

PROVENA FOODS INC  
Form 10-Q  
May 05, 2003  
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# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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## FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

FOR THE QUARTER ENDED MARCH 31, 2003

Commission File Number 1-10741

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## PROVENA FOODS INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

California  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation or organization)  
5010 Eucalyptus Avenue,  
Chino, California  
(Address of principal executive offices)

95-2782215  
(I.R.S. employer  
identification number)

91710  
(ZIP Code)

(909) 627-1082

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(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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Indicate by checkmark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

The number of shares of Provena Foods Inc. Common Stock outstanding as April 24, 2003 was:

Common Stock 3,169,571 shares

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**PROVENA FOODS INC.**

Form 10-Q Report for the First Quarter Ended March 31, 2003

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## ITEM I. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## PROVENA FOODS INC.

## Condensed Statements of Income

(Unaudited)

|  | Three Months Ended |           |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
|  | March 31,          |           |
|  | 2003               | 2002      |
| Net sales                                    | \$ 9,012,341       | 9,772,060 |
| Cost of sales                                | 7,995,233          | 8,810,846 |
| Gross profit                                 | 1,017,108          | 961,214   |
| Operating expenses:                          |                    |           |
| Distribution                                 | 404,806            | 305,016   |
| General and administrative                   | 479,408            | 497,035   |
| Operating income                             | 132,894            | 159,163   |
| Interest expense, net                        | (109,388)          | (123,766) |
| Other income, net                            | 87,176             | 57,309    |
| Earnings before income taxes                 | 110,682            | 92,706    |
| Income tax expense                           | 44,000             | 37,000    |
| Net earnings                                 | \$ 66,682          | 55,706    |
| Earnings per share:                          |                    |           |
| Basic  | \$ .02             | .02       |
| Diluted                                      | \$ .02             | .02       |
| Shares used in computing earnings per share: |                    |           |
| Basic  | 3,157,764          | 3,099,362 |

|         |           |           |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Diluted | 3,157,764 | 3,099,362 |
|---------|-----------|-----------|

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Financial Statements.

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## Condensed Balance Sheets

(Unaudited)

|   | March 31,<br>2003    | December 31,<br>2002 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
|   | <u>2003</u>          | <u>2002</u>          |
| <u>Assets</u>   |                      |                      |
| Current assets:   |                      |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | \$ 227,725           | 350,433              |
| Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$0 at 2003 and 2002   | 3,087,219            | 2,772,039            |
| Inventories   | 3,572,485            | 2,944,123            |
| Prepaid expenses  | 470,404              | 41,829               |
| Deferred tax assets   | 139,130              | 139,130              |
|   | <u>7,496,963</u>     | <u>6,247,554</u>     |
| Total current assets  | 7,496,963            | 6,247,554            |
| Property and equipment, net   | 15,494,675           | 15,587,363           |
| Other assets  | 241,477              | 232,095              |
| Deferred tax assets, net of current   | 89,054               | 89,054               |
|   | <u>\$ 23,322,169</u> | <u>22,156,066</u>    |
|   | <u>\$ 23,322,169</u> | <u>22,156,066</u>    |
| <u>Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity</u>   |                      |                      |
| Current liabilities:  |                      |                      |
| Line of credit  | \$ 3,619,159         | 2,922,729            |
| Current portion of long-term debt   | 495,285              | 495,285              |
| Current portion of capital lease obligation   | 113,200              | 113,200              |
| Accounts payable  | 1,690,269            | 1,293,481            |
| Accrued liabilities   | 1,197,926            | 1,123,138            |
| Deferred tax liability  | 46,394               | 46,394               |
| Income taxes payable  | 27,179               |                      |
|   | <u>7,189,412</u>     | <u>5,994,227</u>     |
| Total current liabilities   | 7,189,412            | 5,994,227            |
| Long-term debt, net of current portion  | 5,800,272            | 5,903,883            |
| Capital lease obligation, net of current portion  | 360,778              | 372,625              |
| Deferred tax liability, net of current portion  | 370,408              | 370,408              |
| Shareholders' equity:   |                      |                      |
| Capital stock, no par value; authorized 10,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 3,163,878 at 2003 and 3,147,087 at 2002 | 5,078,928            | 5,059,234            |
| Retained earnings   | 4,522,371            | 4,455,689            |
|   | <u>9,601,299</u>     | <u>9,514,923</u>     |
| Total shareholders' equity  | 9,601,299            | 9,514,923            |

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| <u>\$ 23,322,169</u> | <u>22,156,066</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Financial Statements.

