

PILGRIMS PRIDE CORP
Form DEF 14A
March 27, 2012

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

SCHEDULE 14A

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

PILGRIM'S PRIDE CORPORATION

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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- No fee required.
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(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Pilgrim's Pride Corporation
1770 Promontory Circle
Greeley, Colorado 80634

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held April 27, 2012

The annual meeting of stockholders of Pilgrim's Pride Corporation will be held at Pilgrim's Pride corporate headquarters, at 1770 Promontory Circle, Greeley, Colorado, on Friday, April 27, 2012, at 8:00 a.m., local time, to consider and vote on the following matters:

1. To elect Wesley Mendonça Batista, Joesley Mendonça Batista, Don Jackson, William W. Lovette, Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes and Wallim Cruz De Vasconcellos Junior as the six JBS Directors for the ensuing year;
2. To elect Michael L. Cooper and Charles Macaluso as the two Equity Directors for the ensuing year;
3. To conduct a stockholder advisory vote on executive compensation;
4. To ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 30, 2012; and
5. To transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

No other matters are expected to be voted on at the annual meeting.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 9, 2012, as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting. If you owned shares of our common stock at the close of business on that date, you are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, please vote at your earliest convenience. Most stockholders have three options for submitting their votes prior to the meeting:

- (1) via the internet;
- (2) by phone; or
- (3) by mail.

Please refer to the specific instructions set forth on the enclosed proxy card.

Admission to the annual meeting will be limited to our stockholders, proxy holders and invited guests. If you are a stockholder of record, please bring photo identification to the annual meeting. If you hold shares through a bank, broker or other third party, please bring photo identification and a current brokerage statement.

Greeley, Colorado
March 27, 2012

WILLIAM W. LOVETTE
President and
Chief Executive Officer

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT!

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE ACCOMPANYING PROXY OR VOTE YOUR SHARES ON THE INTERNET OR BY TELEPHONE BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PROXY CARD

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE STOCKHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 27, 2012: The Proxy Statement and the 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K are available at www.envisionreports.com/PPC. Enter the 12-digit control number located on the proxy card and click "View 2012 Stockholder Material."

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Pilgrim's Pride Corporation
1770 Promontory Circle
Greeley, Colorado 80634

PROXY STATEMENT

GENERAL INFORMATION

Why did I receive this proxy statement?

The Board of Directors (the "Board of Directors" or the "Board") of Pilgrim's Pride Corporation is soliciting stockholder proxies for use at our annual meeting of stockholders to be held at the Pilgrim's Pride corporate headquarters, at 1770 Promontory Circle, Greeley, Colorado, on Friday, April 27, 2012, at 8:00 a.m., local time, and any adjournments thereof (the "Annual Meeting" or the "meeting"). This proxy statement, the accompanying proxy card and the annual report to stockholders of Pilgrim's Pride Corporation are being mailed on or about March 27, 2012. Throughout this proxy statement, we will refer to Pilgrim's Pride Corporation as "Pilgrim's Pride," "Pilgrim's," "PPC," "we," "us" or the "Company."

What is the record date for the Annual Meeting and why is it important?

The Board of Directors has fixed March 9, 2012 as the record date for determining stockholders who are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting (the "Record Date"). At the close of business on the Record Date, Pilgrim's Pride had 258,926,358 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, issued and outstanding.

What is the difference between holding shares as a stockholder of record and as a beneficial owner?

Most stockholders of Pilgrim's Pride hold their shares through a broker, bank or other nominee, rather than directly in their own name. As summarized below, there are some distinctions between shares held of record and those owned beneficially.

Stockholders of Record: If your shares are registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, you are considered the stockholder of record with respect to those shares. As the stockholder of record, you have the right to vote in person at the meeting.

Beneficial Owner: If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by a bank or other nominee, you are considered the beneficial owner of shares held in "street name." As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker on how to vote your shares, and you are also invited to attend the meeting. Since you are not the stockholder of record, however, you may not vote your shares in person at the meeting unless you obtain a signed proxy from the holder of record giving you the right to vote the shares.

What is a proxy?

A proxy is your legal designation of another person (the "proxy") to vote on your behalf. By completing and returning the enclosed proxy card, you are giving the proxies appointed by the Board and identified on the proxy card the authority to vote your shares in the manner you indicate on your proxy card.

What if I receive more than one proxy card?

You will receive multiple proxy cards if you hold shares of our common stock in different ways (e.g., joint tenancy, trusts, custodial accounts) or in multiple accounts. If your shares are held in "street name" (i.e., by a broker, bank or other nominee), you will receive your proxy card or voting information from your nominee, and you must return your voting instructions to that nominee. You should complete, sign and return each proxy card you receive or submit your voting instructions for each proxy card.

What are the voting rights of the common stock?

Each holder of record of our common stock on the Record Date is entitled to cast one vote per share on each matter presented at the meeting.

What are the three categories of Directors?

