

SANDERSON JOE F JR  
 Form 4  
 March 20, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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**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

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)  
 225 N. 13TH AVENUE, P.O. BOX 988  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 03/19/2012

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
 CEO, Chairman of Board

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 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)  | Price   |  |   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 9,808 <sup>(1)</sup>  | I  | By spouse.  |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 91,440  | I  | Allocated to Reporting Person's Account in Issuer ESOP. |
| Common Stock                    | 03/19/2012                           |  | S                              | 1,100 D   | \$ 54.2 934,574   | D  |   |

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|              |            |   |       |   |          |         |   |
|--------------|------------|---|-------|---|----------|---------|---|
| Common Stock | 03/19/2012 | S | 2,200 | D | \$ 54.21 | 932,374 | D |
| Common Stock | 03/19/2012 | S | 2,800 | D | \$ 54.22 | 929,574 | D |
| Common Stock | 03/19/2012 | S | 1,085 | D | \$ 54.23 | 928,489 | D |
| Common Stock | 03/19/2012 | S | 600   | D | \$ 54.24 | 927,889 | D |
| Common Stock | 03/19/2012 | S | 1,208 | D | \$ 54.25 | 926,681 | D |
| Common Stock | 03/19/2012 | S | 300   | D | \$ 54.26 | 926,381 | D |
| Common Stock | 03/19/2012 | S | 300   | D | \$ 54.27 | 926,081 | D |
| Common Stock | 03/19/2012 | S | 300   | D | \$ 54.28 | 925,781 | D |
| Common Stock | 03/19/2012 | S | 300   | D | \$ 54.3  | 925,481 | D |
| Common Stock | 03/19/2012 | S | 100   | D | \$ 54.31 | 925,381 | D |

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

SEC 1474  
(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. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction (Instr. 6) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title                                      | Amount or Number of Shares  |

