SANDERSON WILLIAM R Form 4 May 20, 2002

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 4

	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(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940										
[_]	Check box if no longer subject of Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligation may continue. See Instruction 1(b).										
1.	Name and A	Address of Report	ing Person*								
Sand	erson		William		R.						
(Last)		(First)		(Middle)						
225	North 13th	Avenue									
			(Street)								
Laur	el		Mississippi		39440						
(City)		(State)		(Zip)						
2. SAFM		me and Ticker or	Trading Symbol								
3.	IRS Ident:	ification Number	of Reporting Per	son,	if an Entity (Voluntary)						
4.	Statement	for Month/Year									
	May 2002										
5.	If Amendme	ent, Date of Orig	inal (Month/Year)							
6.	Relationship of Reporting Person to Issuer (Check all applicable)										
	[X] Direction [_] Office	ctor cer (give title b			10% Owner Other (specify below)						
	Dire	ctor of Marketing									
7.	Individua	l or Joint/Group	Filing (Check app	plica	able line)						

[X] Form filed by one Reporting Person

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Table I Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned								
L.	Transaction	(Instr.			(A)			
Title of Security (Instr. 3)	Date (mm/dd/yy)			Amount	or (D)	Price		
Common Stock, par value								
31.00 per share 	5/13/02 	W 	V 	400,000(2)	D 			
Common Stock, par value								
Common Stock par value S1.00 per share								
Common Stock par value	5/13/02		V	100,000(2)	А			
Common Stock par value 51.00 per share								
Common Stock par value 51.00 per share								
(1) The amount reported on For penefically owned by Mr. Sande Sanderson, deceased. The co-except to the 2,399,672 share able also includes 150,604 she stablished by Joe Frank Sande Birector, and as such, shares Birectors of the foundation will appear to the sanderson's account under the Sanderson Farms, Inc. Mr. Sand the investment power in such sands Form 4 includes 28,134 she includes 28,134 she investment appear in such sands form 4 includes 28,134 she investment power in such sands form 4 includes 28,134 she investment power in such sands form 4 includes 28,134 she investment power in such sands form 4 includes 28,134 she investment power in such sands form 4 includes 28,134 she investment power in such sands form 4 includes 28,134 she investment power in such sands form 4 includes 28,134 she investment power in such sands form and sands form an	rson as co-executor ecutors share voting sowned directly by ares owned directly from for which Willi voting and investmenth respect to such sownership by virtue Employee Stock Owner erson has sole votinhares are exercised	of the Es and inve the Estat by a priv am R. San t power w hares. Wi of their ship Trus g power c by the tr	estate estmen e. Th vate f nderso vith t th re c allo st est over s rustee	of Joe Frank t power with e amount in the oundation n serves as a he other spect to the cation to Mr. ablished by uch shares, but s of the ESOP.				

(2) On May 13, 2002, the Executors of the Estate of Joe Frank Sanderson asked for and received permission from the judge overseeing the administration of the Estate of Joe Frank Sanderson, deceased, to distribute 400,000 shares of Sanderson Farms, Inc. common stock equally among the four primary beneficiaries

as custodian for his minor children over which he exercises sole voting and

investment power.

(the children of Joe Frank Sanderson) of the Estate. Mr. Sanderson is the son of Joe Frank Sanderson, deceased, and is one of the primary beneficiaries of the Estate.

* If the Form is filed by more than one Reporting Person, see Instruction $4\,(b)\,(v)$.

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

(Print or Type Responses)

(Over)

(Form 4-07/99)

FORM 4 (continued)

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

	cise 3. Tra		Trans-	Instr. (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)				7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
1. Title of Derivative Security	Price Trans- of action Deriv- Date ative (Month/ Secur- Day/	Code (Instr. 8)	(Month/D Date			ay/Year) Expira-		Amount or Number	
(Instr. 3)		-				-		Title	
Incentive Stock Options	\$13.00					4/23/99*	4/23/08	Common Stock	
	\$ 7.4687	75				4/21/01*	4/21/10	Common Stock	
	\$ 7.188					5/01/01*	5/01/10	Common Stock	
	\$11.10					4/28/02*	4/28/11	Common Stock	

Explanation of Responses:

*The options reported became 25% vested on the date indicated, and continue to vest at 25% on each anniversary date thereafter until fully vested.

/s/William R. Sanderson May 20, 2002

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations.

See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.