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## Condensed Statements of Cash Flows

(Unaudited)

|   | Three Months Ended |                  |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
|   | March 31,          |                  |
|   | 2003               | 2002             |
| Cash flows from operating activities:   |                    |                  |
| Net earnings  | \$ 66,682          | 55,706           |
| Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities: |                    |                  |
| Depreciation and amortization   | 199,288            | 204,483          |
| Increase in provision for bad debts   |                    | 40,225           |
| Increase in accounts receivable   | (315,180)          | (224,393)        |
| Increase in inventories   | (628,362)          | (152,753)        |
| Increase in prepaid expenses  | (428,575)          | (153,551)        |
| Decrease (increase) in other assets   | (9,382)            | 5,618            |
| Increase in accounts payable  | 396,788            | 220,039          |
| Increase in accrued liabilities   | 74,788             | 390,147          |
| Increase in income taxes payable  | 27,179             | 37,000           |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities   | <u>(616,774)</u>   | <u>422,521</u>   |
| Cash flows from investing activities:   |                    |                  |
| Additions to property and equipment   | (106,600)          | (56,432)         |
| Net cash used in investing activities   | <u>(106,600)</u>   | <u>(56,432)</u>  |
| Cash flows from financing activities:   |                    |                  |
| Payments on long term debt  | (103,611)          | (103,272)        |
| Payments on capital lease obligation  | (11,847)           | (28,944)         |
| Proceeds from (repayments of) line of credit  | 696,430            | (407,775)        |
| Proceeds from sale of capital stock   | 19,694             | 21,668           |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities   | <u>600,666</u>     | <u>(518,323)</u> |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents   | (122,708)          | (152,234)        |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period  | 350,433            | 206,777          |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period  | <u>\$ 227,725</u>  | <u>54,543</u>    |
| Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:  |                    |                  |



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Cash paid during the period for:

|              |                   |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Interest     | \$ 109,576        | 124,004           |
| Income taxes | \$ 48,991         |                   |
|              | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Financial Statements.

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## Notes to Condensed Financial Statements

March 31, 2003 and 2002 (Unaudited)

**(1) Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying unaudited condensed financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Form 10-Q and, therefore, do not include all information and footnotes which would be presented were such financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for annual financial statement purposes. These statements should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements presented in the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002. In the opinion of management, the accompanying financial statements reflect all adjustments which are necessary for a fair presentation of the results for the interim periods presented. Such adjustments consisted only of normal recurring items. The results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2003 are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for the full year.

**(2) Inventories**

Inventories at March 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002 consist of:

|                 | 2003                | 2002              |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|                 | <u>          </u>   | <u>          </u> |
| Raw materials   | \$ 1,259,564        | 1,128,576         |
| Work-in-process | 855,021             | 705,993           |
| Finished goods  | 1,457,900           | 1,109,554         |
|                 | <u>          </u>   | <u>          </u> |
|                 | <u>\$ 3,572,485</u> | <u>2,944,123</u>  |

**(3) Segment Data**

Business segment sales and operating income (loss) for the three months ended March 31, 2003 and 2002 and assets at March 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002 are as follows:

|                                      | 2003                | 2002              |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|                                      | <u>          </u>   | <u>          </u> |
| Net sales to unaffiliated customers: |                     |                   |
| Swiss American Sausage Division      | \$ 7,582,769        | 8,177,597         |
| Royal-Angelus Macaroni Division      | 1,429,572           | 1,594,463         |
|                                      | <u>          </u>   | <u>          </u> |
| Total net sales                      | <u>\$ 9,012,341</u> | <u>9,772,060</u>  |
|                                      | <u>          </u>   | <u>          </u> |
| Operating income (loss):             |                     |                   |

