; and (xii) the identity of any trustees, depositories, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars with respect to the Offered Securities. (Section 2.3)

The Debt Securities will be issued either in certificated, fully registered form, without coupons, or as global securities under a book-entry system, as specified in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement. See Book-Entry System.

Unless otherwise specified in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement, principal and premium, if any, will be payable, and the Debt Securities will be transferable and exchangeable without any service charge, at the office of the Trustee. However, the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with any such transfer or exchange. (Sections 2.7, 4.1 and 4.2)

## Edgar Filing: TYSON FOODS INC - Form 424B5

Unless otherwise specified in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement, interest on any series of Debt Securities will be payable on the interest payment dates set forth in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement to

## **Table of Contents**

the persons in whose names the Debt Securities are registered at the close of business on the related record date and will be paid, at the option of the Company, by wire transfer or by checks mailed to such persons. (Sections 2.7, 4.1 and 4.2)

If the Debt Securities are issued as Original Issue Discount Securities (bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates) to be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, the federal income tax consequences and other special considerations applicable to such Original Issue Discount Securities will be generally described in the Prospectus Supplement.

Unless otherwise described in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement, there are no covenants or provisions contained in the Indenture which afford the holders of the Debt Securities Protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving the Company.

## **Book-Entry System**

If so specified in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement, Debt Securities of any series may be issued under a book-entry system in the form of one or more global securities (each a Global Security). Each Global Security will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository, which, unless otherwise specified in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement, will be The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (the Depository). The Global Securities will be registered in the name of the Depository or its nominee.

The Depository has advised the Company that the Depository is a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York banking law, a member of the Federal Reserve system, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of section 17A of the Exchange Act. The Depository was created to hold securities of its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among its participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of the participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. The Depository's participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations, some of whom (and/or their representatives) own the Depository. Access to the Depository's book-entry system is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly.

Upon the issuance of a Global Security in registered form, the Depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of the Debt Securities represented by such Global Security to the accounts of participants. The accounts to be credited will be designated by the underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, or by the Company, if such Debt Securities are offered and sold directly by the Company. Ownership of beneficial interests in the Global Security will be limited to participants or persons that may hold interests through participants. Ownership of beneficial interests by participants in the Global Security will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership interest will be effected only through, records maintained by such participants. The laws of some jurisdictions may require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. Such laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interest in a Global Security.

So long as the Depository or its nominee is the registered Owner of a Global Security, it will be considered the sole owner or holder of the Debt Securities represented by such Global Security for all purposes under the Indenture. Except as set forth below, owners of beneficial interests in such Global Security will not be entitled to have the Debt Securities represented thereby registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificates representing the Debt Securities and will not be considered the owners or holders thereof under the Indenture. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in such Global Security must rely on the procedures of the Depository and, if such person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which such person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a

holder under the

## **Table of Contents**

Indenture. The Company understands that under existing practice, in the event that the Company requests any action of the holders or a beneficial owner desires to take any action a holder is entitled to take, the Depository would act upon the instructions of, or authorize, the participant to take such action.

Payment of principal of, premium, if any, and interest on Debt Securities represented by a Global Security will be made to the Depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner and holder of the Global Security representing such Debt securities. None of the Company, the Trustee, any paying agent or registrar for such Debt Securities will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the Global Security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests.

The Company has been advised by the Depository that the Depository will credit participants' accounts with payments of principal, premium, if any, or interest on the payment date thereof in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of the Global Security as shown on the records of the Depository. The Company expects that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the Global Security held through such participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of such participants.

A Global Security may not be transferred except as a whole by the Depository to a nominee or successor of the Depository or by a nominee of the Depository to another nominee of the Depository. A Global Security representing all but not part of the Debt Securities being offered hereby is exchangeable for Debt Securities in definitive form of like tenor and terms if (i) the Depository notifies the Company that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for such Global Security or if at any time the Depository is no longer eligible to be or in good standing as a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and in either case, a successor depository is not appointed by the Company within 90 days of receipt by the Company of such notice or of the Company becoming aware of such ineligibility, or (ii) the Company in its sole discretion at any time determines not to have all of the Debt Securities represented by a Global Security and notifies the Trustee thereof. A Global Security exchangeable pursuant to the preceding sentence shall be exchangeable for Debt Securities registered in such names and in such authorized denominations as the Depository for such Global Security shall direct. (Section 2.7)

