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Form 8-K
April 17, 2002

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

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

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported):
April 17, 2002 (April 12, 2002)

Dean Foods Company

(EXACT NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)

Delaware

1-12755

75-2559681

(STATE OR OTHER JURISDICTION OF
INCORPORATION)

(COMMISSION FILE NUMBER)

(IRS EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER)

2515 McKinney Avenue, LB 30, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75201

(ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES) (ZIP CODE)

REGISTRANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER, INCLUDING AREA CODE:
(214) 303-3400

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS.

On April 12, 2002, Dean Foods Company, a Delaware corporation ("Dean Foods"), issued a press release announcing the retirement of Howard M. Dean, as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Dean Foods. Gregg Engles, Chief Executive Officer of Dean Foods, succeeded Mr. Dean as Chairman. Mr. Dean retired as both Director and Chairman of Dean Foods. The Press Release announcing the retirement of Mr. Dean is filed herewith as Exhibit 99.1.

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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 thereunto duly authorized.

Dated: April 17, 2002

DEAN FOODS COMPANY

By: /s/ Lisa N. Tyson

Lisa N. Tyson
Senior Vice President, Deputy
General Counsel and Assistant
Secretary

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit

Number Description

99.1 Press Release dated April 12, 2002, relating to the retirement of Howard M. Dean.