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|                                 |               |            |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Swiss American Sausage Division | \$ 173,545    | 208,098    |
| Royal-Angelus Macaroni Division | (82,907)      | (91,826)   |
| Corporate                       | 42,256        | 42,891     |
|                                 | <hr/>         | <hr/>      |
| Operating income                | \$ 132,894    | 159,163    |
|                                 | <hr/>         | <hr/>      |
| Identifiable assets:            |               |            |
| Swiss American Sausage Division | \$ 18,656,856 | 17,709,638 |
| Royal-Angelus Macaroni Division | 3,782,316     | 3,842,313  |
| Corporate                       | 882,997       | 604,115    |
|                                 | <hr/>         | <hr/>      |
| Total assets                    | \$ 23,322,169 | 22,156,066 |
|                                 | <hr/>         | <hr/>      |

(4) Earnings per Share

Basic earnings per share are net earnings divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period, and diluted earnings per share are net earnings divided by the sum of the weighted average plus an incremental number of shares attributable to outstanding options. Options for 107,111 shares were not used in the diluted loss calculations for the following periods because their effect was antidilutive. The Company applies the intrinsic-value based method of Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, in accounting for its stock option plan and, accordingly, no compensation cost has been recognized for its stock options in the financial statements. Had the company determined compensation cost based on the fair value at the date of grant for its stock options under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123, the Company's net earnings on a pro forma basis would have been as set forth in the following table.

|   | Three Months Ended March 31, |           |
|---|------------------------------|-----------|
|   | 2003                         | 2002      |
| Net earnings, as reported   | \$ 66,682                    | 55,706    |
| Deduct: Total stock-based employee compensation expense, net of related tax effects | <hr/>                        | <hr/>     |
| Pro forma net earnings  | 66,682                       | 55,706    |
|   | <hr/>                        | <hr/>     |
| Weighted average number of shares   | 3,157,764                    | 3,099,362 |
| Incremental shares for options  | <hr/>                        | <hr/>     |
| Weighted average plus incremental shares  | 3,157,764                    | 3,099,362 |
|   | <hr/>                        | <hr/>     |
| Earnings per share: Basic as reported   | \$ .02                       | .02       |
|   | <hr/>                        | <hr/>     |
| Basic pro forma   | \$ .02                       | .02       |
|   | <hr/>                        | <hr/>     |
| Diluted as reported   | \$ .02                       | .02       |
|   | <hr/>                        | <hr/>     |
| Diluted pro forma   | \$ .02                       | .02       |
|   | <hr/>                        | <hr/>     |

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|   | Three Months Ended     |                 |
|---|------------------------|-----------------|
|   | March 31,              |                 |
|   | 2003                   | 2002            |
| <u>Results of Operations</u>              |                        |                 |
| (Unaudited)                               |                        |                 |
|   | (amounts in thousands) |                 |
| Net sales by division:                    |                        |                 |
| <b>Swiss American</b>                     | \$ 7,583               | \$ 8,178        |
| <b>Royal-Angelus</b>                      | 1,429                  | 1,594           |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>\$ 9,012</b>        | <b>\$ 9,772</b> |
| Sales in thousands of pounds by division: |                        |                 |
| <b>Swiss American</b>                     | 5,275                  | 5,427           |
| <b>Royal-Angelus</b>                      | 2,762                  | 2,814           |

Forward-Looking Statements

The following discussion may contain forward-looking statements that express or imply expectations of future performance, developments or occurrences. Actual events may differ materially from these expectations due to uncertainties relating to the economy, competition, demand, commodities, credit markets, energy supplies and other factors.

Swiss American Sausage Co. Meat Division

Sales by the processed meat division decreased about 7% in dollars and 3% in pounds in the 1st three months of 2003 over the same period in 2002. Sales in dollars decreased proportionately more than in pounds because of lower selling prices reflecting lower meat costs. Meat costs were lower than a year ago but were increasing during the first three months of 2003. Swiss operated at a \$173,545 profit in the 1st quarter of 2003 compared to a \$208,098 profit for the 1st quarter of 2002. Reduced profits were caused by higher workers compensation insurance costs and increasing meat costs outpacing increases in selling prices.