In connection with the Company's emergence from Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings on December 28, 2009, the Company adopted an Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (our "Certificate of Incorporation") and entered into a stockholders agreement (the "JBS Stockholders Agreement") with our largest stockholder, JBS USA Holdings, Inc. ("JBS USA"). Our Certificate of Incorporation establishes three categories of directors: JBS Directors, Equity Directors and the Founder Director. On March 12, 2012, Lonnie "Bo" Pilgrim resigned from his position as the Founder Director. As a result, our Certificate of Incorporation now provides for six JBS Directors and three Equity Directors.

JBS Directors are the six Directors designated as JBS Directors pursuant to the terms of the Company's Certificate of Incorporation. Successor JBS Directors will be nominated by the JBS Nominating Committee. The current JBS Directors are Wesley Mendonça Batista, Joesley Mendonça Batista, Don Jackson, William W. Lovette, Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes and Wallim Cruz De Vasconcellos Junior.

Equity Directors are the three Directors designated as Equity Directors or their successors nominated or appointed by the Equity Nominating Committee or any stockholders other than JBS USA and its affiliates ("Minority Investors"). The current Equity Directors are Michael L. Cooper and Charles Macaluso. Because of the timing of Mr. Pilgrim's resignation, the Equity Nominating Committee has not nominated any person as the third Equity Director. As a result, the third Equity Director position is currently vacant. However, the Equity Nominating Committee has the power to appoint an Equity Director for the vacant position after the Annual Meeting.

What are the differences between the categories of Directors?

All of our Directors serve coequal one-year terms. However, only JBS Directors can serve as members of the JBS Nominating Committee, and only Equity Directors can serve on the Equity Nominating Committee.

The JBS Stockholders Agreement requires JBS USA and its affiliates to vote all of Pilgrim's Pride common stock that they hold in the same manner as the shares held by all Minority Investors with respect to the election or removal of Equity Directors. Consequently, the vote of the Minority Investors will determine the outcome of the election of Equity Directors.

With respect to all other matters submitted to a vote of holders of common stock, including the election or removal of any JBS Directors, JBS USA and its affiliates may vote shares of common stock held by them in their sole and absolute discretion.

What is the "Say on Pay" Vote?

With Proposal 3, the Board is providing stockholders with the opportunity to cast an advisory vote on the compensation of our Named Executive Officers. This proposal, commonly known as a "Say on Pay" proposal, gives you, as a stockholder, the opportunity to endorse or not endorse our executive compensation programs and policies and the compensation paid to our Named Executive Officers.

How do I vote my shares?

If you are a "stockholder of record," you have several choices. You can vote your proxy:

- by completing, dating, signing and mailing the enclosed proxy card;
- over the telephone; or
- via the internet.

Please refer to the specific instructions set forth on the enclosed proxy card.

If you hold your shares in "street name," your broker, bank or nominee will provide you with materials and instructions for voting your shares.

If you are a current or former employee of Pilgrim's Pride who holds shares in the Pilgrim's Pride Retirement Savings Plan or the To-Ricos Employee Savings and Retirement Plan, you will receive voting instructions from the trustee of the plans for the shares allocated to your account.

What are the Board's recommendations on how I should vote my shares?

The Board recommends that you vote your shares as follows:

Proposal 1: FOR the election of all six nominees for JBS Director.

Proposal 2: FOR the election of both nominees for Equity Director.

Proposal 3: FOR the approval of the advisory vote on executive compensation.

Proposal 4: FOR ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 30, 2012.

What are my choices when voting?

With respect to:

Proposal 1: You may either (i) vote "FOR" the election of all JBS Director nominees as a group; (ii) withhold your vote on all JBS Director nominees as a group; or (iii) vote "FOR" the election of all JBS Director nominees as a group except for certain nominees identified by you in the appropriate area on the proxy card or voting instructions.

Proposal 2: You may either (i) vote "FOR" the election of both Equity Director nominees as a group; (ii) withhold your vote on both Equity Director nominees as a group; or (iii) vote "FOR" the election of both Equity Director nominees as a group except for certain nominees identified by you in the appropriate area on the proxy card or voting instructions.

Proposal 3: In each case, you may vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" the proposal, or you may elect to abstain from voting your shares. Abstaining will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal, as discussed below.

Proposal 4: In each case, you may vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" the proposal, or you may elect to abstain from voting your shares. Abstaining will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal, as discussed below.

How will my shares be voted if I do not specify my voting instructions?

If you sign and return your proxy card without indicating how you want your shares to be voted, the proxies appointed by the Board will vote your shares as follows:

Proposal 1: FOR the election of all six nominees for JBS Director.

Proposal 2: FOR the election of both nominees for Equity Director.

Proposal 3: FOR the approval of this advisory vote on executive compensation.

Proposal 4: FOR ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 30, 2012.

