FARMER BROTHERS CO Form 10-K September 13, 2006

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

to

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

b ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006

OR

o TRANSITION REPORT PERSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from

Commission file number: 0-1375

FARMER BROS. CO.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware (State of Incorporation) 95-0725980 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

20333 South Normandie Avenue, Torrance, California, 90502

(Address of Principal Executive Offices; Zip Code)

Registrants s telephone number, including area code 310-787-5200

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

Title of Each Class Common stock, \$1.00 par value Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered NASDAQ

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. YES b NO o

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. YES o NO b

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. YES **b** NO o

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant s knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. O

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer or a non-accelerated filer. Large Accelerated Filer o Accelerated Filer b Non-Accelerated Filer o

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). YES o NO b

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the closing price at which the Farmer Bros. Co. common stock was sold on June 30, 2006 was approximately \$146 million.

On September 1, 2006 the registrant had 16,075,080 shares outstanding of its common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, which is the registrant s only class of common stock.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The following documents are incorporated by reference into this Form 10-K: the definitive proxy statement for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006 that is expected to be filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on or before October 28, 2006.

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PART I

Item 1. Business

General

Farmer Bros. Co. (the Company, we, our or Farmer Bros.) is a manufacturer and distributor of coffee and spices to the institutional food service segment. The Company was incorporated in California in 1923, and reincorporated in Delaware in 2004.

Our product line is specifically focused on the needs of our market segment: restaurants and other institutional food service establishments that prepare and market meals, including hotels, hospitals, convenience stores and fast food outlets. Our product line includes roasted coffee, coffee related products such as coffee filters, sugar and creamers, assorted teas, cocoa, spices, and soup and beverage bases. Our product line presently includes over 300 items. For the past three fiscal years sales of roasted coffee products represented approximately 50% of our total sales and no single product other than coffee accounted for more than 10% of our revenue. Coffee purchasing, roasting and packaging takes place at our Torrance, California plant, which also serves as the distribution hub for our branches.

Raw Materials and Supplies

Our primary raw material is green coffee, an agricultural commodity. Green coffee is mainly grown outside the United States and can be subject to volatile price fluctuations. Weather, real or perceived shortages, political unrest, labor actions and armed conflict in coffee producing nations, and government actions, including treaties and trade controls between the U.S. and coffee producing nations, can affect the price of green coffee.

Green coffee prices can also be affected by the actions of producer organizations. The most prominent of these are the Colombian Coffee Federation (CCF), the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC) and the International Coffee Organization (ICO). These organizations seek to increase green coffee prices largely by attempting to restrict supplies, thereby limiting the availability of green coffee to coffee consuming nations.

Other raw materials used in the manufacture of our non-coffee products (allied products) include a wide variety of spices, such as pepper, chilies, oregano and thyme, as well as cocoa, dehydrated milk products, salt and sugar. These raw materials are agricultural products and can be subject to wide cost fluctuations. Such fluctuations, however, historically have not had a material effect on our operating results.

Trademarks

We own 62 registered U.S. trademarks, which are integral to customer identification of our products. It is not possible to assess the impact of the loss of such identification.

Seasonality

We experience some seasonal influences. The winter months are generally the best sales months. However, our product line and geographic diversity provide some sales stability during the warmer months when coffee consumption ordinarily decreases. Additionally, we usually experience an increase in sales during the summer months from seasonal businesses located in vacation areas.

Distribution

Sales are made off-truck to our institutional food service customers at their places of business by our sales representatives who are responsible for soliciting, selling and collecting from and otherwise

maintaining our customer accounts. Our distribution trucks are replenished from warehouses located in a number of cities in the western United States. We operate our own long haul trucking fleet in an effort to more effectively control the supply of products to these warehouses. Inventory levels are maintained at each branch warehouse consisting of our complete product line and additional safety stocks to accommodate a modest interruption in supply.

Customers

No single customer represents a significant concentration of sales. As a result, the loss of one or more of our larger customer accounts is not likely to have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. We serve a wide variety of customers, from small restaurants and donut shops to large institutional buyers like restaurant chains, hospitals, hotels, contract food services and convalescent hospitals. Customer contact, our distribution network and our service quality, are integral to our sales effort.

