

SANDERSON FARMS INC  
 Form 4  
 March 07, 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 \*  
 GRIMES JAMES A

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 NORTH 13TH AVENUE  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 03/03/2005

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 Sec'y/Chief Acctg. Officer

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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |                       |   |  |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|-----------------------|---|--|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount  | (A) or (D)   | Price   |                       |   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 03/03/2005                           |  | A                              |   | 10,000  | A  | \$ 0 <sup>(1)</sup>                                   | 13,284                | D |  |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   |   |  |   | 11,274 <sup>(2)</sup> | I | Allocated to the Reporting Persons account in Issuer ESOP. |
| Common Stock                    | 03/04/2005                           |  | M                              |   | 2,813   | A  | \$ 12.3667  | 16,097                | D |  |

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Common Stock 03/04/2005 S 2,813 D \$ 45.25 13,284 D

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) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)       | \$ 12.3667   | 03/04/2005                           |  | M                              | 2,813   | 07/25/2003 <sup>(3)</sup> 07/24/2012                     | Common Stock  | 2,813                      |

### Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                              | Relationships |           |                            |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                    | Other |
| GRIMES JAMES A<br>225 NORTH 13TH AVENUE<br>LAUREL, MS 39440 |               |           | Sec'y/Chief Acctg. Officer |       |

### Signatures

/s/ James A. Grimes 03/07/2005  
 \*\*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).

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- (1) The reported transaction was a grant of restricted stock for no consideration. Thus, there is no price.
- (2) Reflects allocations made since the Reporting Person's last ownership report.
- (3) 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.

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