## CLAIMS

1. Ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellets comprising:

an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer; and

water;

wherein the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer comprises monomer units including at least an ethylene unit and a vinyl alcohol unit, and a carboxylic acid group and a lactone ring present in terminal structures of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer;

wherein the carboxylic acid group includes carboxylic acid and carboxylic acid salt,

wherein a ratio (Y/Z) of a lactone ring content (Y) to a sum (Z) of a carboxylic acid content (X) and the lactone ring content (Y) is not less than 60 % in molar ratio; and

wherein the pellets have a water content of not higher than 0.5 wt.%.

2. The ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellets according to claim 1, wherein the sum (Z) of the carboxylic acid content (X) and the lactone ring content (Y) is 0.01 to 0.3 mol % based on a total amount of the monomer units of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer.

3. The ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellets according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the lactone ring content (Y) is 0.01 to 0.3 mol % based on the total amount of the monomer units of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer.

4. The ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellets according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the carboxylic acid content (X) is 0.01 to 0.3 mol % based on the total amount of the monomer units of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer.

5. A resin composition comprising a resin of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellets according to any one of claims 1 to 4.

6. A multilayer structure comprising a plurality of layers at least one of which comprises a resin of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellets according to claim any one of claims 1 to 4 or a resin of the resin composition according to claim 5.