Competition

We face competition from many sources, including the institutional food service divisions of multi-national manufacturers of retail products such as Procter & Gamble (Folgers Coffee), Kraft Foods (Maxwell House Coffee) and Sara Lee Foods (Superior Coffee), wholesale grocery distributors such as Sysco and U.S. Food Service and regional institutional coffee roasters such as Boyd Coffee Company. Management believes we may have some competitive advantages due to our longevity, strong regional roots and our sales and service force. We differentiate ourselves from our competitors by the quality of our products, our distribution network and our customer service. Some of our competitors outsource their product distribution, while others conduct their own distribution. Some of our customers are price buyers, seeking the low cost provider with little concern about service; others find great value in the service programs we provide. We compete well when service and distribution are valued by our customers, and are less effective when only price matters. Our customer base is price sensitive and we are often faced with price competition.

Working Capital

We finance our operations internally, and we believe that working capital from internal sources will be adequate for the coming fiscal year.

Foreign Operations

We have no material revenues from foreign operations.

Other

On June 30, 2006 we employed 1,091 employees, 441 of whom are subject to collective bargaining agreements. Compliance with government regulations relating to the discharge of materials into the environment has not had a material effect on our financial condition or results of operations. The nature of our business does not provide for maintenance of or reliance upon a sales backlog. No portion of our business may be subject to renegotiation of profits or termination of contracts or subcontracts at the election of the Government.

Available Information

We file reports electronically with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), including Forms 10-K, 10-Q, 8-K and amendments thereto. The public may read and copy any materials filed with the SEC at the SEC s Public Reading Room at 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC

at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The site address is http://www.sec.gov.

Our Internet website address is http://www.farmerbroscousa.com (the website address is not intended to function as a hyperlink, and the information contained in our website is not intended to be part of this filing), where we make available, free of charge, copies of our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K including amendments thereto as soon as reasonably practicable after filing such material electronically or otherwise furnishing it to the SEC. The Company s Code of Ethics for its principal executive and principal financial officers is also posted on our Internet website.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Certain statements contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K regarding the risks, circumstances and financial trends that may affect our future operating results, financial position and cash flows may be forward-looking statements within the meaning of federal securities laws. These statements are based on management s current expectations, assumptions, estimates and observations about our business and are subject to risks and uncertainties. As a result, actual results could materially differ from the forward-looking statements contained herein. These forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words like expects, plans, believes, intends, will, assumes and other words of s meaning. These and other similar words can be identified by the fact that they do not relate solely to historical or current facts. While we believe our assumptions are reasonable, we caution that it is impossible to predict the impact of such factors which could cause actual results to differ materially from predicted results. We intend these forward-looking statements to speak only at the time of this report and do not undertake to update or revise these statements as more information becomes available. For these statements, we claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements provided by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

The Company s business, its future performance and forward-looking statements are affected by general industry and market conditions and growth rates, general U.S. and non-U.S. economic and political conditions (including the global economy), competition, interest rate and currency exchange rate fluctuations, and other events. The following items are representative of the risks, uncertainties and other conditions that may impact the Company s business, future performance and the forward-looking statements that it makes in this Annual Report on Form 10-K or that it may make in the future. Our actual results could differ materially from anticipated results due to some or all of the factors discussed below.

OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF QUALITY COFFEES MAY BE UNSUCCESSFUL AND EXPOSE US TO COMMODITY PRICE RISK.

Maintaining a steady supply of green coffee is essential to keep inventory levels low and secure sufficient stock to meet customer needs. To help ensure future supplies, we may purchase our coffee on forward contracts for delivery as long as six months in the future. In the event of non-performance by the suppliers, the Company could be exposed to credit and supply risk. Entering into such future commitments also leaves the Company subject to purchase price risk. Various techniques are used to hedge these purchases against untoward price movement. Competitive factors make it difficult for the Company to pass through such price fluctuation to its customers. Therefore, unpredictable price changes can have an immediate effect on operating results that cannot be corrected in the short run. To reduce its exposure to the volatile fluctuation of green coffee costs, Farmer Bros. has, from time to time, entered into futures contracts to hedge coffee purchase commitments. Open contracts associated with these hedging activities are described in Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

INCREASES IN THE COST OF GREEN COFFEE COULD REDUCE OUR GROSS MARGIN AND PROFIT.