Royal-Angelus Macaroni Company Pasta Division

The pasta division's sales decreased about 10% in dollars and 2% in pounds in the 1st quarter of 2003 compared to the 1st quarter of 2002. The percentage decreases were higher in dollars than in pounds because of an increased proportion of lower price-per-pound sales and lower selling

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prices reflecting lower flour costs. Royal operated at a \$82,907 loss for the 1st quarter of 2003 compared to a \$91,826 loss for the 1st quarter of 2002. Sales and operating results continue to be adversely affected by competition resulting from increased industry capacity. The slight reduction in operating loss resulted from a reduction in bad debt expense.

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### The Company

Company net sales were down about 8% and the Company realized net earnings of \$66,682 in the 1st quarter of 2003 compared to \$55,706 for the 1st quarter of 2002. Both divisions contributed to the decreased sales. The increased net earnings resulted from the decreased loss at Royal and an increase in other income. The Company's gross profit margin for the 1st quarter of 2003 was 11.3% compared to 9.8% a year ago. The Company's margin increased because Swiss's margin was higher than a year ago due to lower meat costs, with Royal's margin down slightly.

General and administrative expenses were down about \$18,000 for the 1st quarter of 2003 compared to the same period in 2002 primarily because of a reduction in bad debt expense, partially offset by increases in health insurance costs, dues and travel at Swiss, and audit and loan fees. Distribution expenses were up about \$100,000 in spite of decreased sales because of increased salesman payroll for two additional salesmen, increased advertising and freight at Swiss and increased workers compensation insurance costs. Net interest expense decreased about \$14,000 because of lower interest rates and lower total debt, despite slightly higher borrowings under the bank line of credit in the 1st quarter of 2003 versus the 1st quarter of 2002. Other income increased about \$30,000 primarily because of insurance proceeds.

Meat plant employees are represented by United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 588, AFL-CIO, CLC under a collective bargaining agreement dated April 1, 2002 which expires April 2, 2006. Pasta plant employees are represented by United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 1428, AFL-CIO, CLC under a collective bargaining agreement dated October 2, 2002 which expires September 30, 2006. There has been no significant labor unrest at the division's plants and the Company believes it has a satisfactory relationship with its employees.

### Liquidity and Capital Resources

The Company has generally satisfied its normal working capital requirements with funds derived from operations and borrowings under its bank line of credit, which is part of a credit facility with Comerica Bank-California. The line of credit is payable on demand, is subject to annual review, and bears interest at a variable annual rate which is 0.75% over the bank's Base Rate if working capital exceeds \$50,000 and tangible net worth exceeds \$8,750,000 and 1.75% over the Base Rate otherwise. The variable rate decreased from 1.75% to 0.75% over the Base Rate on September 1, 2002. The maximum amount of the line of credit is the lesser of \$4,000,000, or 30% of inventories plus 80% of eligible receivables, with a limit of \$1,000,000 for inventories, determined monthly. At March 31, 2003 the Base Rate was 4.25% per annum, the maximum amount of the line of credit was \$3,619,159 and the Company had \$3,619,159 of borrowings outstanding under the bank line of credit.

As part of the credit facility, Comerica Bank-California issued a \$4,060,000 letter of credit to support \$4,000,000 of industrial development bonds issued in 1998 for costs relating to the construction of the Company's meat plant. The bonds bear a variable rate of interest payable

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monthly and set weekly at a market rate 1.2% per annum at March 31, 2003. The Company pays a 1.5% per annum fee on the amount of the letter of credit and fees of the bond trustee estimated at 0.5% of the bond principal per year. Monthly payments of bond principal into a sinking fund began May 1, 2000, total \$76,700 the first year and increase about 5.6% each year until May 1, 2022, when \$813,500 of remaining principal is payable in 18 equal monthly payments. The \$4,060,000 letter of credit expires October 15, 2003, Comerica is not obligated to renew the letter of credit, and the Company is obligated to maintain a like letter of credit until the bonds mature.

