

LEATHERBY DENNIS  
Form 4  
October 07, 2009

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**LEATHERBY DENNIS**

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
2200 DON TYSON PARKWAY  
(Street)

SPRINGDALE, AR 72762

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**TYSON FOODS INC [TSN]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
10/05/2009

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
EVP & Chief Financial Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Class A Common Stock	09/15/2009		J <sup>(1)</sup>	V 1,029 A \$ 0	93,937	D	
Class A Common Stock	10/05/2009		S <sup>(2)</sup>	8,933 D \$ 0	85,004	D	
Class A Common Stock	09/30/2009		J <sup>(3)</sup>	V 5,394 A \$ 0	14,000	I	By Employee Stock Purchase Plan

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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Shares
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title	
Performance Shares	(4)	10/05/2009		A	18,262	(4) (4)	Class A Common Stock	18,262

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
LEATHERBY DENNIS 2200 DON TYSON PARKWAY SPRINGDALE, AR 72762			EVP & Chief Financial Officer	

## Signatures

/s/ Leatherby,  
Dennis 10/07/2009

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
  - (1) Represents 1,029 shares of the Issuer's restricted Class A Common Stock acquired by the Reporting Person pursuant to a dividend reinvestment feature under the Issuer's 2000 Stock Incentive Plan since the last Statement of Changes in Beneficial Ownership was filed by the Reporting Person. Such acquisition is exempt from Section 16 reporting requirements pursuant to Rule 16a-11.
  - (2) On Sunday, October 4, 2009, 26,706 shares of restricted Class A Common Stock vested. The award of these restricted shares to the Reporting Person has previously been reported. Pursuant to an election made by the Reporting Person, 8,933 shares were sold by the Reporting Person to the Issuer on Monday, October 5, 2009, to satisfy tax withholding obligations related to the vesting.
  - (3) Represents 5,394 shares of the Issuer's Class A Common Stock purchased for the Reporting Person's account under the Issuer's Employee Stock Purchase Plan since the last Statement of Changes in Beneficial Ownership was filed by the Reporting Person. Such acquisitions

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are exempt from Section 16 reporting requirements pursuant to Rule 16b-3.

- (4) The award will vest or expire two business days following the Issuer's 2012 fiscal year based upon a comparison of the market price of the Issuer's Class A Common Stock to a peer group of publicly traded companies. The number of performance shares that can vest under the awards range from 50% to 150% of a target level, and the number of derivative securities reported herein is at the maximum vesting level of 150%.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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