

FORM 4
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

[] Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person(s)
Christ William F
Corporate Headquarters
100 Crystal A Drive
Hershey, PA 17033
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
Hershey Foods Corporation (HSY)
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
###-##-####
4. Statement for Month/Year
December 1997
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) [] Director [] 10% Owner [X] Officer (give title below) [] Other (specify below) Senior VP and CFO
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) [X] 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	2) Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/Year)	3. Trans- action Code Code V	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	5) Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6) D or I	7) Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Common Stock	12/05/97	M	300.0000	A \$17.6875		D
Common Stock	12/05/97	S	300.0000	D \$61.3375		D
Common Stock	12/05/97	M	4,300.0000	A \$18.1250		D
Common Stock	12/05/97	S	4,300.0000	D \$61.3375		D
Common Stock	12/05/97	M	5,400.0000	A \$22.3750		D
Common Stock	12/05/97	S	5,400.0000	D \$61.3375	24,183.8747	D
Common Stock					7,017.6810	I 401(k) Plan

Table II (PART 1) Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (Columns 1 through 6)

1) Title of Derivative Security	2) Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3) Trans- action Date	4) Trans- action Code Code V	5) Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) A D	6) Date Exercisable and Expiration Date Exercisable Expiration
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$17.6875	12/05/97	M	300.0000	01/08/00
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$18.1250	12/05/97	M	4,300.0000	01/07/01
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$22.3750	12/05/97	M	5,400.0000	01/05/02

Table II (PART 2) Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (Columns 1,3 and 7 through 11)

1) Title of Derivative Security	3) Trans- action Date	7) Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title	8) Price of Deri- vative Security Amount or Number of Shares	9) Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	10) D or I	11) Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	12/05/97	Common Stock	300.0000	0.0000	D	
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	12/05/97	Common Stock	4,300.0000	0.0000	D	
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	12/05/97	Common Stock	5,400.0000	4,400.0000	D	

Explanation of Responses:

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
/s/ Christ William F
DATE 01/09/98