Our primary raw material is green coffee, an agricultural commodity. Green coffee is mainly grown outside the U.S. and can be subject to volatile price fluctuations. Weather, real or perceived shortages, labor actions, political unrest and armed conflict in coffee producing nations, and government actions, including treaties and trade controls between the U.S. and coffee producing nations, can affect the price of green coffee. Green coffee prices can also be affected by the actions of producer organizations. The most prominent of these are the Colombian Coffee Federation (CCF), the International Coffee Organization (ICO) and the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC). These organizations seek to increase coffee prices largely be attempting to restrict supplies, thereby limiting the availability of green coffee to coffee consuming nations. As a result these organizations or others may succeed in raising green coffee prices.

In the past, we generally have been able to pass increases in green coffee costs to our customers. However, there can be no assurance that we will be successful in passing such fluctuations on to our customers without losses in sales volume or gross margin in the future. Similarly, rapid sharp decreases in the cost of green coffee could also force us to lower sales prices before realizing cost reductions in our green coffee inventory.

OUR INDUSTRY IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE AND WE MAY NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO COMPETE EFFECTIVELY.

We primarily compete with other coffee companies, including multi-national firms with substantially greater financial, marketing and operating resources than the Company. We face competition from many sources including the food service divisions of multi-national manufacturers of retail products such as Proctor and Gamble (Folgers Coffee), Kraft Foods (Maxwell House Coffee) and Sara Lee Foods (Superior Coffee), wholesale grocery distributors such as Sysco and U.S. Food Service, and regional coffee roasters such as Boyd Coffee Company. Some of our competitors outsource their product distribution, while others conduct their own distribution. Large roasters have volumes far in excess of ours, with a business model that is substantially different from ours. We compete with those firms and others for a wide variety of customers, from small restaurants and donut shops, to large institutional buyers like restaurant chains, hospitals, hotels, contract food services and convalescent hospitals. If we do not succeed in differentiating ourselves from our competitors or our competitors by the quality of our products, our distribution network and our customer service. Some of our customers are price buyers, seeking the low cost provider with little concern about service; others find great value in the service programs we provide. We compete well when service and distribution are valued by our customers, and are less effective when only price matters. Our customer base is price sensitive and we are often faced with price competition.

CHANGES IN CONSUMER PREFERENCES COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR BUSINESS.

Our continued success depends, in part, upon the demand for coffee. Shifts in consumer preferences away from a standard cup of coffee could adversely affect our profitability. Our primary market is restaurants and other food service establishments. We also provide coffee and related products to offices. We believe the success of our market segment is dependent upon personal and business expenditures in restaurants and other food service businesses. There are many beverages, hot and cold, competing for the same restaurant dollar. Our restaurant customers report that competition from such beverages continues to dilute the demand for coffee. Consumers who choose soft drinks, bottled water, and flavored coffees and teas are all reducing the restaurant dollar formerly spent on a standard cup of coffee. While restaurants and coffee houses that sell specialty coffee and flavored coffee products may have increased

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the demand for coffee beverages, many of these establishments have taken market share from existing Farmer Bros. customers. We have a line of products that compares favorably with products sold in such specialty coffee stores, but most of our restaurant customers do not specialize in coffee drinks. As a result, a further shift toward specialty coffee houses may adversely impact the demand for the Company's products.

REDUCTIONS IN DISCRETIONARY SPENDING COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR BUSINESS.

Our success depends to a significant extent on a number of factors that affect discretionary consumer spending, including economic conditions, disposable consumer income and consumer confidence. In a slow economy, businesses and individuals scale back their discretionary spending on travel and entertainment, including dining out. Economic conditions may also cause businesses to reduce travel and entertainment expenses, and even cause office coffee benefits to be eliminated. These factors could reduce demand for our products or impose practical limits on pricing, either of which could adversely affect our business, financial condition, operating results and cash flows.

OUR SALES AND DISTRIBUTION NETWORK IS COSTLY TO MAINTAIN.

