# SANDERSON WILLIAM R Form 4

December 19, 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 Address of Repor	ting Person*									
San	derson	William	Р.								
	(Last)	(First)	(Middle)								
225	North 13th Avenue										
		(Street)									
Lau	rel	Mississippi	39440								
	(City)	(State)	(Zip)								
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 Address of Reporting Person*  Sanderson William R.  (Last) (First) (Middle)  225 North 13th Avenue  (Street)  Laurel Mississippi 39440  (City) (State) (Zip)  2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  SAFM  3. IRS Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an Entity (Voluntary)  4. Statement for Month/Year  December 2002  5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)  6. Relationship of Reporting Person to Issuer (Check all applicable)  (X] Director (2) Officer (give title below) (2) Other (specify below)  Director of Marketing  7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check applicable line)											
SAF	M 										
3.	IRS Identification Number	of Reporting Perso	on, if an Entity (Voluntary)								
4.	Statement for Month/Year										
Dec	ember 2002	onger subject of Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations Instruction 1(b).  Of Reporting Person*  William R.  (First) (Middle)  (Street)  Mississippi 39440  (State) (Zip)  Dicker or Trading Symbol  In Number of Reporting Person, if an Entity (Voluntary)  Eth/Year  De of Original (Month/Year)  Deporting Person to Issuer able)  Example 10% Owner  Example 21% Other (specify below)  Marketing  Int/Group Filing (Check applicable line)									
5.											
6.											
		-	-								
	Director of Marketin	.a .a									
7.	Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check applicable line)										
	[X] 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 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Transaction (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Code Transaction (Instr. 8) (A) Title of Security or Amount Price Code V (mm/dd/yy) (D) (Instr. 3) Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Common Stock par value \$1.00 per share Common Stock par value 12/18/02 G 851 20.00 \$1.00 per share Common Stock par value \$1.00 per share \_\_\_\_\_ Common Stock par value \$1.00 per share (1) The amount reported on Form 4 includes 2,399,672 shares of common stock benefically owned by Mr. Sanderson as co-executor of the Estate of Joe Frank Sanderson, deceased. The co-executors share voting and investment power with respect to the 2,399,672 shares owned directly by the Estate. The amount in the table also includes 150,604 shares owned directly by a private foundation established by Joe Frank Sanderson for which William R. Sanderson serves as a director, and as such, shares voting and investment power with the other directors of the foundation with respect to such shares. With respect to the 9,256 shares shown as indirect ownership by virtue of their allocation to Mr. Sanderson's account under the Employee Stock Ownership Trust established by Sanderson Farms, Inc. Mr. Sanderson has sole voting power over such shares, but the investment power in such shares are exercised by the trustees of the ESOP. This Form 4 includes 28,134 shares of common stock held by William R. Sanderson as custodian for his minor children over which he exercises sole voting and investment power.

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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)

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1. Title of	Conversion or Exercise 3. Price Transcof action Deriv Date ative (Month/ Secur Day/	Trans- action Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3,		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		
Derivative			8)	4 and 5)					
Security (Instr. 3)						Exer- cisable		Title	of Shares
Incentive Stock Options	\$13.00					4/23/99*	4/23/08	Common Stock	
	\$ 7.46875						4/21/10	Common Stock	
	\$ 7.188						5/01/10	Common Stock	
	\$11.10						4/28/11	Common Stock	
·	\$18.55						7/24/12	Common Stock	

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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 December 19, 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.