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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC Form 424B3

August 24, 2005

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 12 Rule 424(b)(3) DATED: August 19, 2005 File No. 333-121744 (To Prospectus dated February 2, 2005, and Prospectus Supplement dated February 2, 2005) \$12,410,781,162 THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC. Medium-Term Notes, Series B Principal Amount: \$25,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x] Original Issue Date: 8/24/2005 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes [] Maturity Date: 8/24/2007 CUSIP#: 073928L50 Option to Extend Maturity: No [x] Yes [] Final Maturity Date: Redeemable On Price(s) Date(s) Price(s) Optional
Redeemable On Price(s) Date(s) Price(s) N/A N/A N/A N/A Applicable Only to Fixed Rate Notes: _____ Interest Rate: Interest Payment Dates: Applicable Only to Floating Rate Notes: Interest Rate Basis: Maximum Interest Rate: N/A [] Commercial Paper Rate Minimum Interest Rate: N/A [] Federal Funds Effective Rate [x] Federal Funds Open Rate Interest Reset Date(s): Daily [] Treasury Rate Interest Reset Period: Daily [] LIBOR Reuters Interest Payment Date(s): *

Index Maturity: N/A

[] LIBOR Telerate

[] Prime Rate

[] CMT Rate

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Spread (plus or minus): +0.13%

 $\boldsymbol{\ast}$ On the 24th of each November, February, May and August, including the maturity date.

The distribution of Notes will conform to the requirements set forth in Rule 2720 of the NASD Conduct Rules.