If you are a current or former employee of Pilgrim's Pride who holds shares through the Pilgrim's Pride Retirement Savings Plan or the To-Ricos Employee Savings and Retirement Plan you will be given the opportunity to provide instruction to the trustee with respect to how to vote your shares. Any shares for which instructions are not received (i) shall be voted by the trustee in accordance with instructions provided by Pilgrim's Pride with respect to shares held under the Pilgrim's Pride Retirement Savings Plan and (ii) will not be voted with respect to shares held under the To-Ricos Employee Savings and Retirement Plan.

What is a quorum?

A "quorum" is necessary to hold the meeting. A quorum consists of a majority of the voting power of our common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote at the meeting, including the voting power that is present in person or by proxy. If a quorum is not represented in person or by proxy at the meeting or any adjourned meeting, the chairman of the meeting may postpone the meeting from time to time until a quorum will be represented. At any

adjourned meeting at which a quorum is represented, any business may be transacted that might have been transacted at the meeting as originally called. JBS USA owned or controlled over 50% of the voting power of our outstanding common stock on the Record Date. Therefore, JBS USA will be able to assure a quorum is present.

What vote is required to approve the proposals for the election of the JBS Directors and the Equity Directors?

Directors will be elected by a plurality of the voting power of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the meeting. This means that the director who receives the most votes will be elected.

Because JBS USA owned or controlled over 50% of the voting power of our outstanding common stock on the Record Date, they will be able to elect all of the nominees for JBS Directors and, with certain exceptions, determine the outcome of all other matters presented to a vote of the stockholders. The JBS Stockholders Agreement, however, requires JBS USA and its affiliates to vote all of our common stock owned by them in the same manner as the shares held by the Minority Investors with respect to the election or removal of Equity Directors. Consequently, the vote of the Minority Investors will determine the outcome of Proposal 2.

How Many Votes Are Required for Advisory Approval of Executive Compensation?

With regard to Proposal 3, the stockholder advisory vote on executive compensation, the results of this vote are not binding on the Board, meaning that our Board will not be obligated to take any compensation actions, or to adjust our executive compensation programs or policies, as a result of the vote. Notwithstanding the advisory nature of the vote, the resolution will be considered passed with the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes present at the Annual Meeting. With respect to Proposal 3, JBS USA and its affiliates may vote shares of Pilgrim's Pride common stock held by them in their sole and absolute discretion.

What vote is required to approve the proposals for the election of the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP and any other item of business to be voted upon at the meeting?

The affirmative vote of a majority of the voting power of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting is required for the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm and approval of any other item of business to be voted upon at the meeting.

With respect to approval of any other item of business to be voted upon at the meeting, including the election or removal of any JBS Directors, JBS USA and its affiliates may vote shares of Pilgrim's Pride common stock held by them in their sole and absolute discretion.

How are abstentions and broker non-votes treated?

Abstentions from voting on any matter will be counted in the tally of votes. Abstentions will have no effect on the election of Directors. However, an abstention will have the same effect as a vote against any other proposals.

A broker "non-vote" occurs when a nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the nominee does not have discretionary voting power for that particular item and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner. A broker non-vote will be deemed "present" at the Annual Meeting and will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists. Under the rules that govern brokers who are voting with respect to shares held by them in street name, if the broker has not been furnished with voting instructions by its client at least ten days before the meeting, those brokers have the discretion to vote such shares on routine matters, but not on non-routine matters. Routine matters include the appointment of an independent registered public accounting firm, submitted to the stockholders in Proposal 4. Non-routine matters include the election of Directors and the advisory votes on executive compensation, submitted to stockholders in Proposal 1, Proposal 2 and Proposal 3. As a result, with regard to Proposal 1, Proposal 2 and Proposal 3, brokers have no discretion to vote shares where no voting instructions are received, and no vote will be cast if you do not vote on those proposals. Consequently, broker non-votes will have no effect on the elections of Directors or the advisory votes on executive compensation. We urge you to vote on ALL voting items.

Can I change my vote after I have mailed in my proxy card?

Yes. You may revoke your proxy by doing one of the following:

by sending to the Secretary of the Company a written notice of revocation that is received prior to the meeting;

by submitting a new proxy card bearing a later date to the Secretary of the Company so that it is received prior to the meeting; or

by attending the meeting and voting your shares in person.

Who will pay the cost of this proxy solicitation?

We will pay the cost of preparing, printing and mailing this proxy statement and of soliciting proxies. We will request brokers, custodians, nominees and other like parties to forward copies of proxy materials to beneficial owners of our common stock and will reimburse these parties for their reasonable and customary charges or expenses.

Is this proxy statement the only way that proxies are being solicited?

No. In addition to mailing these proxy materials, certain of our Directors, officers or employees may solicit proxies by telephone, facsimile, e-mail or personal contact. They will not be specifically compensated for doing so.