Our sales and distribution network requires a large investment to maintain and operate. Costs include the fluctuating cost of gasoline, diesel and oil, the costs associated with managing, purchasing, maintaining and insuring a fleet of delivery vehicles, the costs of maintaining distribution warehouses throughout the country, and the costs of hiring, training and managing our route sales professionals. Many of these costs are beyond our control, and others are fixed rather than variable. Some competitors use alternate methods of distribution that eliminate some of the costs associated with our method of distribution.

WE ARE SELF-INSURED. OUR RESERVES MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER FUTURE CLAIMS.

We are self-insured for many risks up to significant deductible amounts. The premiums associated with our insurance have recently increased substantially. General liability, fire, workers compensation, directors and officers liability, life, employee medical, dental and vision and automobile risks present a large potential liability. While we accrue for this liability based on historical experience, future claims may exceed claims we have incurred in the past. Should a different amount of claims occur compared to what was estimated or the cost of the claims increase or decrease beyond what was anticipated, reserves recorded may not be sufficient and the accruals may need to be adjusted accordingly in future periods.

EMPLOYEE STRIKES AND OTHER LABOR-RELATED DISRUPTIONS MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR OPERATIONS.

We have union contracts relating to the majority of our workforce in California, Oregon, Washington and Nevada. Although we believe union relations have been amicable in the past, there is no assurance that this will continue in the future. There are potential adverse effects of labor disputes with our own employees or by others who provide transportation (shipping lines, truck drivers) or cargo handling (longshoremen), both domestic and foreign, of our raw materials or other products. These actions could restrict our ability to obtain, process and/or distribute our products.

WE MAY ENTER INTO NEW BUSINESS VENTURES THAT COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OPERATING RESULTS.

From time to time, we evaluate potential business ventures and acquisitions. Entering into any such transaction entails many risks, any of which could materially harm our business. There is no assurance that any such venture, should we decide to enter into one, will accrue the projected returns. It is possible that such ventures could result in losses or returns that would have a negative impact on operating results.

OUR ROASTING AND BLENDING METHODS ARE NOT PROPRIETARY, SO COMPETITORS MAY BE ABLE TO DUPLICATE THEM, WHICH COULD HARM OUR COMPETITIVE POSITION.

We consider our roasting and blending methods essential to the flavor and richness of our coffee and, therefore, essential to our brand. Because the Company s roasting methods cannot be patented, we would be unable to prevent competitors from copying these methods if such methods became known. If our competitors copy our roasts or blends, the value of our brand may be diminished, and we may lose customers to our competitors. In addition, competitors may be able to develop roasting or blending methods that are more advanced than our production methods, which may also harm our competitive position.

BECAUSE A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF OUR BUSINESS IS BASED IN CALIFORNIA, TEXAS, COLORADO, ARIZONA AND WASHINGTON, AN INTERRUPTION IN OPERATIONS IN ANY OF THESE MARKETS WOULD ADVERSELY IMPACT OUR BUSINESS.

Over half of our business is conducted in California, Texas, Colorado, Arizona and Washington. We expect that these operations will continue to generate a substantial portion of our revenue. A significant interruption in operations at our facilities in these markets, whether as a result of an earthquake, natural disaster, terrorism or other causes, could significantly impair our ability to operate our business. Our major manufacturing facility and distribution hub is in Los Angeles County. The majority of our green coffee comes through the Port of Los Angeles or the Port of Long Beach. Any interruption to port operations, highway arteries, gas mains or electrical service in this area could restrict our ability to supply our branches with product and would adversely impact our business.

OUR OPERATING RESULTS MAY HAVE SIGNIFICANT FLUCTUATIONS FROM QUARTER TO QUARTER WHICH COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON OUR STOCK PRICE.

From time to time, our operating results likely will fall below investor expectations. These results are influenced by a number of factors, including fluctuations in the price of green coffee, competition from existing or new competitors in our industry and changes in consumer preferences.

Quarterly fluctuations in our operating results as the result of these factors or for any other reason, could cause our stock price to decline. Accordingly, we believe that period-to-period comparisons of our historical or future operating results are not necessarily meaningful, and such comparisons should not be relied upon as indicators of future performance.

