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SANDERSO Form 4	ON FARMS INC										
January 03, FORM	ЛЛ									PPROVAL	
	UNITED	STATES		RITIES A shington,			NGE	COMMISSION	OMB Number:	3235-0287	
Check th if no lon subject t Section Form 4 c	IENT O	C OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP SECURITIES						Expires: Estimated burden hou response	ours per		
Form 5 obligation may con <i>See</i> Instr 1(b).	ons Section 17(a	a) of the	Public U		ding Con	npany	Act	nge Act of 1934, of 1935 or Sectio 940	n		
(Print or Type	Responses)										
1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <u>*</u> SANDERSON JOE F JR			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SANDERSON FARMS INC				ıg	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer			
			[SAFM]					(Check all applicable)			
(Last) (First) (Middle) 127 FLYNT ROAD, P.O. BOX 988			3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/29/2016					_X_ Director 10% Owner _X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) below) CEO, Chairman of the Board			
	(Street)			endment, Da nth/Day/Year	-	1		6. Individual or Jo Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by (One Reporting P	erson	
LAUREL,	MS 39443							Form filed by M Person	fore than One R	eporting	
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Tab	le I - Non-I	Derivative	Securi	ities A	cquired, Disposed of	f, or Beneficia	lly Owned	
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)2A. Deemed Execution Date, i any (Month/Day/Year)		n Date, if	3. 4. Securities te, if TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) Vear) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (A) or Code V Amount (D) Price			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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)			
Common Stock				Coue v	Amount	(D)	Thee	762,673	D		
Common Stock								9,808	I	By spouse.	
Common Stock								100,534.9077 (1)	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.

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.

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. Transacti Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of orDerivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed o (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Expiration I (Month/Day	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	Amount or Number of Shares	
Performance Shares	<u>(2)</u>	12/29/2016		А	44,067	(2)	(2)	Common Stock	44,067	

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	Х		CEO, Chairman of the Board				
Signatures							
/s/ D. Michael Cockrell, Attorney-in-Fact							
Signature of Reporting Person		Dat	e				

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) Reflects allocations not reported on the Reporting Person's previous ownership report.

The performance shares were awarded on November 1, 2014. 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, 2016. The

(2) performance measures were return on equity and return on sales. On December 29, 2016, 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, 2017.

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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