Also as part of the credit facility, the bank made four loans to the Company for the new meat plant, a \$1,280,000 real estate loan and three equipment loans totalling \$2,614,788. The real estate loan was made in December 1999, bears a fixed rate of interest of 9.1% per annum and is payable in equal monthly payments of principal and interest over its 25 year term. Each equipment loan bears a variable rate of interest and is payable in equal monthly payments of principal plus interest over its term, with issue date, initial amount, term and rate as follows: July 1999, \$1,000,000, 7 year, bank's Base Rate; September 1999, \$1,200,000, 7 year, bank's Base Rate plus 0.25%; and December 1999, \$414,788, 5 year, bank's Base Rate plus 0.75%.

All parts of the credit facility are secured by substantially all of the Company's assets, including accounts receivable, inventory, equipment and fixtures, the Company's two pasta buildings and the meat plant, none of which is otherwise encumbered. The credit facility prohibits mergers, acquisitions, purchase or disposal of assets, borrowing, granting security interests, and changes of management and at December 31, 2002 required a tangible net worth greater than \$9,300,000, increasing by \$200,000 each quarter; working capital not less than negative \$25,000 increasing by \$200,000 each quarter; debt service coverage not less than 1.3; and quarterly dividends not exceeding the net income of the prior quarter. The Company was in compliance with the covenants at March 31, 2003.

Cash decreased \$122,708 in the 1st quarter of 2003 compared to a \$152,234 decrease in the 1st quarter of 2002. Operating activities used \$616,774 of cash primarily from increases in accounts receivable, inventories and prepaid expenses, partially offset by net earnings, depreciation and amortization and increases in accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Accounts receivable and inventories increased from unusually low levels at December 31, 2002. Investing activities used \$106,600 of cash for modest additions to property and equipment, and financing activities provided \$600,666 of cash primarily from increased borrowings under the bank line of credit, partially offset by payments on long term debt and the capital lease obligation.

**Commitments and Contingencies**

The following table shows the long-term debt principal and capital lease obligation payments due in the specified periods as of March 31, 2003. The lease payments are estimates because they are proportional to pounds of a product sold.

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| (amounts in thousands)   | Nine Months Ending |              | Year Ending December 31, |            |            |            |              |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
|                          | Totals             | December 31, |                          |            |            |            |              |
|                          |                    | 2003         | 2004                     | 2005       | 2006       | 2007       | Thereafter   |
| Long-Term Debt           | \$ 6,296           | 397          | 501                      | 431        | 341        | 132        | 4,494        |
| Capital Lease Obligation | 474                | 101          | 113                      | 113        | 113        | 34         | -0-          |
| <b>Totals</b>            | <b>\$ 6,770</b>    | <b>498</b>   | <b>614</b>               | <b>544</b> | <b>454</b> | <b>166</b> | <b>4,494</b> |

The Company expects that its operations and bank line of credit will provide adequate working capital to satisfy the normal needs of its operations for the foreseeable future, including cash flow to service its debt. The 1st quarter usually requires higher cash expenditures than any other quarter because of annual retirement benefit contributions and initial insurance premiums.

The Company believes that it has a good relationship with Comerica Bank-California, as evidenced by the bank's previous over-advances under the line of credit, waivers in prior years of defaults under the financial covenants and modifications of the financial covenants. That relationship is crucial to the Company, because the line of credit is payable on demand, the Company could not make an immediate repayment of the line of credit, and a failure to repay the line after demand would render the entire credit facility in default. Moreover, in 2003 the Company must obtain a renewal of Comerica's letter of credit supporting the industrial development bonds. As a result, the bank has the power to require that the credit facility be restructured or refinanced.

**Critical Accounting Policies**

In December 2001, the Securities and Exchange Commission requested that all registrants list their most critical accounting policies in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, and indicated that a critical accounting policy is one which is both important to the portrayal of the registrant's financial condition and results of operations and requires management's most difficult, subjective or complex judgments, often as a result of the need to make estimates about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain. Critical for the Company is determining the allowance for doubtful accounts because of the risk of failing to foresee a major credit loss, and inventory valuation when inventory cost may exceed fair value less cost to sell because of the difficulty of determining the latter.