OPERATING LOSSES MAY CONTINUE AND, AS A RESULT, THE PRICE OF OUR STOCK MAY BE NEGATIVELY AFFECTED.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, we had an operating loss of (\$2,965,000). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005, we had an operating loss of (\$6,583,000) and a net loss of (\$5,427,000). We could suffer additional losses in future years and as a result our stock price could decline.

FUTURE FUNDING DEMANDS UNDER PENSION PLANS FOR CERTAIN UNION EMPLOYEES ARE UNKNOWN.

We participate in two multi-employer defined benefit plans for certain union employees. The management, funding status and future viability of these plans is not known at this time. The nature of the contract with these plans allows for future funding demands that are outside our control or ability to estimate.

WE RELY ON A SINGLE THIRD PARTY SUPPLIER TO MANAGE OUR INTEGRATED ORACLE SYSTEM THAT IS INTEGRAL TO THE SUCCESS AND OPERATION OF OUR BUSINESS.

We rely on WTS, a company affiliated with Oracle, and its employees, in connection with the hosting of our integrated Management Information System. This System is essential to our operations and currently includes all accounting and production software applications. By the end of fiscal 2007, WTS is also expected to host our Route Sales application software. If WTS were to experience financial, operational, or quality assurance difficulties, or if there were any other disruption in our relationship with WTS, we might be unable to produce financial statements, fill replenishment orders for our branch warehouses, issue payroll checks, process payments to our vendors or bill customers. Any of these items could have a material adverse effect on the Company.

WE ARE DEPENDENT ON ENTERPRISE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (ERP) SOFTWARE TO OPERATE OUR BUSINESS. SHOULD WE FAIL TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY OR IF WE ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES INTEGRATING SYSTEMS OR SUFFER ILL-TIMED POWER OR COMMUNICATIONS FAILURES, THE RESULT COULD HAVE A MATERIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR OPERATIONS.

We rely on complex software and hardware to invoice our customers, produce customer statements, account for our inventory and manufacturing costs, fill branch inventory replenishment orders, pay our bills, pay our employees and produce our financial statements. We have in the past encountered, and in the future may encounter, software and hardware errors, system design errors and errors in the operation of our systems. This has resulted in and may in the future result in a number of adverse consequences, including: users being disconnected from systems and being unable to perform their job functions, delays in producing financial statements and other key management system information.

Reliance on such software also leaves us exposed to harmful software programs such as viruses that could disrupt our business and damage our network. It is possible that a security breach or inappropriate use of our network could expose us to the possibility of system failure or other disruption. A security breach could jeopardize security of confidential information and thereby expose the Company to potential legal liability.

THE COMPANY DEPENDS ON THE EXPERTISE OF KEY PERSONNEL. THE UNEXPECTED LOSS OF ONE OR MORE OF THESE KEY EMPLOYEES COULD HAVE A MATERIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR OPERATIONS OR COMPETITIVE POSITION.

Our continued success largely depends on the efforts and abilities of our executive officers and other key personnel. There is limited management depth in certain key positions throughout the Company. The unexpected loss of one or more of these key employees could have a material adverse effect on our operations and competitive position.

Our former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and sole coffee buyer, Roy E. Farmer, died unexpectedly in January 2005. Guenter W. Berger, a long time member of our Board of Directors and Vice President, Production was appointed interim CEO and in August 2005 assumed the title of Chairman, CEO and President. A new coffee buyer was hired in June 2005. In July 2006 we hired Roger M. Laverty III as President and COO. We continue to evaluate and recruit key personnel to enhance the depth of our management.

WE ARE SUBJECT TO RE-FUNDING OBLIGATIONS AND MAY ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL SHARES UNDER THE ESOP.

The Farmer Bros. Co. Employee Stock Ownership Plan was designed to help us attract and retain employees and to better align the efforts of our employees with the interests of our stockholders. To that

end, the Company has purchased 3,000,500 shares of Company stock for the ESOP to allocate to employees over the next 12 years. It is possible that additional shares could be acquired that might deplete the Company s cash. We expect that the future re-funding liability of the existing shares in the ESOP will increase and require additional investment as the ESOP matures and individual holdings grow. When employees vested in the ESOP leave the Company, they have the right to put their shares to the Company for cash. This requires the Company to repurchase those shares at the current market value. Assuming all shares currently owned by the ESOP are fully distributed, the Company s re-funding liability is approximately \$64,700,000 based on the June 30, 2006 closing share price.

