

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 11-K

COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC  
Form 11-K  
June 30, 2006

United States  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 or

TRANSACTION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transaction period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number 001-13695

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

Community Bank System, Inc.  
401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
5790 Widewaters Parkway  
DeWitt, New York 13214

B. Name of Issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office.

Community Bank System, Inc.  
5790 Widewaters Parkway  
DeWitt, New York 13214

REQUIRED INFORMATION

1. Not applicable
2. Not applicable
3. Not applicable
4. The Community Bank System, Inc. 401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "Plan") is subject to the requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). Attached hereto as Appendix I is a copy of the most recent financial statements of the Plan prepared in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of ERISA.

Exhibits

(23) Consent of Dannible & McKee, LLP.

Signatures

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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustee (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, hereunto duly authorized.

Community Bank System, Inc.  
401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Community Bank, N. A., Trustee

Dated: June 30, 2006

/s/ Scott Kingsley

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Scott Kingsley  
Executive Vice President and Chief  
Financial Officer

Appendix I

COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM, INC.  
401(K) EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
AND  
SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE  
\* \* \*  
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

Community Bank System, Inc.  
401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
Index  
December 31, 2005 and 2004  
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Note: All other schedules are omitted since they are not applicable or are not required based on the disclosure requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and applicable regulations issued by the Department of Labor.

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

June 27, 2006

To the Participants and Administrators of  
Community Bank Systems, Inc. 401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan

We have audited the accompanying statement of net assets available for benefits of Community Bank Systems, Inc. 401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("the Plan") as of December 31, 2005 and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. The financial statements of Community Bank Systems, Inc. 401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of December 31, 2004, were audited by other auditors whose report dated June 16, 2005, expressed an unqualified opinion on those statements.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audit included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2005, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principle (United States).

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental Schedule of Assets Held for Investment Purposes at End of Year as of December 31, 2005, is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ Dannible & McKee, LLP

Dannible & McKee, LLP  
Syracuse, New York

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Community Bank System, Inc.  
 401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
 Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits  
 December 31, 2005 and 2004

	2005	2004
	----	----
Assets		
Investments, at fair value (Notes B and C):		
Mutual funds	\$ 25,795,311	\$ 23,165,547
Community Bank System, Inc. common stock	16,199,821	21,857,681
Collective trust fund	12,095,892	10,825,829
Participant loans	1,751,673	1,444,780
Self-directed brokerage	294,358	246,231
Money market fund	288,273	134,568
	-----	-----
Total investments	56,425,328	57,674,636
Contributions receivable - employer	761,438	657,991
	-----	-----
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 57,186,766	\$ 58,332,627
	=====	=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

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Community Bank System, Inc.  
 401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
 Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits  
 Years Ended December 31, 2005 and 2004

	2005
	----
	Additions
Employee contributions	\$ 3,849,739
Employer contributions	1,777,691
Interest income	87,924
Dividend income	2,060,356
Net (depreciation) appreciation in the fair value of investments (Note C)	(3,813,500)
Transfer from merged plan (Note F)	--
	-----
Total additions	3,962,210
	-----
	Deductions
Benefit payments	5,035,353
Administrative fees	72,718
	-----
Total deductions	5,108,071
	-----

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	Net (decrease) increase in net assets available for benefits	(1,145,861)
	Net assets available for benefits	
Beginning of Year		58,332,627
		-----
End of Year		\$ 57,186,766
		=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

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Community Bank System, Inc.  
 401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
 Notes to Financial Statements  
 December 31, 2005 and 2004

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A. Description of the Plan

The following description of the Community Bank System, Inc. 401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering substantially all employees of Community Bank System, Inc. (the "Company") who are age 18 or older. Employees must have one year of service to be eligible for the Company's contribution. The Plan also qualifies as an employee stock ownership plan under the meaning of Section 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Contributions

Participants may make voluntary contributions of up to 90% of their total compensation on a pre-tax or after-tax basis up to a maximum contribution of \$14,000. Voluntary cash contributions of up to 6% of total eligible compensation are matched 50% by the Company and such match was \$1,016,253 and \$933,211 in 2005 and 2004, respectively. The amount of the Company's annual discretionary contribution is determined by the Board of Directors, within certain maximum limitations. In addition, the Company may make discretionary profit sharing contributions to the Plan, which are allocated to individual participant accounts. Such voluntary contributions were \$761,438 and \$658,023 in 2005 and 2004, respectively.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and allocations of the Company's contribution as well as Plan earnings and charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocation of Plan earnings and administrative expenses are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account. Forfeited accounts are allocated annually to eligible participant accounts based on the ratio of each eligible participant's compensation to

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total eligible participant compensation. Forfeited accounts allocated to eligible participants amounted to \$27,626 and \$7,236 for 2005 and 2004, respectively.

### Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their contributions and the Company's discretionary profit sharing contributions. Vesting in the Company's matching contribution portion plus actual earnings thereon is based on years of continuous service. A participant is 100 percent vested after three years of service.

### Participant Loans

Participants may borrow from the Plan a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50 percent of their vested account balance. Loans are collateralized by the balance in the participant's account.

