

SANDERSON FARMS INC  
 Form 4  
 September 20, 2007

**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 \*  
**COCKRELL D MICHAEL**

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)  
 09/19/2007

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
 Treasurer & CFO

LAUREL, MS 39443  
 (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 Ownership: Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount or Price   |  |  |
| Common Stock                    | 09/19/2007                           |  | M                              |   | 6,313 A \$ 12.37  | 45,580   | D  |
| Common Stock                    | 09/19/2007                           |  | S                              |   | 6,313 D \$ 43.6613  | 39,267   | D  |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   |   | 3,162  | I  |

Allocated to Reporting Persons 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.**

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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)       | \$ 12.37   | 09/19/2007                           |  | M                              | 6,313   | 07/25/2003 <sup>(1)</sup> 07/24/2012                     | Common Stock  | 6,313                      |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                           | Relationships |           |                 |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer         | Other |
| COCKRELL D MICHAEL<br>127 FLYNT ROAD<br>LAUREL, MS 39443 | X             |           | Treasurer & CFO |       |

## Signatures

D. Michael Cockrell 09/20/2007

\*\*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) Exercisable for a 10-year period, with vesting beginning on the date indicated, which was one year after the date of grant. Vesting continued 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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