

Tyson Foods Signs Definitive Deal to Buy Hillshire Brands

Associated Press

SPRINGDALE, Ark. (AP) — Tyson Foods Inc. has signed a definitive deal to purchase Hillshire Brands Co. for \$7.75 billion, two days after the maker of Jimmy Dean sausages and Ball Park hot dogs was let out of its agreement to buy Pinnacle Foods.

Chicago-based Hillshire agreed to buy Pinnacle Foods Inc. for \$4.23 billion in May. But then Tyson and Pilgrim's Pride Corp. got into a bidding war for Hillshire, with Hillshire accepting Tyson's \$63 per share offer last month. The deal with Tyson — which is valued by the companies at about \$8.55 billion, including debt — was contingent on Hillshire walking away from its deal with Pinnacle.

On Monday, Parsippany, New Jersey- based Pinnacle terminated its sale to Hillshire. Pinnacle makes products such as Birds Eye frozen vegetables, Duncan Hines cake mixes and Hungry-Man frozen dinners.

Springdale, Arkansas-based Tyson said Wednesday that it will pay the \$163 million termination fee to Pinnacle on behalf of Hillshire.

Tyson's acquisition of Hillshire is expected to close by Sept. 27, the last day of Tyson's fiscal year.

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