SANDERSON FARMS INC

Form 4

March 09, 2005

FORM 4

Check this box

if no longer

subject to

Form 5

Section 16.

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

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

Form 4 or Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading COCKRELL D MICHAEL Issuer Symbol SANDERSON FARMS INC (Check all applicable) [SAFM] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction _X_ Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title _ Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) 225 NORTH 13TH AVENUE 03/07/2005 Treasurer & CFO (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting LAUREL, MS 39440 Person

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tab	le I - Non-l	Derivative	Secu	rities Acqu	iired, Disposed o	f, or Beneficia	lly Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. 4. Securities Acquired Transactior(A) or Disposed of (D) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8) (A) or		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)		
			Code V	Amount	(D)	Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)		
Common Stock	03/07/2005		M	6,750	A	\$ 4.979	35,149	D	
Common Stock	03/07/2005		D	6,750	D	\$ 46.1	28,399	D	
Common Stock	03/08/2005		M	6,750	A	\$ 12.367	35,149	D	
Common Stock							2,219	I	Allocated to Reporting Persons

account in

Issuer ESOP

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

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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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	Transaction Derivative Code Securities		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amoun or Number of Shares
Phantom Stock Rights (1)	\$ 4.979	03/07/2005		M	6,	,750	04/22/2000(2)	04/21/2010	Common Stock	6,750
Employee Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$ 12.367	03/08/2005		М	6,	,750	07/25/2003(2)	07/24/2012	Common Stock	6,750

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
Fg	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
COCKRELL D MICHAEL 225 NORTH 13TH AVENUE LAUREL, MS 39440	X		Treasurer & CFO			

Signatures

Cockrell	03/09/2005		
**Signature of Reporting	Date		

Reporting Owners 2

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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).
- Upon conversion of a Phantom Stock Right, the holder thereof is entitled to receive an amount equal to: (i) the number of shares of
 Phantom Stock converted times the fair market value per share of the Issuers common stock on that date, less (ii) the number of shares of
 Phantom Stock converted times the exercise price per share. The Issuers Audit Committee has approved the conversion of Phantom Stock
 Rights for cash by the Reporting Person as reported in this form.
- (2) Exercisable for a 10-year period, with vesting beginning on the date indicated, which was one year after the date of grant. Vesting continues thereafter at 25% per year on each anniversary date until fully vested.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.