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LUCILLE FARMS INC
Form 10-Q
November 09, 2001

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the Quarterly period Ended: September 30, 2001

Commission File Number 1-12506

LUCILLE FARMS, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware

(State or other Jurisdiction
Of Incorporation)

13-2963923

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

150 River Road, P.O. Box 517
Montville, New Jersey

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

07045

(Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: (973) 334-6030

Former name, former address and former fiscal year,
if changed since last report. N/A

Indicate by check mark 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 x NO

The number of shares of Registrant's common stock, par value \$.001 per share, outstanding as of November 6, 2001 was 2,971,342.

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Item 1. Financial Statements

LUCILLE FARMS, INC.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

	SEPTEMBER 30, 2001	MARCH 31, 2001
	-----	-----
	(UNAUDITED)	
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 447,000	\$ 212,000
Accounts receivable, net of allowances of \$167,000 at September 30, 2001 and \$132,000 at March 31,2001	4,973,000	4,614,000
Inventories	2,935,000	2,163,000
Deferred income taxes	71,000	71,000
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	84,000	119,000
	-----	-----
Total Current Assets	8,510,000	7,179,000
	-----	-----
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, NET	9,803,000	9,011,000
	-----	-----
OTHER ASSETS:		
Due from officers	134,000	133,000
Deferred income taxes	527,000	527,000
Deferred loan costs, net	294,000	247,000
Other	91,000	97,000
	-----	-----
Total Other Assets	1,046,000	1,004,000
	-----	-----
TOTAL ASSETS	\$19,359,000	\$17,194,000
	-----	-----

See notes to consolidated financial statements

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LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

	SEPTEMBER 30, 2001	MARCH 31, 2001
	(UNAUDITED)	
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 4,842,000	\$5,515,000
Current portion of long-term debt	181,000	171,000
Revolving credit line	4,312,000	--
Accrued expenses	386,000	390,000
	9,721,000	6,076,000
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:		
Long-term debt	6,840,000	4,983,000
Revolving credit line	--	4,267,000
Deferred income taxes	598,000	598,000
	7,438,000	9,848,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	17,159,000	15,924,000
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Preferred Stock- face value	540,000	--
Common stock- \$.001 par value, 10,000,000 shares authorized, 3,021,342 shares issued	3,000	3,000
Additional paid-in capital	4,452,000	4,448,000
Retained (Deficit)earnings	(2,670,000)	(3,056,000)
	2,325,000	1,395,000
Less: 50,000 shares treasury stock at cost	(125,000)	(125,000)
	2,200,000	1,270,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$19,359,000	\$17,194,000

See notes to consolidated financial statements

LUCILLE FARMS, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMEBER 30, 2001 AND 2000

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	Six Months Ended September 30,	
	2001	2000
	-----	-----
SALES	\$ 25,130,000	\$ 20,342,000
COST OF SALES	22,673,000	19,231,000
	-----	-----
GROSS PROFIT	2,457,000	1,111,000
	-----	-----
OTHER EXPENSE (INCOME):		
Selling	1,134,000	888,000
General and administrative	491,000	379,000
Interest income	(6,000)	(5,000)
Interest expense	449,000	400,000
	-----	-----
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSE	2,068,000	1,662,000
	-----	-----
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES	389,000	(551,000)
(Provision) for income taxes	(3,000)	(2,000)
	-----	-----
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 386,000	\$ (553,000)
	-----	-----
NET INCOME (LOSS) PER SHARE		
:Basic	\$.13	\$ (.19)
	-----	-----
:Diluted	\$.13	\$ (.19)
	-----	-----
WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING		
USED TO COMPUTE NET INCOME PER SHARE		
:Basic	2,971,342	2,971,342
	-----	-----
:Diluted	2,979,572	2,971,342
	-----	-----

See notes to consolidated financial statements

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FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2001 AND 2000

	Three Months Ended September 30,	
	2001	2000
SALES	\$ 12,994,000	\$ 10,941,000
COST OF SALES	11,800,000	10,283,000
GROSS PROFIT	1,194,000	658,000
OTHER EXPENSE (INCOME):		
Selling	574,000	461,000
General and administrative	231,000	212,000
Interest income	(3,000)	(2,000)
Interest expense	245,000	208,000
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSE (INCOME)	1,047,000	879,000
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES	147,000	(221,000)
(Provision) for income taxes	(2,000)	(1,000)
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 145,000	\$ (222,000)
NET INCOME (LOSS) PER SHARE		
:Basic	\$.05	\$ (.08)
:Diluted	\$.05	\$ (.08)
WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING		
USED TO COMPUTE NET INCOME PER SHARE		
:Basic	2,971,342	2,971,342
:Diluted	2,981,761	2,971,342