## **Certain Covenants**

Restrictions on Liens. The Indenture provides that the Company will not, and will not permit any Restricted Subsidiary (as hereinafter defined) to, create, incur or suffer to exist any mortgage or pledge, as security for any indebtedness, on or of any shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary (as hereinafter defined) or any Principal Property (as hereinafter defined) of the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary, whether such shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or Principal Property is owned at the date of the Indenture or thereafter acquired, unless the Company secures or causes such Restricted Subsidiary to secure the outstanding Debt equally and ratably with all indebtedness secured by such mortgage or pledge, so long as such indebtedness shall be so secured. This covenant will not apply in the case of: (i) the creation of any mortgage, pledge or other lien on any shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any Principal Property acquired after the date of the Indenture (including acquisitions by way of merger or consolidation) by the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary contemporaneously with such acquisition, or within 180 days thereafter, to secure or provide for the payment or financing of any part of the purchase price thereof, or the assumption of any mortgage, pledge or other lien upon any shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any Principal Property acquired after the date of the Indenture existing at the time of such acquisition, or the acquisition of any shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any Principal Property subject to any mortgage, pledge or other lien without the assumption thereof, provided that every such mortgage, pledge or lien referred to in this clause (i) will attach only to the shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any Principal Property so acquired and fixed improvements thereon; (ii) any mortgage, pledge or other lien on any shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a





---

**Table of Contents**

Subsidiary or any Principal Property existing at the date of this Indenture; (iii) any mortgage, pledge or other lien on any shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any Principal Property in favor of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary; (iv) any mortgage, pledge or other lien on Principal Property being constructed or improved securing loans to finance such construction or improvements; (v) any mortgage, pledge or other lien on shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any Principal Property incurred in connection with the issuance of tax-exempt governmental obligations; and (vi) any renewal of or substitution for any mortgage, pledge or other lien permitted by any of the preceding clauses (i) through (v), provided, in the case of a mortgage, pledge or other lien permitted under clause (i), (ii) or (iv), the indebtedness secured is not increased nor the lien extended to any additional shares of stock, indebtedness or other obligations of a Subsidiary or any additional Principal Property. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary may create or assume liens in addition to those permitted by this paragraph, and renew, extend or replace such liens, provided that at the time of such creation, assumption, renewal, extension or replacement, and after giving effect thereto, Exempted Debt (as hereinafter defined) does not exceed 10% of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets (as hereinafter defined). (Section 4.3)

Restrictions on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions. The Indenture provides that the Company will not, and will not permit any Restricted Subsidiary to, sell or transfer, directly or indirectly, except to the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary, any Principal Property as an entirety, or any substantial portion thereof, with the intention of taking back a lease of such property, except a lease for a period of three years or less at the end of which it is intended that the use of such property by the lessee will be discontinued; provided that, notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary may sell any such Principal Property and lease it back for a longer period (i) if the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary would be entitled, pursuant to the provisions described above under Restrictions on Liens, to create a mortgage on the property to be leased securing Funded Debt (as hereinafter defined) in an amount equal to the Attributable Debt (as hereinafter defined) with respect to such sale and lease-back transaction without equally and ratably securing the outstanding Debt Securities or (ii) if (A) the Company promptly informs the Trustee of such transaction, (B) the net proceeds of such transaction are at least equal to the fair value (as determined by board resolution of the Company) of such property and (C) the Company causes an amount equal to the net proceeds of the sale to be applied to the retirement, within 180 days after receipt of such proceeds, of Funded Debt incurred or assumed by the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary (including the Debt Securities); provided further that, in lieu of applying all of or any part of such net proceeds to such retirement, the Company may, within 75 days after such sale, deliver or cause to be delivered to the applicable trustee for cancellation either debentures or notes evidencing Funded Debt of the Company (which may include the outstanding Debt Securities) or of a Restricted Subsidiary previously authenticated and delivered by the applicable trustee, and not theretofore tendered for sinking fund purposes or called for a sinking fund or otherwise applied as a credit against an obligation to redeem or retire such notes or debentures, and an officers certificate (which will be delivered to the Trustee and each paying agent and which need not contain the statements prescribed by the second paragraph of Section 10.4 of the Indenture) stating that the Company elects to deliver or cause to be delivered such debentures or notes in lieu of retiring Funded Debt as hereinabove provided. If the Company shall so deliver Debentures or notes to the applicable trustee and the Company shall duly deliver such officers certificate, the amount of cash which the Company will be required to apply to the retirement of Funded Debt under this provision of the Indenture shall be reduced by an amount equal to the aggregate of the then applicable optional redemption prices (not including any optional sinking fund redemption prices) if such debentures or notes or, if there are no such redemption prices, the principal amount of such debentures or notes; provided, that in the case of debentures or notes which provide for an amount less than the principal amount thereof to be due and payable upon a declaration of the maturity thereof, such amount of cash shall be reduced by the amount of principal of such debentures or notes that would be due and payable as of the date of such application upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof pursuant to the terms of the Indenture pursuant to which such debentures or notes were issued. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary may enter into sale and lease-back transactions in addition to those permitted by this paragraph and without any obligation to retire any outstanding Debt Securities or other Funded Debt, provided that at the time of entering into such sale and lease-back transactions and after giving effect thereto, Exempted Debt does not exceed 10% of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets. (Section 4.4)