CONCENTRATION OF OWNERSHIP AMONG OUR EXISTING PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS MAY PREVENT NEW INVESTORS FROM INFLUENCING SIGNIFICANT CORPORATE DECISIONS AND MAY RESULT IN A LOWER TRADING PRICE FOR OUR STOCK THAN IF OWNERSHIP OF OUR STOCK WAS LESS CONCENTRATED.

As of September 1, 2006, members of the Farmer family or entities controlled by the Farmer family (such as trusts or business entities) as a group beneficially owned approximately 40% of our outstanding common stock. As a result, these stockholders, acting together, may be able to influence the outcome of stockholder votes, including votes concerning the election and removal of directors and approval of significant corporate transactions. This level of concentrated ownership, along with the factors described in Risk Factors ANTI-TAKEOVER PROVISIONS COULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR A THIRD PARTY TO ACQUIRE US, may have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in the management or voting control of the Company. In addition, this significant concentration of share ownership may adversely affect the trading price for our common stock if investors perceive disadvantages in owning stock in a company with such concentrated ownership.

ANTI-TAKEOVER PROVISIONS COULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR A THIRD PARTY TO ACQUIRE US.

We have adopted a stockholder rights plan (the Rights Plan) and declared a dividend distribution of one preferred share purchase right (a Right) for each outstanding share of our common stock to stockholders of record as of March 28, 2005. Each Right, when exercisable, will entitle the registered holder to purchase from the Company one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, \$1.00 par value per share, at a purchase price of \$112.50, subject to adjustment. The Rights expire on March 28, 2015, unless they are earlier redeemed, exchanged or terminated as provided in the Rights Plan. Because the Rights may substantially dilute the stock ownership of a person or group attempting to take us over without the approval of our Board of Directors, our Rights Plan could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us (or a significant percentage of our outstanding capital stock) without first negotiating with our Board of Directors regarding such acquisition.

In addition, our Board of Directors has the authority to issue up to 500,000 shares of Preferred Stock (of which 200,000 shares have been designated as Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock) and to determine the price, rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions, including voting rights, of those shares without any further vote or action by the stockholders. The rights of the holders of our common stock may be subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of any preferred stock that may be issued in the future. The issuance of preferred stock may have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a change of control of Farmer Bros. without further action by the stockholders and may adversely affect the voting and other rights of the holders of our common stock.

Further, certain provisions of our charter documents, including a classified board of directors, provisions eliminating the ability of stockholders to take action by written consent, and provisions limiting the ability of stockholders to raise matters at a meeting of stockholders without giving advance notice, may have the effect of delaying or preventing changes in control or management of Farmer Bros., which could

have an adverse effect on the market price of our stock. In addition, our charter documents do not permit cumulative voting, which may make it more difficult for a third party to gain control of our Board of Directors. Further, we are subject to the anti-takeover provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which will prohibit us from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, even if such combination is favored by a majority of stockholders, unless the business combination is approved in a prescribed manner. The application of Section 203 also could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control or management.

FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE INTERNAL CONTROLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 404 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002 COULD HAVE A MATERIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR BUSINESS AND STOCK PRICE.

As directed by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (SOX), the SEC adopted rules requiring us, as a public company, to include a report of management on our internal controls over financial reporting in our annual report on Form 10-K and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q that contains an assessment by management of the effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting. In addition, our independent auditors must attest to and report on management s assessment of the effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting as of the end of the fiscal year. Compliance with SOX Section 404 has been a challenge for many companies. Our ability to continue to comply is uncertain as we expect that our internal controls will continue to evolve as our business activities change. If, during any year, our independent auditors are not satisfied with our internal controls over financial reporting or the level at which these controls are documented, designed, operated, tested or assessed, or if the independent auditors interpret the requirements, rules or regulations differently than we do, then they may decline to attest to management s assessment or may issue a report that is qualified. In addition, if we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal controls, as such standards are modified, supplemented or amended from time to time, we may not be able to ensure that we can conclude on an ongoing basis that we have effective internal controls over financial reporting in accordance with SOX Section 404. Failure to maintain an effective internal control over financial reporting in accordance with SOX Section 404. Failure to maintain an effective internal control environment could have a material adverse effect on our stock price. In addition, there can be no assurance that we will be able to remediate material weaknesses, if any, that may be identified in future periods.