See notes to consolidated financial statements

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Six Months Ended September 30,	
	2001	2000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 386,000	\$ (553,000)
Adjustments to reconcile net (loss) income to net cash (used by)		
Operating activities:		
Value of options issued for service	4,000	--
Depreciation and amortization	349,000	300,000
Provision for doubtful accounts	35,000	39,000
 (Increase) decrease in assets:		
Accounts receivable	(394,000)	(955,000)
Inventories	(772,000)	427,000
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	35,000	1,000
Other assets	(42,000)	(13,000)
 Increase (decrease) in liabilities:		
Accounts payable	(673,000)	521,000
Accrued expenses	(4,000)	(112,000)
Net Cash (Used by) Operating Activities	(1,076,000)	(345,000)
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of property, plant equipment	(601,000)	(558,000)
Net Cash (used by) Investing Activities	(601,000)	(558,000)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
(Payments of) proceeds from revolving credit loan-net	45,000	461,000
(Payments of) proceeds from long-term debt and notes - net	1,867,000	170,000
Net Cash (Used by) Provided by Financing Activities	1,912,000	631,000
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	235,000	(272,000)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS-BEGINNING	212,000	447,000
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS-ENDING	\$ 447,000	\$ 175,000

See notes to consolidated financial statements

LUCILLE FARMS, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. The Consolidated Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2001, the Consolidated

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Statement of Operations for the three and six month periods ended September 30, 2001 and 2000 and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the six month periods ended September 30, 2001 and 2000 have been prepared by the Company without audit. In the opinion of management, the accompanying consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) necessary to present fairly the financial position of Lucille Farms, Inc. as of September 30, 2001, the results of its operations for the three months and six months ended September 30, 2001 and 2000 and its cash flows for the six months ended September 30, 2001 and 2000.

Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principals have been condensed or omitted pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Although the Company believes that the disclosures are adequate to make the information presented not misleading, it is suggested that these financial statements be read in conjunction with the year-end financial statements and notes thereto for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2001 included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K as filed with the SEC.

The accounting policies followed by the Company are set forth in the notes to the Company's consolidated financial statements as set forth in its Annual Report on Form 10-K as filed with the SEC.

2. The results of operations for the three and six months ended September 30, 2001 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the entire fiscal year.

7

3. Inventories are summarized as follows:

	September 30, 2001	March 31, 2001
	-----	-----
Finished goods	\$1,800,000	\$1,011,000
Raw Materials	610,000	617,000
Supplies and Packaging	525,000	535,000
	-----	-----
	\$2,935,000	\$2,163,000
	-----	-----

4. In May 2001 the Company obtained a new \$2,000,000 bank loan. The loan, collateralized by the Company's plant and equipment, bears interest at 1% above the bank's national variable rate. The loan is due in annual

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principal installments of \$500,000 beginning May 2003. Interest is payable monthly.

The Company's revolving credit line of \$ 5,000,000 matures on June 1,2002.

5. Income(loss) per share of common stock was computed by dividing net income(loss) by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period in accordance with the provisions of the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 128. The dilution in the three and six month periods ended September 30, 2001 is due to the net incremental effect of incentive stock options and warrants of 10,419 and 8,230 shares, respectively. Basic and diluted per share amounts are the same for the three and six month periods ended September 30,2000 since the effect of stock options would be antidilutive and therefore not taken into consideration. Conversion of preferred stock was not taken into consideration since the effect would be antidilutive.

6. For the six months ended September 30,2001, non cash investing and financing activities were \$540,000 for the preferred stock issued for equipment.

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Results of Operations

The Company's conventional cheese product's, which account for substantially all of the Company's sales, are commodity items. The Company prices its conventional cheese products competitively with others in the industry, which pricing, since May 1997, is referenced to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (and was formerly referenced to the Wisconsin Block Cheddar Market.) The price the Company pays for fluid milk, a significant component of cost of goods sold, is not determined until the month after its cheese has been sold. While the Company generally can anticipate a change in the price of milk, it cannot anticipate the extent thereof. By virtue of the pricing structure for its cheese and the competitive nature of the marketplace, the Company cannot always pass along to the customer the changes in the cost of milk in the price of its conventional cheese. As a consequence thereof, the Company's gross profit margin for such cheese is subject to fluctuation, which fluctuation, however slight, can have a significant effect on the Company's profitability.

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The Company is unable to predict any future increase or decrease in the prices in the Chicago Mercantile Exchange as such markets are subject to fluctuation based on factors and commodity markets outside of the control of the Company. Although the cost of fluid milk does tend to move correspondingly with the prices on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the extent of such movement and the timing thereof also is not predictable as it is subject to government control and support. As a result of these factors, the Company is unable to predict pricing trends.

