

Sprouts Farmers Market, Inc.
Form 4
February 25, 2016

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
Nielsen James Leroy

(Last) (First) (Middle)

5455 EAST HIGH STREET, SUITE 111

(Street)

PHOENIX, AZ 85054

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Sprouts Farmers Market, Inc. [SFM]

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

02/23/2016

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
President & COO

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 (Instr. 4) |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount (D) Price | | |
| Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share | 02/23/2016 | | A | | 8,637 ⁽¹⁾ | A | \$ 0 15,533 ⁽²⁾ D |

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

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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. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Following Transaction (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Nielsen James Leroy 5455 EAST HIGH STREET SUITE 111 PHOENIX, AZ 85054 | | | President & COO | |

Signatures

/s/ Brandon F. Lombardi, Attorney-in-Fact for James L. Nielsen
02/25/2016

__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) Represents performance share awards granted to the Reporting Person on March 11, 2015 under the Issuer's 2013 Incentive Plan, as amended. On February 23, 2016, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of the Issuer determined that the performance conditions were met with respect to such performance share awards. 50% of such shares will vest on each of the second and third anniversaries of the grant date, subject to the Reporting Person's continuous service through such dates.
- (2) In addition to the shares underlying the performance share awards described in footnote 1 above, amount includes 2,457 shares of common stock and 4,439 restricted stock units. Each restricted stock unit represents the right to receive, upon vesting, one share of common stock. These restricted stock units will vest over three years, with one-third vested on March 4, 2015; one-third vesting on March 4, 2016; and the remaining one-third vesting on March 4, 2017, assuming continued employment through such dates.

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.