Stockholder Proposals for 2013 Annual Meeting

We currently expect that our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders will be held on April 26, 2013. Our bylaws state that a stockholder must have given our Secretary written notice, at our principal executive offices, of the stockholder's intent to present a proposal (including nominations of Directors) at the 2013 Annual Meeting by December 27, 2012, but not before July 30, 2012. Additionally, in order for stockholder proposals submitted pursuant to Rule 14a-8 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), to be considered for inclusion in the proxy materials for the 2013 Annual Meeting, they must be received by our Secretary at our principal executive offices no later than the close of business on November 27, 2012.

PROPOSAL 1. ELECTION OF JBS DIRECTORS

Subject to limited exceptions, our Certificate of Incorporation specifies that the Board of Directors will consist of nine members. Our Board currently has eight members, with one vacant position. Proxies cannot be voted for a greater number of persons than the eight nominees named.

Pursuant to our Certificate of Incorporation and our bylaws, our Board of Directors includes six JBS Directors, including the Chairman of the Board, who are designated by JBS USA. William W. Lovette, our Chief Executive Officer, was appointed to the Board pursuant to his employment agreement with the Company and is included in the designees of the JBS Nominating Committee.

At the meeting, eight Directors, including six JBS Directors, are to be elected, each to hold office for one year or until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified. Unless otherwise specified on the proxy card or voting instructions, the shares represented by the proxy will be voted for the election of the six nominees named below. If any JBS Director nominee becomes unavailable for election, it is intended that such shares will be voted for the election of a substitute nominee selected by the JBS Nominating Committee. Our Board of Directors has no reason to believe that any substitute nominee or nominees will be required.

Nominees for JBS Directors

Wesley Mendonça Batista, 41, has served as a Director and Chairman of the Board of Pilgrim's Pride Corporation since December 2009. Mr. Batista became President and Chief Executive Officer of JBS S.A. in February 2011. Mr. Batista previously served as President and Chief Executive Officer of JBS USA from July 2007 until January 2011. Mr. Batista also serves as Chairman of the Board of JBS USA and is the Vice President of JBS S.A.'s Board of Directors. Mr. Batista has served in various capacities at JBS S.A. since 1987. Mr. Batista is the brother of Joesley Mendonça Batista, Chairman of the Board of JBS S.A., and José Batista Júnior, a Director of JBS S.A., and is the son of José Batista Sobrinho, the founder of JBS S.A. and a member of its Board of Directors.

Mr. Batista brings to the Board of Pilgrim's Pride significant senior leadership and industry experience. Mr. Batista has long been one of the most respected executives in Brazil's protein industry, and his reputation is now firmly established worldwide. Mr. Batista grew up in the protein industry, and it is his strategic insight and entrepreneurial spirit that has facilitated the growth of JBS through numerous acquisitions, expanding its reach across the globe. As Chairman of the Board, Mr. Batista has direct responsibility for Pilgrim's Pride's strategy and operations.

Joesley Mendonça Batista, 40, is currently the President of the Board of Directors of JBS S.A. and served as the Chief Executive Officer of JBS S.A. from March 2006 until January 2011. Mr. Batista has served as a Director of the Company since December 2009. Mr. Batista has served in various capacities at JBS S.A. since 1988. Mr. Batista is the brother of Wesley Mendonça Batista, a Director of the Company, and José Batista Júnior, a Director of JBS S.A., and the son of José Batista Sobrinho, the founder of JBS S.A. and a member of its Board of Directors.

Mr. Batista has worked in the protein industry for over 20 years, rising to the post of President and Chief Executive Officer of JBS S.A. from March 2006 until January 2011. During his tenure as President and CEO, JBS S.A. expanded dramatically in the United States, acquiring Swift & Company in 2007, Smithfield Beef Group and Five Rivers Ranch Cattle Feeding in 2008, and a 64% interest in the Company in 2009. Mr. Batista brings to the Board significant leadership, sales and marketing, industry, technical, and global experience.

William W. Lovette, 52, joined Pilgrim's Pride as President and Chief Executive Officer on January 3, 2011. He brings more than 29 years of industry leadership experience to Pilgrim's. He previously served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Case Foods, Inc. from October 2008 to December 2010. Before joining Case Foods, Inc., Mr. Lovette spent 25 years with Tyson Foods in various roles in senior management, including President of its International Business Unit, President of its Foodservice Business Unit and Senior Group Vice President of Poultry and Prepared Foods. Mr. Lovette earned a B.S. degree from Texas A&M University. In addition, he is a graduate of Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program.

Mr. Lovette brings invaluable industry-specific experience to the Board, having worked in the poultry industry his entire life. Mr. Lovette grew up in a family poultry business, which became the Holly Farms Corporation. Through his formative years, he worked in virtually all aspects of the business including farm labor and management on his family's broiler farm, catching chickens, working in all areas of a processing plant during summers, working as a customer service representative and as a trading floor clerk on the Chicago Board of Trade. Mr. Lovette's experience

learned over a lifetime in the industry enables him to offer a valuable insight on the business, financial and regulatory issues currently being faced by the poultry industry.