## **Table of Contents**

### **Certain Definitions**

The term **Attributable Debt** as defined in the Indenture means, as to any particular lease under which any Person is at the time liable, other than a capital lease, and at any date as of which the amount thereof is to be determined, the total net amount of rent required to be paid by such Person under such lease during the initial term thereof as determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, discounted from the last date of such initial term to the date of determination at a rate per annum equal to the discount rate which would be applicable to a capital lease with like term in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The net amount of rent required to be paid under any such lease for any such period shall be the aggregate amount of rent payable by the lessee with respect to such period after excluding amounts required to be paid on account of insurance, taxes, assessments, utility, operating and labor costs and similar charges. In the case of any lease which is terminable by the lessee upon the payment of a penalty, such net amount shall also include the amount of such penalty, but no rent shall be considered as required to be paid under such lease subsequent to the first date upon which it may be so terminated. **Attributable Debt** means, as to a capital lease under which any Person is at the time liable and at any date as of which the amount thereof is to be determined, the capitalized amount thereof that would appear on the face of a balance sheet of such Person in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The term **Consolidated Net Tangible Assets** as defined in the Indenture means the excess over the current liabilities of the Company of all of its assets as determined by the Company and as would be set forth in a consolidated balance sheet of the Company and its Subsidiaries, on a consolidated basis, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as of a date within 90 days of the date of such determination, after deducting goodwill, trademarks, patents, other like intangibles and minority interests of others.

The term **Exempted Debt** as defined in the Indenture means the sum, without duplication, of the following items outstanding of the date Exempted Debt is being determined: (i) indebtedness of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries incurred after the date of the Indenture and secured by liens created, assumed or otherwise incurred or permitted to exist pursuant to the provision described in the last sentence under **Certain Covenants Restrictions on Liens** and (ii) **Attributable Debt** of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries in respect of all sale and lease-back transactions with regard to any Principal Property entered into pursuant to the provision described in the last sentence under **Certain Covenants Restrictions on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions**.

The term **Funded Debt** as defined in the Indenture means all indebtedness for money borrowed, including purchase money indebtedness, having a maturity of more than one year from the date of its creation or having a maturity of less than one year but by its terms being renewable or extendible, at the option of the obligor in respect thereof, beyond one year from its creation.

The term **Principal Property** as defined in the Indenture means (i) land, land improvements, buildings and associated factory and laboratory equipment owned or leased pursuant to a capital lease and used by the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary primarily for processing, producing, packaging or storing its products, raw materials, inventories or other materials and supplies and located within the United States of America and having an acquisition cost plus capitalized improvements in excess of 1% of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets as of the date of such determination, (ii) certain property referred to in the Indenture and (iii) any asset held by Tyson Holding Company, but shall not include any such property or assets described in clauses (i), (ii) or (iii) that is financed through the issuance of tax exempt governmental obligations, or any such property or assets that has been determined by board resolution of the Company not to be of material importance to the respective businesses conducted by the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary, effective as of the date such resolution is adopted.

The term **Restricted Subsidiary** as defined in the Indenture means any Subsidiary organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America and the principal business of which is carried on within



## **Table of Contents**

the United States of America which owns or is a lessee pursuant to a capital lease of any Principal Property or owns shares of capital stock or indebtedness of another Restricted Subsidiary other than: (i) each Subsidiary the major part of whose business consists of finance, banking, credit, leasing, insurance, financial services or other similar operations, or any combination thereof; and (ii) each Subsidiary formed or acquired after the date of the Indenture for the purpose of acquiring the business or assets of another person and which does not acquire all or any substantial part of the business or assets of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary; provided, however, the Board of Directors of the Company may declare any such Subsidiary to be a Restricted Subsidiary effective as of the date such resolution is adopted.

The term **Subsidiary** as defined in the Indenture means, with respect to any Person, any corporation, association or other business entity of which more than 50% of the outstanding Voting Stock (as defined in the Indenture) is owned, directly or indirectly, by such Person and one or more other Subsidiaries of such Person.

## **Restrictions on Consolidations, Mergers and Sales of Assets**

The Indenture provides that the Company will not consolidate with, merge with or into, or sell, convey, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its property and assets (as an entirety or substantially an entirety in one transaction or a series of related transactions) to, any Person (other than a consolidation with or merger with or into a Subsidiary) or permit any Person to merge with or into the Company unless: (a) either (i) the Company will be the continuing Person or (ii) the Person (if other than the Company) formed by such consolidation or into which the Company is merged or that acquired or leased such property and assets of the Company shall be a corporation organized and validly existing under the laws of the United States of America or any jurisdiction thereof and shall expressly assume, by a supplemental indenture, executed and delivered to the Trustee, all of the obligations of the Company on all of the Debt Securities and the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an opinion of counsel stating that such consolidation, merger or transfer and such supplemental indenture complies with this provision and that all conditions precedent provided for herein relating to such transaction have been complied with; and (b) immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no Default (as defined in the Indenture) shall have occurred and be continuing. (Section 5.1)