**New Accounting Standards**

The Financial Accounting Standards Board in July 2002 issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 146 Accounting for Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities effective December 31, 2002; in November 2002 issued Interpretation No. 45, Guarantor's Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Indirect Guarantees of indebtedness of Others; and in December 2002 issued SFAS No. 148, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation Transition and Disclosure effective December 15, 2002. These standards and interpretations are adopted by the Company as they become effective and, in the opinion of management, have not had and will not have a material effect on the Company's financial position, results of operations or liquidity.



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**ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK**

The industrial development bonds, the bank line of credit, and the equipment loans bear variable rates of interest (see **Liquidity and Capital Resources** under **Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**) which tend to follow market interest rates and change the Company's interest expense in the same direction as changes in interest rates. A 1% per annum change in the rate borne by the industrial development bonds would change annual interest expense by almost \$40,000. Assuming an average bank line of credit balance of \$3,000,000 plus \$1,200,000 average principal balance of equipment loans, a 1% per annum change in the rate borne by those borrowings would change annual interest expense by \$42,000.

**ITEM 4. DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

The Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures within 90 days prior to the filing of this report and have concluded that: there are no significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls which could adversely affect the Company's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data; there are no material weaknesses in internal controls; and, there is no fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal controls. There have not been any changes in internal controls or in other factors that could significantly affect internal controls subsequent to the most recent evaluation, including any corrective actions with regard to significant deficiencies and material weaknesses.

**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

**ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS** No significant litigation.

**ITEM 2. CHANGES IN SECURITIES** None.

**ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES** None.

**ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS** None.

**ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION**

Common Stock Repurchase and Sale

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During the 1st three months of 2003, the Company did not purchase any shares of its common stock under its stock repurchase program.

During the 1st three months of 2003, the Company sold 16,791 newly issued shares of its common stock under its 1988 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, at an average selling price of

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\$1.17 per share. From inception of the Plan through March 31, 2003, employees have purchased a total of 685,424 shares.

**American Stock Exchange Listing**

The Company's common stock trades on the American Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol PZA.

**Cash Dividends Paid**

No cash dividends were paid in the 1st quarter of 2003.

**Management Stock Transactions**

No purchases or sales of the Company's common stock by officers or directors were reported during the 1st quarter of 2003.

**ITEM 6. EXHIBITS AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K**

(a) The only exhibit filed with this report is Exhibit 99.1 Section 906 Certifications.

(b) No reports on Form 8-K were filed during the three months ended March 31, 2003.

**SIGNATURE**

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 thereunto duly authorized.

Date: April 24, 2003

**PROVENA FOODS INC.**

By:

/s/ THOMAS J. MULRONEY

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**Thomas J. Mulroney**

**Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer**

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**SECTION 302 CERTIFICATIONS**

I, Theodore L. Arena, and I, Thomas J. Mulroney, each separately certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Provena Foods Inc. (the Company );

2. Based on my knowledge, this quarterly report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this quarterly report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this quarterly report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company as of, and for, the periods presented in this quarterly report;

4. The Company s other certifying officers and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-14 and 15d-14) for the Company and we have:

a) designed such disclosure controls and procedures to ensure that material information relating to the Company, including any subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this quarterly report is being prepared;

b) evaluated the effectiveness of the Company s disclosure controls and procedures as of a date within 90 days prior to the filing date of this quarterly report (the Evaluation Date ); and

c) presented in this quarterly report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures based on our evaluation as of the Evaluation Date;

5. The Company s other certifying officers and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation, to the Company s auditors and the audit committee of Company s Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent function):

a) all significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls which could adversely affect the Company s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data and have identified for the Company s auditors any material weaknesses in internal controls; and

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b) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal controls; and

6. The Company's other certifying officers and I have indicated in this quarterly report whether or not there were significant changes in internal controls or in other factors that could significantly affect internal controls subsequent to the date of our most recent evaluation, including any corrective actions with regard to significant deficiencies and material weaknesses.

Date: April 24, 2003

/s/ THEODORE L. ARENA

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**Theodore L. Arena,**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

/s/ THOMAS J. MULRONEY

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**Thomas J. Mulroney**  
**Chief Financial Officer**

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