Don Jackson, 61, has served as a Director of the Company since January 2009 and is currently serving as Chief Executive Officer of JBS USA. He previously served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company from January 2009 to January 2011. Previously, Dr. Jackson served as President of Foster Farms' poultry division, based in Livingston, California, since 2000. Prior to that, he served as Executive Vice President for foodservice of the former ConAgra Poultry Company in Duluth, Georgia. Before that, he worked for 22 years for Seaboard Farms of Athens, Georgia, including four years as President and CEO of their poultry division. Dr. Jackson served as our President and Chief Executive Officer during the pendency of our Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings.

In addition to his 33 years of leadership and experience in various executive positions at five different companies as detailed above, Dr. Jackson brings invaluable industry-specific expertise to the Board. After earning his PhD in Animal Science from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, Dr. Jackson advanced through the Seaboard Farms organization and led Live Production there before serving as Seaboard's President and CEO.

Accordingly, Dr. Jackson brings unparalleled industry insight to the Board.

Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes, 72, has served as a Director since December 2009. He is currently President of the Business Strategy Committee of JBS Friboi, Vice Chairman of the Board of COSAN Ltd., a member of the Board of COSCEX - Superior Council of Foreign Trade at FIESP (Foreign Trade Board of the Federation of Industries of the State of Sao Paulo), and Director of DEAGRO Division - Agrobusiness Department for Products of Animal Origin at FIESP (Foreign Trade Board of the Federation of Industries of the State of Sao Paulo). Dr. Pratini de Moraes was a former Chairman of the Advisory Board of Solvay and Cie., Brazil, former Chairman of the Brazilian Chapter of CEAL (Business Council of Latin America), and a former member of the Advisory Council of BM&F (Brazilian Mercantile & Futures Exchange). Dr. Pratini de Moraes was a member of the Supervisory Board of ABN AMRO Bank from 2003 to 2007. He also had a long career in Brazil's public sector.

Dr. Pratini de Moraes brings to the Board of Directors continuing experience in dealing with foreign governments and substantial expertise in matters affecting international commerce. Dr. Pratini de Moraes has served in various roles in Brazilian government including, but not limited to, the Deputy Minister of Planning, the Minister of Industry and Trade, a Congressman, the Minister of Mines and Energy and the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply. Additionally, as a director for other multinational companies, Dr. Pratini de Moraes also provides cross-board experience.

Wallim Cruz De Vasconcellos Junior, 54, has been a Director since December 2009. He has served as a Partner of Iposeira Partners Ltd, a provider of advisory services for mergers and acquisitions and restructuring transactions since 2003. Mr. Vasconcellos served as a Consultant to IFC/World Bank from 2003 to 2008. He is currently a Member of the Board of Santos Brasil S.A. and served as a Member of the Board of Cremer S.A. from 2006 to 2008.

Regarded as one of Brazil's preeminent business strategists, Mr. Vasconcellos brings to the Board real-time experience in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, finance, and restructurings, and offers unique insights into global market strategies. In addition, Mr. Vasconcellos' experience working on behalf of public financial institutions enables him to provide perspective and oversight with regard to the Company's financial strategies.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote FOR the election of all of the individuals who have been nominated to serve as JBS Directors. Proxies will be so voted unless stockholders specify otherwise.

PROPOSAL 2. ELECTION OF EQUITY DIRECTORS

Pursuant to our Certificate of Incorporation and our bylaws, our Board of Directors includes three members designated by the Equity Nominating Committee, our Equity Directors.

The JBS Stockholders Agreement requires JBS USA and its affiliates to vote all of the Pilgrim's Pride common stock that they hold in the same manner as the shares held by the Minority Investors with respect to the election or removal of Equity Directors. Consequently, the vote of the Minority Investors will determine the outcome of this Proposal 2. At the meeting, eight Directors, including two Equity Directors, are to be elected, each to hold office for one year or until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified. Unless otherwise specified on the proxy card or voting instructions, the shares represented by the proxy will be voted for the election of the two nominees named below. If either nominee for Equity Director becomes unavailable for election, it is intended that such shares will be voted for the election of a substitute nominee selected by the Equity Nominating Committee. Because of the timing of Mr. Pilgrim's resignation from our Board of Directors, the remaining Equity Director position is currently vacant and will remain vacant until such time as the Equity Nominating Committee shall appoint a replacement Equity Director. The Equity Committee has the power to appoint an Equity Director for the vacant position after the Annual Meeting.

Resignation of the Founder Director before the Annual Meeting

Lonnie "Bo" Pilgrim, 83, served as a Director since July 1968, most recently as the Founder Director since December 2009. He served as the Senior Chairman of the Board from July 2007 to December 2009. He served as Chairman of the Board from our organization in July 1968 until July 2007. He also served as Chief Executive Officer from July 1968 to June 1998. Prior to our incorporation, Mr. Pilgrim was a partner in our predecessor partnership business founded in 1946. On March 12, 2012, Lonnie "Bo" Pilgrim resigned from his position as the Founder Director. Mr. Pilgrim brought vast experience and a unique perspective to our Board, and we thank Mr. Pilgrim for his many years of exemplary service on the Board.

