

SANDERSON FARMS INC  
 Form 4  
 December 30, 2015

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**SANDERSON JOE F JR**  
  
 (Last) (First) (Middle)  
 127 FLYNT ROAD, P.O. BOX 988  
 (Street)  
 LAUREL, MS 39443  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**SANDERSON FARMS INC [SAFM]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/30/2015

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)  
 Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
 CEO, Chairman of the Board

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D) Code V Amount (D) Price			
Common Stock					721,296	D	
Common Stock					9,808 <sup>(1)</sup>	I	By spouse.
Common Stock					97,018	I	Allocated to Reporting Person's account in Issuer ESOP.

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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Shares
Performance Shares	(2)	12/30/2015		A	65,000	(2) (2)	Common Stock	65,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SANDERSON JOE F JR 127 FLYNT ROAD P.O. BOX 988 LAUREL, MS 39443	X		CEO, Chairman of the Board	

## Signatures

/s/ D. Michael Cockrell,  
Attorney-in-Fact

12/30/2015

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) The Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares.

(2) The performance shares were awarded on November 1, 2013. The award entitled the Reporting Person to a number of shares of common stock based on the Issuer's level of achievement of performance measures over a two-year period ending October 31, 2015. The performance measures were return on equity and return on sales. On December 30, 2015, the Issuer's Compensation Committee determined that based on the Issuer's actual performance, the Reporting Person is entitled to the number of shares reported in Table II. The earned shares are subject to an additional one-year vesting period before they are issued and will vest, as long as the Reporting Person remains continuously employed with the Issuer (with some exceptions), on October 31, 2016.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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