

SANDERSON FARMS INC

Form 4

December 14, 2010

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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(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)
127 FLYNT ROAD
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
12/13/2010

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

LAUREL, MS 39443

4. If Amendment, Date Original
Filed(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) (Zip)

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)
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Common Stock	12/13/2010		A	879	A	\$ 0 (1)	20,976	D
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Common Stock							9,096	I
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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
information contained in this form are not**

SEC 1474
(9-02)

required to respond unless the form
displays a currently valid OMB control
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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)	8. D S (I
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	
Performance Shares	(2)	12/13/2010		A		2,900	(2) (2)	Common Stock 2,900

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
GRIMES JAMES A 127 FLYNT ROAD LAUREL, MS 39443	Sec'y/Chief Acctg. Officer

Signatures

/s/ Michael D. Cockrell,
Attorney-In-Fact 12/14/2010

**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).
- (1) The reported transaction was the settlement of performance shares that were not derivative securities. Thus, there was no price.
- The performance shares were awarded on January 29, 2009. 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, 2010. The performance measures were return on equity and return on sales. On December 13, 2010, the Issuer's Compensation Committee determined that based on the Issuer's actual performance, the Reported Person was 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 November 1, 2011.
- (2)

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.