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COCKRELL D MICHAELForm 4January 02, 2018FORM 4Check this boxif no longersubject toSection 16.Form 4 orForm 5obligationsany continue.See Instruction1(b).							N OMB Number: Expires: Estimated burden ho response.	urs per		
(Print or Type Res	sponses)									
COCKRELL D MICHAEL Syn SA			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SANDERSON FARMS INC [SAFM]				5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)			
(M			3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/28/2017				X Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title Other (specify below) below) Treasurer and CFO			
				If Amendment, Date Original led(Month/Day/Year)			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person			
(City)	(State) (2	Zip)	Table	e I - Non-Deriv	vative S	ecurities Ac	quired, Disposed of	of. or Beneficia	ally Owned	
Security ((Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)		ed Date, if	3. 4. TransactionAc	Securiti cquired isposed nstr. 3, 4	ies (A) or of (D)	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	
Common Stock							87,156	D		
Common Stock							5,535.1066	I	Allocated to Reporting Person's Account in Issuer ESOP.	

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)

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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 o iorDerivative Securities Acquired (A or Disposed (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Expiration (Month/Da	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	· (A) (I	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Performance Shares	<u>(1)</u>	12/28/2017		А	11,314	<u>(1)</u>	(1)	Common Stock	11,314	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Addre	ess	Relationships						
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other				
COCKRELL D MICHAEL 127 FLYNT ROAD LAUREL, MS 39443	X		Treasurer and CFO					
Signatures								
/s/ D. Michael Cockrell	01/02/2018							

**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).

The performance shares were awarded on November 1, 2015. 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, 2017. The performance measures were return on equity and return on sales. On December 28, 2017, the Issuer's Compensation Committee

(1) performance measures were return on equity and return on safes. On December 28, 2017, 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, 2018.

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.