Three months ended September 30, 2001 compared to three months ended September 30, 2000.

Sales for the three months ended September 30, 2001 increased to \$12,994,000 from \$10,941,000 for the comparable period in 2000, an increase of \$2,053,000 (or 18.8%). Approximately \$2,911,000 (or 141.8%) of such amount was due to an increase in the average selling price of cheese and approximately \$303,000 (or 14.8%) was due to increased whey sales produced in our new facility. Those increases were offset by a decrease in the number of pounds of cheese sold resulting in a \$1,161,000, or (56.6%) decrease in sales when compared to the same period in 2000.

Cost of sales and gross profit margin for the three months ended September 30, 2001 was \$11,800,000 (or 90.8% of sales) and \$1,194,000 (or 9.2% of sales), respectively, compared to a cost of sales and gross profit margin of \$10,283,000 (or 94.0% of sales) and \$658,000 (or 6.0% of sales), respectively, for the comparable period in 2000. The decrease in cost of sales (as a percentage of sales) and corresponding increase in gross profit margin for 2001 (as a percentage of sales) was primarily due to a decrease in the Company's cost of raw materials as a percentage of selling price.

9

Selling, general and administrative expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2001 amounted to \$805,000 (or 6.2% of sales) compared to \$673,000 or (6.2% of sales) for the comparable period in 2000. The increase in selling, general, and administrative expenses as a percentage of sales was primarily due to the increased sales in the period, and a corresponding increase in freight out expenses and consulting fees.

Interest expense for the three months ended September 30, 2001 amounted to \$245,000 compared to \$208,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2000 an increase of \$37,000. This increase is the result of increased borrowing due to the addition of new production equipment and higher revolving line credit usage in the period.

The provision for income tax for the three month periods ended September 30, 2001 of \$2,000, and September 30, 2000 of \$1000 reflects minimum state taxes. Charges and credits for Federal income taxes were offset by changes in the valuation allowances for the three months ended September 30, 2001 and September 30, 2000. Such amounts are re-evaluated each quarter based on the results of operations.

The Company's net income of \$145,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2001 represents an increase of \$367,000 from the net operating loss of \$222,000 for the comparable period in 2000. The primary factors contributing to these changes are discussed above.

With respect to its gross profit margin, the Company is continuing its efforts to increase sales of its value added products which are less dependent on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. The selling price for the Company's

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nutritional line of cheeses is less dependent on the Block Cheddar Market, which dictates the Company's commodity cheese prices. With respect to its nutritional line of cheeses, the Company is continuing its efforts to increase sales of such products. To date sales of nutritional cheese has not been significant. The Company has now positioned itself to co-pack private label retail products. However, there can be no assurance as to whether such sales can be achieved or maintained. In addition, the Company has continued to upgrade its equipment to enable it to reduce costs and add product lines with greater margins.

Six months ended September 30, 2001 compared to six months ended September 30, 2000.

Sales for the six months ended September 30, 2001 increased to \$25,130,000 from \$20,342,000 for the comparable period in 2000, an increase of \$4,788,000 (or 23.5%). Approximately \$464,000 (or 9.7%) of such amount was due to a decrease in the number of pounds of cheese sold but was offset by approximately \$4,668,000 (or 97.5%) due to an increase in the average selling price for cheese, and approximately \$584,000 (or 12.2%) was due to increased whey sales produced in our new facility.

10

The volume decrease was due to decreased demand in the commodity cheese markets. The increase in average selling price was the result of an increase in block cheddar market prices resulting in a higher average selling price per pound of cheese in the period.

Cost of sales and gross profit margin for the six months ended September 30, 2001 was \$22,673,000 (or 90.2% of sales) and \$2,457,000 (or 9.8% of sales), respectively, compared to a cost of sales and gross profit margin of \$19,231,000 (or 94.5% of sales) and \$1,111,000 (or 5.5% of sales), respectively, for the comparable period in 2000. The decrease in cost of sales and corresponding increase in gross profit margin for 2001 (as a percent of sales and corresponding increases in gross profit margin in 2001) was primarily due to a decrease in the Company's cost of raw materials as a percentage of selling price.

Selling, general and administrative expenses for the six months ended September 30, 2001 amounted to \$1,625,000 (or 6.5% of sales) compared to \$1,267,000 (or 6.2% of sales) for the comparable period in 2000. The increase in selling, general, and administrative expenses as a percentage of sales was primarily due to the increased sales in the period, and an increase in consulting and freight costs.

Interest expense for the six months ended September 30, 2001 amounted to \$449,000 compared to \$400,000 for the six months ended September 30, 2000 an increase of \$49,000. This increase is the result of increased borrowing due to the addition of new production equipment and higher revolving line usage in the period.