Nominees for Equity Director

Michael L. Cooper, 62, has served as a Director since December 2009. He is the Executive Vice President, Managing Partner, Chief Financial Officer and a Director of Kincannon & Reed, an executive search firm for the food and agribusiness sectors, where he has been employed since July 2004. He also currently serves on the National Chicken Council's Allied Leader Board. From September 2002 to July 2004, Mr. Cooper served as the Chief Executive Officer of Meyer Natural Angus. From January 1996 to July 2002, Mr. Cooper was employed by Perdue Farms, Inc., where he served in various roles, including as President, Retail Products, from February 2000 to July 2002, and as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from January 1996 through February 2000. From August 1992 to January 1996, he served as Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Treasurer of Rocco Enterprises. Mr. Cooper also served in various senior financial roles with Dial Corporation over a 14 year career with that company. Mr. Cooper brings to the Board significant senior leadership, management, operational, financial, and brand management experience. His extensive poultry industry experience enables him to offer a valuable insight on the business, financial and regulatory issues currently being faced by the poultry industry.

Charles Macaluso, 68, has served as a Director since December 2009. He has been a principal of Dorchester Capital, LLC, a management consulting and corporate advisory service firm focusing on operational assessment, strategic planning and workouts since 1998. From 1996 to 1998, he was a partner at Miller Associates, Inc., a workout, turnaround partnership, focusing on operational assessment, strategic planning and crisis management. Mr. Macaluso currently serves as a director of the following public companies: Lazy Days RV SuperCenters, Inc., where he is also a member of the audit committee; and Darling International, as Lead Director. He also serves as a Chairman of the Board of three private companies. Mr. Macaluso previously served as a director of Global Crossing Ltd., where he was also a member of the audit committee.

Mr. Macaluso brings fundamental expertise to our Board in the areas of operational assessment, strategic planning, crisis management, and turnaround advisory services, which expertise supports the Board's efforts in overseeing and advising on strategy and financial matters. In addition, Mr. Macaluso brings to the Board substantial cross-board expertise due to his tenure on a number of public and private company boards and committees.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote FOR the election of all of the individuals who have been nominated to serve as Equity Directors. Proxies will be so voted unless stockholders specify otherwise.

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PROPOSAL 3. APPROVAL OF THIS ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The Board is providing stockholders with the opportunity to cast an advisory vote on the compensation of our Named Executive Officers. This proposal, commonly known as a “Say on Pay” proposal, gives you, as a stockholder, the opportunity to endorse or not endorse our executive compensation programs and policies and the compensation paid to our Named Executive Officers.

The Say on Pay vote is advisory and thus not binding on the Compensation Committee or the Board. The advisory vote will not affect any compensation already paid or awarded to any Named Executive Officer and will not overrule any decisions by the Compensation Committee or the Board. The Board values the opinions of the Company's stockholders as expressed through their votes and other communications. Although the vote is non-binding, the Compensation Committee and the Board will review and carefully consider the outcome of the advisory vote on executive compensation and those opinions when making future decisions regarding executive compensation programs.

We design our executive compensation programs to implement our core objectives of attracting key leaders, motivating our executives to remain with the Company for long and productive careers, rewarding sustained financial and operating performance and leadership excellence and aligning the long-term interests of our executives with those of our stockholders. Stockholders are encouraged to read the Compensation Discussion and Analysis (“CD&A”) section of this proxy statement. In the CD&A, we have provided stockholders with a description of our compensation programs, including the principles and policies underpinning the programs, the individual elements of the compensation programs and how our compensation plans are administered. The Board believes that the policies and practices described in the CD&A are effective in achieving the Company's goals. In furtherance of these goals, among other things, our compensation programs have been designed so that a significant portion of our executives' total compensation is tied not only to how well they perform individually, but also, where applicable, is “at risk” based on how well the Company performs relative to applicable financial objectives. For 2011, the Compensation Committee also believes that our Named Executive Officers' compensation is consistent with periods of economic stress and lower earnings. We also believe that equity incentives are aligned with our actions to stabilize the Company and to position it for a continued recovery and were necessary to induce highly qualified individuals, such as William Lovette, to join the Company. Accordingly, the Board recommends that you vote in favor of the following resolution: “RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company's Named Executive Officers, as disclosed pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the CD&A, the compensation tables and any related material disclosed in this proxy statement, is hereby APPROVED.”

Approval of this proposal will require the majority of affirmative votes present in person or represented by proxy. Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote “against” this proposal. Additionally, broker non-votes will not be considered to have voted on this proposal and will therefore have no effect on the proposal. The individuals named as proxies on the enclosed proxy card will vote your proxy “FOR” this proposal unless you instruct otherwise on the proxy or you withhold authority to vote.

The advisory vote on executive compensation is non-binding, meaning that our Board will not be obligated to take any compensation actions, or to adjust our executive compensation programs or policies, as a result of the vote.