## **Events of Default**

An Event of Default, as defined in the Indenture and applicable to Debt Securities, will occur with respect to the Debt Securities of any series if: (a) the Company defaults in the payment of the principal of any Debt Security of such series when the same becomes due and payable at maturity, upon acceleration, redemption, mandatory repurchase or otherwise; (b) the Company defaults in the payment of interest on any Debt Security of such series when the same becomes due and payable, and such default continues for a period of 30 days; (c) the Company defaults in the performance of or breaches any other covenant or agreement of the Company in the Indenture with respect to the Debt Securities of such series and such default or breach continues for a period of 30 consecutive days after written notice to the Company by the Trustee or to the Company and the Trustee by the Holders (as defined in the Indenture) of 25% or more in aggregate principal amount of the Debt Securities of such series; (d) an involuntary case or other proceeding shall be commenced against the Company with respect to it or its debts under any bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar law now or hereafter in effect seeking the appointment of a trustee, receiver, liquidator, custodian or other similar official of it or any substantial part of its property, and such involuntary case or other proceeding shall remain undismissed and unstayed for a period of 60 days; or an order for relief shall be entered against the Company under the federal bankruptcy laws as now or hereafter in effect; (e) the Company (i) commences a voluntary case under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar law or hereafter in effect, or consents to the entry of an order for relief in an involuntary case under any such law, (ii) consents to the appointment of or taking possession by a receiver, liquidator, assignee, custodian, trustee, sequestrator or similar official of the Company or for all or substantially all of the property and assets of the Company or (iii) effects any general assignment for the benefit of creditors; or (f) any other Events of Default set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement occurs. (Section 6.1)

---

**Table of Contents**

The Indenture provides that if an Event of Default described in clauses (a), (b), (c) or (f) above (if such Event of Default under clause (c) or (f) is with respect to one or more but not all series of Debt Securities then outstanding) occurs and is continuing, then, and in each and every such case, except for any series of Debt Securities the principal of which shall have already become due and payable, either the Trustee or the Holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Debt Securities of each such series then outstanding under the Indenture (each such series voting as a separate class) by notice in writing to the Company (and to the Trustee if given by Holders), may declare the entire principal (or, if the Debt Securities of any such series are Original Issue Discount Securities (as defined in the Indenture), such portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of such series and set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement) of all Debt Securities of all such series, and the interest accrued thereon, if any, to be due and payable immediately, and upon any such declaration the same shall become immediately due and payable. If an Event of Default described in clause (c) or (f) occurs and is continuing with respect to all series of Debt Securities then outstanding, then and in each and every such case, unless the principal of all the Debt Securities shall have already become due and payable, either the Trustee or the Holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of all the Debt Securities then outstanding under the Indenture (treated as one class), by notice in writing to the Company (and to the Trustee if given by Holders), may declare the entire principal (or, if any Debt Securities are Original Issue Discount Securities, such portion of the principal as may be specified in the terms thereof and set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement) of all the Debt Securities then outstanding and interest accrued thereon, if any, to be due and payable immediately, and upon any such declaration the same shall become immediately due and payable. If an Event of Default described in clause (d) or (e) occurs and is continuing, then the principal amount (or, if any Debt Securities are Original Issue Discount Securities, such portion of the principal as may be specified in the terms thereof and set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement) of all the Debt Securities then outstanding and interest accrued thereon, if any shall be and become immediately due and payable, without any notice or other action by any Holder or the Trustee, to the full extent permitted by applicable law.

The provisions described in the paragraph above, however, are subject to the condition that if, at any time after the principal (or, if the Debt Securities are Original Issue Discount Securities, such portion of the principal as may be specified in the terms thereof and set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement) of the Debt Securities of any series (or of all the Debt Securities, as the case may be) shall have been so declared due and payable, and before any judgment or decree for the payment of the moneys due shall have been obtained or entered as hereinafter provided, the Company will pay or will deposit with the Trustee a sum sufficient to pay all matured installments of interest upon all the Debt Securities of each such series (or of all the Debt Securities, as the case may be) and the principal of any and all Debt Securities of each such series (or of all the Debt Securities, as the case may be) which shall have become due otherwise than by acceleration (with interest upon such principal and, to the extent that payment of such interest is enforceable under applicable law, on overdue installments of interest, at the same rate as the rate of interest or yield to maturity (in the case of Original Issue Discount Securities) specified in the Debt Securities of each such series and set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement to the date of such payment or deposit) and such amount as shall be sufficient to cover reasonable compensation to the Trustee and each predecessor Trustee, their respective agents, attorneys and counsel, and all other expenses and liabilities incurred, and all advances made, by the Trustee and each predecessor Trustee except as a result of negligence or bad faith, and if any and all Events of Default under the Indenture, other than the non-payment of the principal of Debt Securities which shall have become due by acceleration, shall have been cured, waived or otherwise remedied as provided in the Indenture, then and in every such case the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of all the Debt Securities of each such series, or of all the Debt Securities, in each case voting as a single class, then outstanding, by written notice to the Company and to the Trustee, may waive all defaults with respect to each such series (or with respect to all the Debt Securities, as the case may be) and rescind and annul such declaration and its consequences, but no such waiver or rescission and annulment will extend to or shall affect any subsequent default or shall impair any right consequent thereon. For all purposes under the Indenture, if a portion of the principal of any Original Issue Discount Securities shall have been accelerated and declared due and payable pursuant to the provisions described above, then, from and after such declaration, unless such declaration has been rescinded and annulled, the principal amount of such Original Issue Discount Securities will be deemed, for all purposes under the Indenture, to be such portion of the principal

