

DEERE & CO
Form 8-K
December 04, 2006

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report: **November 29, 2006**
(Date of earliest event reported)

DEERE & COMPANY
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

1-4121

(Commission File Number)

36-2382580

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

One John Deere Place

Moline, Illinois 61265

(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

(309) 765-8000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02 Compensatory Arrangement of Certain Officers

Establishment of Performance Goals for Cash Bonus Plans

The Compensation Committee of the Deere & Company board of directors has established specific performance goals for fiscal 2007 under the John Deere Performance Bonus Plan and for the four year performance period beginning November 1, 2006 under the John Deere Mid-Term Incentive Bonus Plan.

John Deere Performance Bonus Plan

Under the Performance Bonus Plan, the Committee has established operating return on operating assets (OROA) of the equipment divisions and return on equity (ROE) of the financial services divisions as the performance measures for fiscal 2007. Operating return on operating assets is defined as operating profit before provisions for annual performance and mid-term incentive bonuses divided by average identifiable operating assets during the fiscal year with inventories valued at standard cost. Return on equity is defined as net income before provisions for mid-term incentive bonuses divided by average equity over the fiscal year. Beginning in fiscal 2006, if the goodwill of a new acquisition is in excess of 0.5% of total operating assets of an equipment division or if the equity related to goodwill of a new acquisition is in excess of 0.5% of total equity of the financial services division, the goodwill is phased in to the asset or equity base, as the case may be, evenly over a sixty-month period beginning with the first month of balance sheet consolidation. The objective is to encourage investments in sound acquisitions that may include goodwill, while still requiring effective integration and management of new businesses in a timely manner.

The OROA and ROE calculations can be summarized as follows:

OROA:

Operating profit (after provisions for annual performance and mid-term incentive bonuses)

+Provisions for annual performance bonuses

+Provisions for mid-term incentive bonuses

=Adjusted operating profit

OROA = Adjusted operating profit/Average identifiable operating assets with inventories at standard cost and significant goodwill phased in over sixty months

ROE:

Net income (after taxes and provisions for annual performance and mid-term incentive bonuses)

+Provisions for mid-term incentive bonuses (net of income taxes)

=Adjusted net income

ROE = Adjusted net income/Average equity with equity related to significant goodwill phased in over sixty months

The OROA goals are adjusted based on the percent of annual actual sales to annual normal sales for each equipment division. The OROA performance goals are higher when sales volumes are greater. For fiscal 2007, the minimum performance goal at low sales volumes required to generate an award has been increased from 0 percent OROA to 4 percent OROA. Normal sales volumes are reviewed annually for possible changes based on exchange rates, new and discontinued products, and other assumptions. The ROE goals for the credit division are adjusted for the actual mix of business that is subsidized by John Deere and business that is not subsidized. ROE goals are higher for non-subsidized business. The ROE goals for the credit division shown in the table below are based on a mix of approximately 70% subsidized business and 30% non-subsidized business. The actual business mix may differ from these estimates.

The weighting and the minimum, target and maximum fiscal 2007 Performance Bonus Plan performance measures at normal sales volumes for employees of the corporate headquarters, including all executive officers, are as follows:

Performance Measure	Award Weighting	Goals					
		Minimum		Target		Maximum	
Agricultural Division OROA	40	% 8.00	%	12.00	%	20.00	%
Construction & Forestry Division OROA	20	% 8.00	%	12.00	%	20.00	%
Commercial & Consumer Division OROA	20	% 8.00	%	12.00	%	20.00	%
John Deere Credit ROE	20	% 12.36	%	13.22	%	14.09	%

The OROA goals for the equipment divisions are adjusted based on the percent of annual actual sales to annual normal sales for each equipment division. The above goals are at 100% of normal sales volumes. The OROA goals at 80% and 120% of normal sales volumes are as follows:

Actual Sales Volume	OROA Goals					
	Minimum		Target		Maximum	
80% of Normal	4	%	8	%	12	%
120% of Normal	12	%	20	%	28	%

John Deere Mid-Term Incentive Bonus Plan

Under the Mid-Term Incentive Bonus Plan the Committee has established shareholder value added (SVA) as the performance measure for the four year performance period beginning November 1, 2006. SVA is defined as operating profit before income taxes and provisions for mid-term incentive bonuses, less an estimated pretax cost of capital employed. SVA is computed and accrued for each fiscal year. The annual amounts are aggregated to determine performance for the four year performance period. The Company shares with qualifying employees a small percentage of the aggregated SVA up to a capped amount. In this way, total annual awards to employees are capped. Accruals are adjusted accordingly each fiscal year. For purposes of determining SVA, each of the equipment divisions is assessed a pretax cost of assets, which on an annual basis is 12 percent of the division's average identifiable operating assets during the applicable period with inventory at standard cost. Management believes that valuing inventories at standard cost more closely approximates the current cost of inventory and the Company's investment in the asset. Financial services is assessed a pretax cost of equity, which on an annual basis is approximately 18 of its average equity plus the average allowance for credit losses during the period. The cost of assets or equity, as applicable, is deducted from the operating profit of the equipment divisions or financial services to determine the amount of SVA for the performance period. For this purpose, the operating profit of the financial services division is income before income taxes and changes to the allowance for credit losses. The average equity and operating profit of financial services are adjusted for the allowance for credit losses in order to more closely reflect credit losses on a write-off basis.

Beginning in fiscal 2006, if the goodwill of a new acquisition is in excess of 0.5% of total operating assets of an equipment division or if the equity related to goodwill of a new acquisition is in excess of 0.5% of total equity of the financial services division, for purposes of computing the estimated cost of capital or equity, the goodwill is phased in to average assets or average equity, as the case may be, evenly over a sixty-month period beginning with the first month of balance sheet consolidation. The objective is to encourage investments in sound acquisitions that may include goodwill, while still requiring effective integration and management of new businesses in a timely manner.

The SVA calculations for the equipment divisions and financial services can be summarized as follows:

SVA of equipment operations:

Operating profit (before income taxes)

+Provisions for mid-term incentive bonuses

-Estimated cost of capital ((average identifiable assets with inventories at standard cost and significant goodwill phased in over sixty months) x 12%)

=SVA of equipment operations

SVA of financial services:

Net income

Divided by after-tax earnings rate ($65\% = 1 - 35\%$ (the estimated corporate tax rate))

+Provisions for mid-term incentive bonuses and changes in the allowance for credit losses

-Estimated cost of equity ((average equity plus average allowance for credit losses and

equity related to significant goodwill phased in over sixty months) x approximately 18%)

=SVA of financial services

The Committee also established that no awards will be paid under the Mid-Term Incentive Bonus Plan unless at least \$1,000,000 of SVA is generated for the performance period and the maximum award will be earned if \$4,000,000,000 of SVA is generated during the performance period. Target awards will be earned if \$2,000,000,000 of SVA is generated during the performance period. The Mid-Term Incentive bonuses paid to employees also depend upon the amount of SVA allocated by the Committee for bonuses for the performance period and the number of employees participating in the performance period. In conjunction with the increase in the SVA cap from \$3,000,000,000 to \$4,000,000,000, the percentage of the SVA pool for the four year performance period that is shared with employees has been decreased from 4.7% to 4%.

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Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereto duly authorized.

DEERE & COMPANY

By: */s/ Marc A. Howze*
Secretary

Dated: December 4, 2006

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