

Sprouts Farmers Market, Inc.
 Form 4
 March 07, 2017

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2015
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 *
 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)

03/03/2017

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

___ Director ___ 10% Owner
 ___X___ Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)
 President & COO

6. 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

| 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) |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Amount | Price | |
| Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share ⁽¹⁾ | 03/03/2017 | | A | 80,031 | A \$ 0 | 97,108 ⁽²⁾ | D |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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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 03/07/2017

__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).
- Consists of a grant of restricted stock. Each restricted stock represents the right to receive, upon vesting, one share of common stock.
- (1) These shares of restricted stock will vest over three years, with one-third vesting on March 3, 2018; one-third vesting on March 3, 2019; and the remaining one-third vesting on March 3, 2020, assuming continued employment through the applicable vest date.
- (2) Includes, in addition to the 80,031 restricted shares described in Note (1), 5,839 shares of common stock, 2,601 restricted shares and 8,637 performance share awards. Each restricted share and performance share award represent the right to receive, upon vesting, one share of common stock. The restricted shares will vest on June 30, 2018, and the performance share awards will vest one-half on March 11, 2017 and one-half on March 11, 2018, in each case, 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.