**Table of Contents**

thereof as shall be due and payable as a result of such acceleration, and payment of such portion of the principal thereof as shall be due and payable as a result of such acceleration, together with interest, if any, thereon and all other amounts owing thereunder, shall constitute payment in full of such Original Issue Discount Securities. (Section 6.2)

The Indenture contains a provision under which, subject to the duty of the Trustee during a default to act with the standard of care required by law, (i) the Trustee may rely and will be protected in acting or refraining from acting upon any resolution, certificate, statement, instrument, opinion, report, notice, request, direction, consent, order, bond, debenture, note, other evidence of indebtedness or other paper or document believed by it to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper person, and the Trustee need not investigate any fact or matter stated in the document, but the Trustee, in its discretion, may make such further inquiry or investigation into such facts or matters as it may see fit; (ii) before the Trustee acts or refrains from acting, it may require an officers certificate or an opinion of counsel, and the Trustee shall not be liable for any action it takes or omits to take in good faith in reliance on such certificate or opinion; (iii) the Trustee may act through its attorneys and agents and shall not be responsible for the misconduct or negligence of any agent appointed with due care; (iv) the Trustee shall be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers vested in it by the Indenture at the request or direction of any of the Holders, unless such Holders shall have offered to the Trustee reasonable security or indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that might be incurred by it in compliance with such request or direction; (v) the Trustee shall not be liable for any action it takes or omits to take in good faith that it believes to be authorized or within its rights or powers or for any action it takes or omits to take in accordance with the direction of the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities relating to the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred upon the Trustee, under the Indenture; and (vi) the Trustee may consult with counsel and the written advice of such counsel or any opinion of counsel shall be full and complete authorization and protection in respect of any action taken, suffered or omitted by it hereunder in good faith and in reliance thereon. (Section 7.2)

Subject to such provisions in the Indenture for the indemnification of the Trustee and certain other limitations, the Holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of each series affected (each such series voting as a separate class) may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee; provided, that the Trustee may refuse to follow any direction that conflicts with law or the Indenture, that may involve the Trustee in personal liability, or that the Trustee determines in good faith may be unduly prejudicial to the rights of Holders not joining in the giving of such direction; and provided further, that the Trustee may take any other action it deems proper that is not inconsistent with any directions received from Holders of Debt Securities pursuant to this Paragraph. (Section 6.5)

The Indenture provides that no Holder of any Debt Security of any series may institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the Indenture or the Debt Securities of such series, or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any other remedy under the Indenture, unless: (i) such Holder has previously given to the Trustee written notice of a continuing Event of Default with respect to the Debt Securities of such series; (ii) the Holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of outstanding Securities of such series shall have made written request to the Trustee to institute proceedings in respect of such Event of Default in its own name as Trustee under the Indenture; (iii) such Holder or Holders have offered to the Trustee indemnity reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee against any costs, liabilities or expenses to be incurred in compliance with such request; (iv) the Trustee for 60 days after its receipt of such notice, request and offer of indemnity has failed to institute any such proceeding; and (v) during such 60-day period, the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of such series have not given the Trustee a direction that is inconsistent with such written request. A Holder may not use the Indenture to prejudice the rights of another Holder or to obtain a preference or priority over such other Holder. (Section 6.6)

---

## **Table of Contents**

The Indenture contains a covenant that the Company will file annually, not more than 90 days after the end of its fiscal year, with the Trustee a certification from the principal executive officer, principal financial officer or principal accounting officer that a review has been conducted of the activities of the Company and its Subsidiaries and the Company's and its Subsidiaries' performance under the Indenture and that the Company has complied with all conditions and covenants under the Indenture. (Section 4.6)

