UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of

the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): February 24, 2004

SMITHFIELD FOODS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Virginia (State or other jurisdiction

1-15321 (Commission 52-0845861 (IRS Employer

 $of\ incorporation)$

File Number)

Identification No.)

200 Commerce Street

Smithfield, Virginia (Address of principal executive offices)

23430 (Zip Code)

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Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (757) 365-3000

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Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure.

On February 26, 2004, Smithfield Foods, Inc. (the Registrant) intends to provide certain financial information regarding the Registrant at an analyst conference. A copy of this information is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this report and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 12. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On February 24, 2004, the Registrant issued a press release announcing its earnings for the third quarter of fiscal 2004, which ended February 1, 2004. The information contained in the press release, which is attached as Exhibit 99.2 to this report, is incorporated herein by reference. See also Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure above.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

SMITHFIELD FOODS, INC.

Date: February 26, 2004 /s/ Daniel G. Stevens

Daniel G. Stevens

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit 99.1 Certain financial information regarding the Registrant.

Exhibit 99.2 Press release, dated as of February 24, 2004, announcing the Registrant s earnings for the third quarter of fiscal 2004, which ended February 1, 2004.