COMPLIANCE WITH CHANGING REGULATION OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE MAY RESULT IN ADDITIONAL EXPENSES.

Changing laws, regulations and standards relating to corporate governance and public disclosure, including SOX, new SEC and Public Accounting Oversight Board regulations and NASDAQ National Market rules, are creating uncertainty for public companies. These new or changed laws, regulations and standards are subject to varying interpretations in many cases due to their lack of specificity, and as a result, their application in practice may evolve over time as new guidance is provided by regulatory and governing bodies, which could result in continuing uncertainty regarding compliance matters and higher costs necessitated by ongoing revisions to disclosure and governance practices. We are committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance and public disclosure. As a result, our efforts to comply with evolving laws, regulations and standards have resulted in, and are likely to continue to result in, increased general and administrative expenses and management time related to compliance activities. Substantial costs have been incurred in fiscal 2006, and will continue to be incurred to comply with various of these mandates, including the engagement of separate public accounting firms to perform work that is now prohibited to be performed by our regular independent accounting firm, internal costs associated with documenting the adequacy of our internal controls over financial reporting and similar compliance activities, and increased costs of audit by our independent accounting firm. If our efforts to comply with new or changed laws, regulations and standards differ from the activities intended by regulatory or

governing bodies due to ambiguities related to practice, our reputation may be harmed and we might be subject to sanctions or investigation by regulatory authorities, such as the SEC. Any such action could adversely affect our financial results and the market price of our common stock. While Farmer Bros. believes that it has been at all times in material compliance with laws and regulations pertaining to the proper recording and reporting of our financial results, there can be no assurance that future regulations, implementing SOX and otherwise, will not have a material adverse impact on our reported results as compared with prior reporting periods.

Item 1.B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

Item 2. Properties

Our largest and most significant facility consists of our roasting plant, warehouses and administrative offices in Torrance, California. This facility is our primary manufacturing facility and the distribution hub for our long haul trucking fleet. We stage our products in 101 small branch warehouses throughout our service area. These warehouses, taken together, represent a vital part of our business, but no individual warehouse is material to the group as a whole. Our warehouses vary in size from approximately 2,500 to 20,000 square feet. Approximately 40% of these warehouses are leased with a variety of expiration dates through 2011. We believe our existing plant and branch warehouses will continue to provide adequate capacity for the foreseeable future.

A complete list of properties and facilities operated by Farmer Bros. is attached hereto, and incorporated herein by reference, as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

We are both defendant and plaintiff in various legal proceedings incidental to our business which are ordinary and routine. It is our opinion that the resolution of these lawsuits will not have a material impact on our financial condition or results of operations.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2006 no matters were submitted to a vote of security holders, through the solicitation of proxies or otherwise.

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PART II

Item 5. Market for Registrant s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

We have one class of common stock which is traded on the NASDAQ National Market under the symbol FARM. The following table sets forth the high and low sales prices of the shares of Common Stock of the Company. Prices are as reported on the NASDAQ National Market and represent prices between dealers, without including retail mark-up, mark-down or commission, and do not necessarily represent actual trades.

| | 2006 | | | 2005 | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | High | Low | Dividend | High | Low | Dividend |
| 1st Quarter | \$ 24.98 | \$ 19.50 | \$ 0.105 | \$ 27.55 | \$ 24.50 | \$ 0.100 |
| 2nd Quarter | \$ 22.87 | \$ 19.11 | \$ 0.105 | \$ 28.40 | \$ 24.03 | \$ 0.100 |
| 3rd Quarter | \$ 22.61 | \$ 19.31 | \$ 0.105 | \$ 29.65 | \$ 22.05 | \$ 0.100 |
| 4th Quarter | \$ 23.18 | \$ 19.72 | \$ 0.105 | | | |