### **Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance**

The Indenture provides that, except as provided below, the Company may terminate its obligations under the Debt Securities of any series and the Indenture with respect to Debt Securities of such series if: (i) all Debt Securities of such series previously authenticated and delivered (other than destroyed, lost or stolen Debt Securities of such series that have been replaced or Debt Securities of such series that are fully repaid or Debt Securities of such series for whose payment money or Securities have theretofore been held in trust and thereafter repaid to the Company, as provided in the Indenture) have been delivered to the Trustee for cancellation and the Company has paid all sums payable by it hereunder; or (ii) (A) the Debt Securities of such series mature within one year or all of them are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the Trustee for giving the notice of redemption, (B) the Company irrevocably deposits in trust with the Trustee, as trust funds solely for the benefit of the Holders of such Securities for that purpose, money or U.S. Government Obligations or a combination thereof sufficient (in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants expressed in a written certification thereof delivered to the Trustee), without consideration of any reinvestment, to pay principal of and interest on the Debt Securities of such series to maturity or redemption, as the case may be, and to pay all other sums payable by it under the Indenture, (C) no default with respect to the Debt Securities of such series has occurred and is continuing on the date of such deposit, (D) such deposit does not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, the Indenture or any other agreement or instrument to which the Company is a party or by which it is bound and (E) the Company delivers to the Trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, in each case stating that all conditions precedent provided for in the Indenture relating to the satisfaction and discharge of the Indenture have been complied with. With respect to the foregoing clause (i), only the Company's obligations under Section 7.7 of the Indenture in respect of the Debt Securities of such series shall survive. With respect to the foregoing clause (ii), only the Company's obligations in Sections 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.11, 4.2, 7.7, 7.8, 8.5 and 8.6 of the Indenture in respect of the Debt Securities of such series shall survive until the Debt Securities are no longer outstanding. Thereafter, only the Company's obligations in Sections 7.7, 8.5 and 8.6 of the Indenture in respect of the Debt Securities of such series shall survive. After any such irrevocable deposit, the Trustee upon request shall acknowledge in writing the discharge of the Company's obligations under the Debt Securities of such series and this Indenture with respect to the Debt Securities of such series except for those surviving obligations specified above. (Section 8.1)

The Indenture provides that, except as provided below, the Company will be deemed to have paid and will be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the Debt Securities of any series after the period specified in clause (D)(2)(z) of this paragraph, and the provisions of the Indenture will no longer be in effect with respect to the Debt Securities of such series, and the Trustee, at the expense of the Company, shall execute proper instruments acknowledging the same; provided that the following conditions shall have been satisfied: (A) the Company has irrevocably deposited in trust with the Trustee as trust funds solely for the benefit of the Holders for payment of the principal of and interest on the Debt Securities of such series, money or U.S. Government Obligations or a combination thereof sufficient (in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants expressed in a written certification thereof delivered to the Trustee) without consideration of any reinvestment and after payment of all federal, state and local taxes or other charges and assessments in respect thereof payable by the Trustee, to pay and discharge the principal of and accrued interest on the outstanding Debt Securities of such series to maturity or earlier redemption (irrevocably provided for under arrangements satisfactory to the Trustee), as the case may be; (B) such deposit will not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, the Indenture or any other agreement or instrument to which the Company is a party or by which it is bound; (C) no Default with respect to the Debt Securities of such series shall



**Table of Contents**

have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit or at any time during the period specified in clause (D)(2)(z) below; (D) the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee (1) either (x) a ruling directed to the Trustee received from the Internal Revenue Service to the effect that the Holders of the Securities of such series will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of the Company's exercise of its option under this provision of the Indenture and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such option had not been exercised or (y) an opinion of counsel to the same effect as the ruling described in clause (x) above and based on a change in law and (2) an opinion of counsel to the effect that (x) the creation of the defeasance trust does not violate the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, (y) the Holders of the Securities of such series have a valid first priority security interest in the trust funds, and (z) after the passage of 123 days following the deposit (except after one year following the deposit, with respect to any trust funds for the account of any Holder of the Securities of such series who may be deemed to be an insider as to an obligor on the Securities of such series for purposes of the United States Bankruptcy Code), the trust funds will not be subject to the effect of Section 547 of the United States Bankruptcy Code or Section 15 of the New York Debtor and Creditor Law in a case commenced by or against the Company under either such statute, and either (I) the trust funds will no longer remain the property of the Company (and therefore will not be subject to the effect of any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally) or (II) if a court were to rule under any such law in any case or proceeding that the trust funds remained in the possession of the Company, to the extent not paid to such Holders, the Trustee will hold, for the benefit of such Holders, a valid and perfected first priority security interest in such trust funds that is not avoidable in bankruptcy or otherwise (except for the effect of Section 552(b) of the United States Bankruptcy Code on interest on the trust funds accruing after the commencement of a case under such statute and the Holders of the Securities of such series will be entitled to receive adequate protection of their interests in such trust funds if such trust funds are used in such case or proceeding; (E) if the Debt Securities of such series are then listed on a national securities exchange, the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the defeasance contemplated by this provision of the Indenture of the Debt Securities of such series will not cause the Debt Securities of such series to be delisted; and (F) the Company has delivered to the Trustee an officers, certificate and an opinion of counsel, in each case stating that all conditions precedent provided for in the Indenture relating to the defeasance contemplated by this provision of the Indenture of the Debt Securities of such series have been complied with. Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the end of the 123-day (or one year) period referred to in clause (D)(2)(z) of this paragraph, none of the Company's obligations under the Indenture with respect to such series shall be discharged. Subsequent to the end of such 123-day (or one year) period, the Company's obligations in Sections 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.11, 4.1, 4.2, 7.7, 7.8, 8.5 and 8.6 of the Indenture with respect to the Debt Securities of such series shall survive until such Debt Securities are no longer outstanding. Thereafter, only the Company's obligations in Sections 7.7, 8.5 and 8.6 of the Indenture with respect to the Debt Securities of such series shall survive. If and when a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service or an opinion of counsel referred to in clause (D)(1) of this paragraph is able to be provided specifically without regard to, and not in reliance upon, the continuance of the Company's obligations under Section 4.1 of the Indenture, then the Company's obligations under such Section 4.1 of the Indenture shall cease upon delivery to the Trustee of such ruling or opinion of counsel and compliance with the other conditions precedent provided for in this provision of the Indenture relating to the defeasance contemplated by this provision of the Indenture. (Section 8.2)