Notwithstanding the advisory nature of the vote, the resolution will be considered passed with the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote “FOR” the approval of this advisory vote on executive compensation. Proxies will be so voted unless stockholders specify otherwise.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors has the responsibility for establishing broad corporate policies and for our overall performance, but it is not involved in our day-to-day operating decisions. Members of the Board are informed of our business through discussions with the Chief Executive Officer and other officers, and through their review of analyses and reports sent to them each month, as well as through participation in Board and committee meetings.

Board of Directors Independence

Our Board of Directors has affirmatively determined that each of Michael L. Cooper, Charles Macaluso, Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes and Wallim Cruz De Vasconcellos Junior, has no material relationship with the Company (either directly or as a partner, stockholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with us) and is independent within the meaning of our Corporate Governance Policy's categorical independence standards and the NYSE listing standards.

Committees of the Board of Directors

To assist in carrying out its duties, the Board of Directors has delegated certain authority to the Audit, Compensation, JBS Nominating and Equity Nominating Committees. Each committee of the Board meets to examine various facets of our operations and take appropriate action or make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Audit Committee. The Audit Committee members include Michael L. Cooper, Charles Macaluso and Wallim Cruz De Vasconcellos Junior. Our Audit Committee's responsibilities include selecting our independent registered public accounting firm, reviewing the plan and results of the audit performed by our independent registered public accounting firm and the adequacy of our systems of internal accounting controls, and monitoring compliance with our conflicts of interest and business ethics policies. The Audit Committee is composed entirely of Directors who the Board of Directors has determined to be independent within the meaning of the NYSE listing standards. The Board has determined that each of the members of the Audit Committee is financially literate for purposes of the applicable listing standards of the NYSE ("financially literate") and Michael L. Cooper is an "audit committee financial expert" within the meaning of the regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). The Audit Committee has an Audit Committee Charter, which is available on our website at www.pilgrims.com, under the "Investors - Corporate Governance" caption.

Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee members include Wesley Mendonça Batista, Michael Cooper and Wallim Cruz de Vasconcellos Junior. Our Compensation Committee reviews our remuneration policies and practices and establishes the salaries of our officers. The Compensation Committee does not have a Charter.

Special Nominating Committees. Under our Certificate of Incorporation, the Board also has two Special Nominating Committees, which include the JBS Nominating Committee and the Equity Nominating Committee. The JBS Nominating Committee is required to consist solely of JBS Directors and presently includes Wesley Mendonça Batista, Joesley Mendonça Batista, Don Jackson, William W. Lovette, Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes and Wallim Cruz De Vasconcellos Junior. The Equity Nominating Committee is required to consist solely of all of the Equity Directors and presently includes Michael L. Cooper and Charles Macaluso.

The JBS Nominating Committee has the exclusive authority to nominate the JBS Directors, fill JBS Director vacancies and select the members of the JBS Nominating Committee. The Equity Nominating Committee has the exclusive authority to nominate the Equity Directors, fill Equity Director vacancies, select the members of the Equity Nominating Committee, and to call a special meeting of stockholders under certain circumstances. The Equity Nominating Committee, acting by majority vote, also has the exclusive right to control the exercise of our rights and remedies under the JBS Stockholders Agreement. Any member or alternate member of the Equity Nominating Committee may be removed only by the approval of a majority of the members of the Equity Nominating Committee. For so long as JBS USA and its affiliates beneficially own 35% or more of our outstanding common stock, no person may be nominated as an Equity Director by the Equity Nominating Committee if JBS USA reasonably determines that such person (i) is unethical or lacks integrity or (ii) is a competitor or is affiliated with a competitor of the Company. Two Equity Directors (or one if there is only one Equity Director on the Board) must satisfy the

independence requirements of Rule 10A-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), and be financially literate, and, for so long as there are two or more Equity Directors on the Board, at least one Equity Director must qualify as an “audit committee financial expert” as that term is used in Item 407 of Regulation S-K under the Exchange Act (or any successor rule).

If JBS USA and its affiliates own at least 50% of our outstanding common stock, at least one JBS Director is required:

• to be an independent director,

• to satisfy the independence requirements of Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act, and

• to be financially literate.

Each of the Board's Special Nominating Committees has a Charter, current copies of which are available on our website at www.pilgrims.com, under the “Investors - Corporate Governance” caption.

Our Special Nominating Committees do not have a policy with regard to the consideration of any Director candidates recommended by our stockholders. The Board of Directors does not view the establishment of a formal policy in this regard as necessary, given the extent of the ownership of the Company's common stock by JBS USA and its affiliates and the existing JBS Stockholders Agreement. Further, our Special Nominating Committees do not have a formal policy with regard to the consideration of diversity in identifying Director nominees. However, the Special Nominating Committees strive to achieve a balance of knowledge, experience and perspective such that the Board reflects a diversity of backgrounds and experiences. In addition, the Special Nominating Committees will consider stockholder recommendations for candidates for the Board, which should be sent to Pilgrim's Pride Corporation, Corporate Secretary, 1770 Promontory Circle, Greeley, Colorado 80634.

