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Michael H. Cole  
Secretary and Associate General Counsel

Direct Dial Number:  
(757) 365-3030

Fax Number:  
(757) 365-3025

July 29, 2002

**VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY:**

Securities and Exchange Commission  
450 Fifth Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20549-0609  
Attn: Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary

**Statements Under Oath of Principal Executive Officer and Principal  
Financial Officer Regarding Facts and Circumstances Relating to Exchange Act Filings**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with Commission Order 4-460, enclosed for filing with the SEC are statements under oath by Joseph W. Luter, III, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Smithfield Foods, Inc., and Daniel G. Stevens, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Smithfield Foods, Inc., regarding facts and circumstances relating to the company's filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Please acknowledge your receipt of these sworn statements by stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed return envelope.

Very truly yours,

Michael H. Cole

cc: Joseph W. Luter, III  
Daniel G. Stevens

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**STATEMENT UNDER OATH OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
RELATING TO EXCHANGE ACT FILINGS**

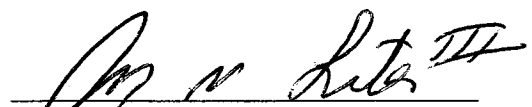
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JUL 30 2002

I, Joseph W. Luter, III, state and attest that:

- (1) To the best of my knowledge, based upon a review of the covered reports of Smithfield Foods, Inc. (the "Company"), and except as corrected or supplemented in a subsequent covered report:
  - no covered report contained an untrue statement of a material fact as of the end of the period covered by such report (or in the case of a report on Form 8-K or definitive proxy materials, as of the date on which it was filed); and
  - no covered report omitted to state a material fact necessary to make the statements in the covered report, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading as of the end of the period covered by such report (or in the case of a report on Form 8-K or definitive proxy materials, as of the date on which it was filed).
- (2) I have reviewed the contents of this statement with the Company's audit committee.
- (3) In this statement under oath, each of the following, if filed on or before the date of this statement is a "covered report":
  - the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") for the year ended April 28, 2002;
  - all reports on Form 10-Q, all reports on Form 8-K and all definitive proxy materials of the Company filed with the Commission subsequent to the filing of the Form 10-K identified above; and
  - any amendments to any of the foregoing.

Dated: July 29, 2002

  
Joseph W. Luter, III

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29 day of July, 2002.

  
Notary Public

My commission expires: My Commission Expires September 30, 2003