The Indenture provides that the Company may omit to comply with any term, provision or condition described under Certain Covenants, and such omission shall be deemed not to be an Event of Default, with respect to the outstanding Debt Securities of any series if: (i) the Company has irrevocably deposited in trust with the Trustee as trust funds solely for the benefit of the Holders of the Securities of such series for payment of the principal of and interest, if any, on the Debt Securities of such series money or U.S. Government Obligations or a combination thereof in an amount sufficient (in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants expressed in a written certification thereof delivered to the Trustee) without consideration of any reinvestment and after payment of all federal, state and local taxes or other charges and assessments in respect thereof payable by the Trustee, to pay and discharge the principal of and interest on the outstanding Debt Securities of such series to maturity or earlier redemption (irrevocably provided for under arrangements

**Table of Contents**

satisfactory to the Trustee), as the case may be; (ii) such deposit will not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, the Indenture or any other agreement or instrument to which the Company is a party or by which it is bound; (iii) no Default with respect to the Debt Securities of such series shall have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit; (iv) the Company has delivered to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that (A) the creation of the defeasance trust does not violate the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (B) the Holders of the Debt Securities of such series have a valid first-priority security interest in the trust funds, (C) such Holders will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit and covenant defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such deposit and defeasance had not occurred and (D) after the passage of 123 days following the deposit (except, with respect to any trust funds for the account of any Holder of the Debt Securities of such series who may be deemed to be an insider as to an obligor on the Debt Securities of such series for purposes of the United States Bankruptcy Code, the trust funds will not be subject to the effect of Section 547 of the United States Bankruptcy Code or Section 15 of the New York Debtor and Creditor Law in a case commenced by or against the Company under either such statute, and either (1) the trust funds will no longer remain the property of the Company (and therefore will not be subject to the effect of any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or similar laws affecting creditors, rights generally) or (2) if a court were to rule under any such law in any case or proceeding that the trust funds remained property of the Company, to the extent not paid to such Holders, the Trustee will hold, for the benefit of such Holders, a valid and perfected first priority security interest in such trust funds that is not avoidable in bankruptcy or otherwise (except for the effect of Section 552(b) of the United States Bankruptcy Code on interest on the trust funds accruing after the commencement of a case under such statute), and the Holders of the Debt Securities of such series entitled to receive adequate protection of their interests in such trust funds if such trust funds are used in such case or proceeding; (v) if the Debt Securities of such series are then listed on a national securities exchange, the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the covenant defeasance contemplated by this provision of the Indenture of the Debt Securities of such series will not cause the Debt Securities of such series to be delisted; and (vi) the Company has delivered to the Trustee an officers certificate and an opinion of counsel, in each case stating that all conditions precedent provided for in the Indenture relating to the covenant defeasance contemplated by this provision of the Indenture of the Debt Securities of such series have been complied with. (Section 8.3)

**Modification of the Indenture**

The Indenture provides that the Company and the Trustee may amend or supplement the Indenture or the Debt Securities of any series without notice to or the consent of any Holder: (1) to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the Indenture; provided that such amendments or supplements shall not adversely affect the interests of the Holders in any material respect; (2) to comply with Article 5 of the Indenture; (3) to comply with any requirements of the Commission in connection with the qualification of the Indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended; (4) to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment hereunder by a successor Trustee; (5) to establish the form or forms or terms of Debt Securities of any series or of the coupons appertaining to such Debt Securities as permitted by the Indenture; (6) to provide for uncertificated Debt Securities and to make all appropriate changes for such purpose; and (7) to make any change that does not materially and adversely affect the rights of any Holder. (Section 9.1)

The Indenture also provides that, without prior notice to any Holders, the Company and the Trustee may amend the Indenture and the Debt Securities of any series outstanding thereunder with the written consent of the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of all series affected by such supplemental indenture (all such series voting as one class), and the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of all series affected thereby (all such series voting as one class) by written notice to the Trustee may waive future compliance by the Company with any provision of the Indenture or the Debt Securities of such series. Notwithstanding the foregoing provision, without the consent of each Holder of the Debt Securities of each series affected each thereby, an amendment or waiver, including a waiver pursuant to Section 6.4 of the Indenture, may not: (i) extend the stated maturity of the principal of, or any installment of interest on, such Holder s