Meetings

During the fiscal year ended December 25, 2011, the Board of Directors held 12 meetings, the Audit Committee held 19 meetings, the Compensation Committee held two meetings and there were four executive sessions including only non-management Directors. During 2011, each member of the Board of Directors, with the exception of Joesley Mendonça Batista, attended at least 75% of the number of meetings of the Board and each of the Board committees on which the Director served. All Directors attended our 2011 annual meeting of stockholders either in person or telephonically, with exception of Joesley Mendonça Batista and Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes. Both Directors were traveling at the time. While we do not have a formal policy regarding Director attendance at annual meetings of stockholders, we encourage each Director to attend each annual meeting of stockholders.

Board Leadership Structure and Risk Oversight

The position of our Chairman of the Board and the office of the President and Chief Executive Officer are held by different persons. Our Chairman of the Board is Wesley Mendonça Batista, and our President and Chief Executive Officer is William W. Lovette.

We separate the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board in recognition of the differences between the two roles. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for setting the strategic direction for the Company and the day-to-day leadership and performance of the Company, while the Chairman of the Board provides guidance to the Chief Executive Officer and sets the agenda for Board meetings and presides over meetings of the full Board. We believe the division of duties is especially appropriate as legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the Board and its committees continue to expand, and it facilitates the appropriate levels of communication between the Board of Directors and executive management for Board oversight of the Company and its management.

Because Wesley Mendonça Batista, Joesley Mendonça Batista, William W. Lovette and Don Jackson are not independent Directors, the Board will either designate an independent Director to preside at the meetings of the non-management and independent Directors or they will prescribe a procedure by which a presiding Director is selected for these meetings. In the absence of another procedure being adopted by the Board, the person appointed will be the independent Director with the longest tenure on the Board in attendance at the meeting. The Board generally holds meetings of non-management directors four times per year and meetings of independent directors four times per year.

The Company's management is responsible for the ongoing assessment and management of the risks the Company faces, including risks relating to capital structure, strategy, liquidity and credit, financial reporting and public

disclosure, operations and governance. Working with JBS USA, we have integrated sophisticated risk management techniques into our operations. We have taken steps to avoid, reduce and insure the different risks inherent in our business from a holistic viewpoint. We focus not only on operational risk, but financial and strategic risk as well. These areas of focus include input costs (commodity pricing, live and processed product cost and spoilage), revenue risk (sales price and mix), financial risk (adequate controls, timely and effective reporting systems and other management and governance systems) as well as competitive risks and market trends. We aim to identify, categorize and respond to these risks in a systematic manner to manage as much of their impact on our business as possible. The Board oversees management's policies and procedures in addressing these and other risks. Additionally, each of the Board's four committees (the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the two Special Nominating Committees) monitor and report to the Board those risks that fall within the scope of such committees' respective areas of oversight responsibility. For example, the full Board directly oversees strategic risks. The Special Nominating Committees directly oversee risk management relating to Director nominations and independence. The Compensation Committee directly oversees risk management relating to employee compensation, including any risks of compensation programs encouraging excessive risk-taking. Finally, the Audit Committee directly oversees risk management relating to financial reporting, public disclosure and legal and regulatory compliance. The Audit Committee is also responsible for assessing the steps management has taken to monitor and control these risks and exposures and discussing guidelines and policies with respect to the Company's risk assessment and risk management.

Communications with the Board of Directors

Stockholders and other interested parties may communicate directly with our Board of Directors, any of its committees, all independent Directors, all non-management Directors, or any one Director serving on the Board by sending written correspondence to the desired person or entity attention of our Corporate Counsel at Pilgrim's Pride Corporation, 1770 Promontory Circle, Greeley, Colorado 80634. Communications are distributed to the Board, or to any individual Director or Directors as appropriate, depending on the facts and circumstances outlined in the communication.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and Corporate Governance Policies

Our Board of Directors has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and Corporate Governance Policies of the Board of Directors. The full texts of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and Corporate Governance Policies are posted on our website at www.pilgrims.com, under the "Investors - Corporate Governance" caption. We intend to disclose future amendments to, or waivers from, certain provisions of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics on our website within four business days following the date of such amendment or waiver.

Controlled Company Exemption

We are a "controlled company" under the NYSE listing standards because JBS USA owns or controls over 50% of the voting power of the outstanding common stock as of the Record Date. Accordingly, we take advantage of the exemptions in Sections 303A.01, 303A.04 and 303A.05 of the NYSE listing standards.

REPORT OF THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of Pilgrim's Pride Corporation (the "Company") has reviewed and discussed with management the following Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of the Company's Proxy Statement for the fiscal year ended December 25, 2011 (the "Proxy Statement"). Based on our review and discussions, we have recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in the Proxy Statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.