

SANDERSON FARMS INC
 Form 4
 February 17, 2005

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 WILLIAM R

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 36 BRIAR CREEK CIRCLE
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 02/16/2005

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

LAUREL, MS 39440
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

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 Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---------|---|--|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Price | | | | | |
| | | | | Code | V | Amount | | | | |
| Common Stock | 02/16/2005 | | W | V | 160,000 | D | \$ 0 (1) | 28,225 | I | As co-executor for Estate of Joe Frank Sanderson |
| Common Stock | 02/16/2005 | | W | V | 40,000 | A | \$ 0 (1) | 466,253 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 15,648 | I | Allocated to Reporting Person's account in Issuer ESOP |

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Common Stock | 42,201 ⁽²⁾ | I | As custodian for minor children |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|

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) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Nu Deriv Secur Benef Own Follo Repor Trans (Instr |
|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| SANDERSON WILLIAM R 36 BRIAR CREEK CIRCLE LAUREL, MS 39440 | X | | | |

Signatures

/s/ William R
Sanderson

02/17/2005

**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 reported transaction reflects the distribution of shares from the Estate of Joe Frank Sanderson to its heirs. Consequently, there was no price.
- (2) The Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares.

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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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