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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

December 09, 2005

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 16

DATED: December 6, 2005

(To Prospectus dated February 2, 2005, and Prospectus Supplement dated February 2, 2005)

Rule 424(b)(3)

File No. 333-121744

\$12,410,781,162
THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC.
Medium-Term Notes, Series B

Principal Amount: \$110,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x]

Original Issue Date: 12/09/2005 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes []

Maturity Date: 12/09/2007 CUSIP#: 073928M83

Option to Extend Maturity: No [x]

Yes [] Final Maturity Date:

Redemption Repayment Repayment
Redeemable On Price(s) Date(s) Price(s)

N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A

Applicable Only to Fixed Rate Notes:

Interest Rate:

Interest Payment Dates:

Applicable Only to Floating Rate Notes:

Interest Rate Basis: Maximum Interest Rate: N/A

[] Commercial Paper Rate Minimum Interest Rate: N/A

[] Federal Funds Effective Rate

[x] Federal Funds Open Rate Interest Reset Date(s): Daily

[] Treasury Rate Interest Reset Period: Daily

[] LIBOR Telerate

[] Prime Rate

[] CMT Rate

Index Maturity: N/A

Spread (plus or minus): +0.12%

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 * Commencing March 9, 2006 and on the 9th of each March, June, September and December thereafter, up to and including the maturity date.

The distribution of Notes will conform to the requirements set forth in Rule 2720 of the NASD Conduct Rules.