

FORBES CHARTS AMERICA'S LARGEST PRIVATE COMPANIES FOR 2004***Cargill, Koch, Mars and Publix Top the List for 2nd Consecutive Year***

New York, NY (November 11, 2004)—*Forbes'* 2004 tabulation of the largest U.S.-headquartered private companies includes 305 corporations with at least \$1 billion in sales who also either have too few shareholders to have to file financial statements with the SEC or have common stock restricted to a small group of insiders, such as family or employees. Excluded from consideration are those with fewer than 100 employees, nonprofits that do not pay taxes, mutuals, cooperatives, auto dealers and those that derive more than half their sales from real estate. Also left out: companies in which another company owns more than a 50% stake. This year's top ten are led by last year's top four—Cargill, Koch Industries, Mars and Publix Super Markets—followed by Bechtel, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, C&S Wholesale Grocers, Meijer and He Butt Grocery. For the entire list and more, go to www.forbes.com/private.

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