## **Table of Contents**

Debt Security, or reduce the principal amount thereof or the rate of interest thereon (including any amount in respect of original issue discount), or any premium payable with respect thereto, or adversely affect the rights of such Holder under any mandatory repurchase provision or any right of repurchase at the option of such Holder, or reduce the amount of the principal of an Original Issue Discount Security that would be due and payable upon an acceleration of the maturity thereof pursuant to the Indenture or the amount thereof provable in bankruptcy, or change any place of payment where, or the currency in which, any Debt Security of such series or any premium or the interest thereon is payable, or impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment on or after the stated maturity thereof (or, in the case of redemption, on or after the redemption date or, in the case of mandatory repurchase, the date therefor); (ii) reduce the percentage in principal amount of outstanding Debt Security of such series the consent of whose Holders is required for any such supplemental indenture, for any waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the Indenture or certain Defaults and their consequences provided for in the Indenture; (iii) waive a Default in the payment of principal of or interest on, any Debt Security of such series; (iv) cause any Debt Security of such series to be subordinated in right of payment to any obligation of the Company; (v) modify any of the provisions of this section of the Indenture, except to increase any such percentage or to provide that certain other provisions of the Indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the Holder of each outstanding Debt Security of any series affected thereby. A supplemental indenture which changes or eliminates any covenant or other provision of the Indenture which has expressly been included solely for the benefit of one or more particular series of Debt Securities, or which modifies the rights of Holders of Debt Security of such series with respect to such covenant or provision, shall be deemed not to affect the rights under the Indenture of the Holders of Debt Securities of any other series or of the coupons appertaining to such Debt Securities. It shall not be necessary for the consent of the Holders under this section of the Indenture to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment, supplement or waiver, but it shall be sufficient if such consent approves the substance thereof. After an amendment, supplement or waiver under this section of the Indenture becomes effective, the Company shall give to the Holders affected thereby a notice briefly describing the amendment, supplement or waiver. The Company will mail supplemental indentures to Holders upon request. Any failure of the Company to mail such notice, or any defect therein, shall not, however, in any way impair or affect the validity of any such supplemental indenture or waiver. (Section 9.2)

## **Governing Law**

The Indenture and the Debt Securities will be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

## **Concerning the Trustee**

The Company and its subsidiaries maintain ordinary banking relationships with The Chase Manhattan Bank and its affiliates and a number of other banks. The Chase Manhattan Bank, and its affiliates along with a number of other banks have extended credit facilities to the Company and its subsidiaries.

**Table of Contents**

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

The Company may sell Debt Securities to or through one or more underwriters and also may sell Debt Securities directly to other purchasers or through agents or dealers, or the Company may sell Debt Securities through a combination of any such methods.

The distribution of the Debt Securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. Underwriters may sell Debt Securities to or through dealers.

In connection with the sales of Debt Securities, underwriters may receive compensation from the Company in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions. Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of Debt Securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts or commissions received by them and any profit on the resale of Debt Securities by them may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Any such underwriter or agent will be identified, and any such compensation will be described in the Prospectus Supplement.

Pursuant to agreements into which the Company may enter, underwriters, dealers and agents who participate in the distribution of Debt Securities may be entitled to indemnification by the Company against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Unless otherwise indicated in the Prospectus Supplement, the Company does not intend to list any of the Debt Securities on a national securities exchange. In the event the Debt Securities are not listed on a national securities exchange, certain broker-dealers may make a market in the Debt Securities, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given that any broker-dealer will make a market in the Debt Securities or as to the liquidity of the trading market for the Debt Securities, whether or not the Debt Securities are listed on a national securities exchange. The Prospectus Supplement with respect to the Debt Securities will state, if known, whether or not any broker-dealer intends to make a market in the Debt Securities. If no such determination has been made, the Prospectus Supplement will so state.

The place and time of delivery for the Offered Securities in respect of which this Prospectus is delivered will be set forth in the Prospectus Supplement.

**Table of Contents**

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the issuance of the Debt Securities offered hereby will be passed upon for the Company by Kutak Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas, and for any underwriters or agents by Davis Polk & Wardwell, New York, New York.

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Tyson Foods, Inc. incorporated by reference and the financial statement schedule included in the Company's Annual Report (Form 10K) for the year ended September 27, 1997, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors, as set forth in their reports thereon included or incorporated by reference therein and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given upon the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated balance sheets of Hudson Foods, Inc. as of September 27, 1997 and September 28, 1996 and the consolidated statements of income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended September 27, 1997, incorporated by reference in this prospectus, have been incorporated herein in reliance on the report of Coopers & Lybrand, L.L.P., independent accountants, given on the authority of that firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

---

**Table of Contents**

---

**\$**

**Tyson Foods, Inc.**

**% Notes due 20**

---

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

---

**Merrill Lynch & Co.**

**Barclays Capital**

**JP Morgan**

**Rabo Securities USA**

**Scotia Capital**

**Stephens Inc.**

**SunTrust Robinson Humphrey**

March , 2006