The provision for income tax for the six month period ended September 30, 2001 of \$3,000 and September 30, 2000 of \$2,000 reflect minimum state taxes. Charges for Federal income taxes were offset by changes in the valuation allowances for the six months ended September 30, 2001 and September 30, 2000. Such amounts are re-evaluated each quarter based on the results of operations.

The Company's net income of \$386,000 for the six months ended September 30, 2001 represents an increase of \$939,000 from the net loss of \$553,000 for the comparable period in 2000. The primary factors contributing to these changes are discussed above.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

The Company's \$5,000,000 revolving bank line of credit which is available for the Company's working capital requirements has been reclassified from long term to current due to an expiration date of June 1,2002.

At September 30,2001, \$4,312,000 was outstanding under such revolving line of credit and \$551,000 was available for additional borrowing at that time (based on the inventory and receivable formula). Advances under this facility are limited to 50% of inventory and 80% of receivables. The rate of interest on amounts borrowed against the revolving credit facility is prime plus 1%. A .25% annual unused line fee is also charged on this facility. The Company intends to continue to utilize this line of credit as needed for operations.

On February 8, 1999, a \$4,950,000 bank loan agreement was signed. The loan is collateralized by the Company's plant and equipment. Provisions of the loan are as follows:

A \$3,960,000 commercial term note with interest fixed at 9.75 percent having an amortization period of 20 years with a maturity in February, 2019.

A \$990,000 commercial term note with interest fixed at 10.75 percent having an amortization period of 20 years with a maturity in February, 2019.

On May 23,2001, a new \$2,000,000 bank loan agreement was signed. The new loan is collateralized by the Company's plant and equipment. Provisions of the loan are as follows:

A promissory note with interest payable at 1% above the rate of interest established by the bank as its National Variable Rate and principle repayable in four consecutive annual installments of \$500,000.00 with the first such installment due on May 1, 2003 and the last such installment due on May 1, 2006.

Proceeds of the new loan were used for working capital.

The Company's major source of external working capital financing has been the revolving line of credit. For the foreseeable future the Company believes that its current working capital, its new \$2,000,000 bank loan, and its existing line of credit will continue to represent the Company's major source of working capital financing besides income generated from operations.

For the six months ended September 30, 2001 cash used by operating activities was \$1,076,000. An increase in accounts receivable of \$394,000, inventories of \$772,000, other assets of \$42,000, accrued expenses of \$4,000 and a decrease in accounts payable of \$673,000 decreased cash while a decrease of prepaid expenses and other current assets of \$35,000 provided cash. Income from operations of \$386,000 also provided cash for this period.

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Net cash used by investing activities was \$601,000 for the period ended September 30, 2001 which represented purchase of property, plant and equipment.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$1,912,000 for the period ended September 30, 2001. Net proceeds from the revolving credit loan of \$45,000 and proceeds from long-term debt and notes of \$1,867,000 provided cash in the period.

The Company estimates that based upon its current plans, its resources including revenues from operations and utilization of its existing credit lines, should be sufficient to meet its anticipated needs for at least 12 months.

Forward Looking Statements

This Quarterly Report on Form 10Q (and any other reports issued by the Company from time to time) contains certain forward-looking statements made in reliance upon the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements, including statements regarding the Company's ability to improve margins and increase value added and nutritional sales, are based on current expectations that involve numerous risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements as a result of various known and unknown factors including, without limitation, future economic, competitive, regulatory, and market conditions, future business decisions, the uncertainties inherent in the pricing of cheese on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange upon which the Company's prices are based, changes in consumer tastes, fluctuations in milk prices, and those factors discussed above under Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. Words such as "believes," "anticipates," "expects," "intends," "may," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, but are not the exclusive means of identifying such statements. The Company undertakes no obligation to revise any of these forward-looking statements.

Item 2. Changes in Securities and Use of Proceeds

On June 12, 2001, the Company issued \$ 540,000 of Series A Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock to an accredited investor in exchange for roll drying equipment. The shares were sold pursuant to Section 4 (2) of the Securities Act and Rule 506 of Regulation D promulgated thereunder.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

The registrant does not utilize market rate sensitive instruments for trading or other purposes.

PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K

(a) Exhibits

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None

(b) Reports on Form 8-K

There were no reports on Form 8-K filed during the three months ended September 30, 2001.

14

SIGNATURES

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

October 30, 2001

Lucille Farms, Inc.

(Registrant)

By: /s/ Alfonso Falivene

Alfonso Falivene
President (Duly Authorized)

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By: /s/ Stephen M. Katz

Vice President-Finance
and Administration
(Principal Financial Officer)