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Community Bank System, Inc.  
401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2005 and 2004

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### Payment of Benefits

Normal retirement date for participants under the Plan is the later of age 65 or the completion of 5 years of service. Upon termination of service due to death, disability or retirement, the participant will receive either a lump sum amount or installment payments equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account. If some or all of a participant's account balance is allocated to the employee stock option feature of the Plan, that portion of the Plan benefit may be paid in the form of Company stock. Upon termination of employment, if the account balance is less than \$5,000, the participant will receive a single lump sum amount equal to the value of his or her account, otherwise, the participant may elect to defer payment up to age 65. Hardship withdrawals of up to 100% of employee contributions are available if Internal Revenue Service guidelines are met.

### Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue contributions at any time and terminate the Plan subject to the provisions set forth in ERISA. In the event the Plan terminates, the net assets of the Plan are to be set aside for participating employees based upon balances then credited to individual accounts. Participants shall be vested 100% in the assets so allocated to their accounts.

## B. Significant Accounting Policies

### Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements are prepared on an accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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### Investments

Investments are stated at aggregate fair value, except for the SEI Stable Asset GIC Fund, which is stated at cost, which approximates fair value. Securities that are traded on a national securities exchange are valued at the last reported sales price on the last business day of the Plan year. Shares of mutual funds are valued at the net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year-end. Participant loan receivable balances are reported at cost, which approximates fair value.

The Plan presents in the statements of changes in net assets the net appreciation (depreciation) in the fair value of its investments, which consists of realized gains or losses as well as unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on those investments.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on the trade date. Gains or losses on sales of securities are based on average cost. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

### Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

### Administrative Expenses

Certain administrative expenses are paid by the Company. These amounted to approximately \$280,000 and \$258,000, including approximately \$208,000 and \$185,000 paid to Benefit Plans Administrative Services, Inc. ("BPA"), in 2005 and 2004, respectively. (See Note D).

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Community Bank System, Inc.  
401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2005 and 2004

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### Inactive Accounts

Account balances of individuals who have withdrawn from participation in the Plan were on an accumulated basis of approximately \$10,553,610 and \$9,889,437 at December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

### Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan provides for various investment options in mutual funds and Company stock. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as

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interest rate, market and credit. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities and the level of uncertainty related to changes in the value of investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in risk in the near term would materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits and the statements of changes in net assets available for benefits.

### C. Investments

Investments are held within various common funds maintained by the Community Bank, N.A. Trust Department. Participants, at their discretion, may allocate contributions and account balances between various investment options offered by the Plan. A brief description of these investment options, as provided by the plan administrator, follows:

Community Bank System, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Fund - these Funds invest in the common stock of the Plan sponsor, which is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CBU".

SEI Stable Asset GIC Fund - a collective trust fund that holds primarily a diversified portfolio of stable value contracts issued by insurance companies and banks. Investments in the SEI Stable Asset GIC Fund are not marketable securities and are reported at cost, which approximates fair value.

American Funds Washington Mutual Investors Fund Class A - a mutual fund that invests in common stocks and securities convertible into such common stocks.

Federated Total Return Bond Fund - a mutual fund seeking to provide total return by investing primarily in a diversified portfolio of investment grade fixed income securities.

Managers Special Equity Fund - a mutual fund that invests in equity securities of small- and medium-sized U.S. companies.

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Community Bank System, Inc.  
401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2005 and 2004

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American Funds EuroPacific Growth Fund Class A - a mutual fund that invests in stocks of issuers located in Europe and the Pacific Basin.

Dreyfus S&P 500 Index Fund - a mutual fund that invests in equities and seeks to match the performance of the S&P 500 Composite Stock Price Index.

Federated Mid-Cap Index Fund - a mutual fund primarily that invests in stocks of U.S. companies.

T. Rowe Price Blue Chip Growth Fund - a mutual fund primarily that invests in stocks of U.S. companies.

TD Waterhouse IDA Account - participants select the individual investment securities, including equity securities, mutual funds and bonds.



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The fair value of individual investments which represent 5% or more of net assets available for benefits (\$2,859,338 for 2005 and \$2,916,631 for 2004) are as follows:

	2005	2004
	----	----
Community Bank System, Inc. common stock	\$ 16,199,821	\$ 21,857,681
SEI Stable Asset GIC Fund	12,095,892	10,825,829
American Funds Washington Mutual Investors Fund Class A	8,024,306	8,166,459
American Funds EuroPacific Growth Fund Class A	3,638,884	2,490,186
Manager Special Equity Fund	3,430,912	3,226,693
Federated Total Return Bond Fund	3,204,861	2,998,040
T. Rowe Price Blue Chip Growth Fund	3,055,382	2,621,016

The Plan's investments (depreciated) appreciated in value as follows:

	2005	2004
	----	----
Community Bank System, Inc. common stock	\$ (4,335,817)	\$ 2,602,117
Mutual funds	522,317	2,226,482
	-----	-----
Total net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ (3,813,500)	\$ 4,828,599
	=====	=====

### D. Transactions with Parties-in-Interest

The assets of the Plan are administered by BPA, a subsidiary of Community Bank System, Inc. The Company paid BPA approximately \$208,000 and \$185,000 for record keeping, trustee and other services in 2005 and 2004, respectively.

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Community Bank System, Inc.  
401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2005 and 2004

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The Plan held 718,396 and 773,723 shares of the Plan sponsor's common stock at December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively. The cost of these shares at December 31, 2005 and 2004 is \$9,696,141 and \$9,558,394, respectively, and their fair value at December 31, 2005 and 2004 is \$16,199,821 and \$21,857,681, respectively. The Company enacted a two-for-one stock split in the form of a 100% stock dividend paid on April 12, 2004 to shareholders of record on March 17, 2004. Accordingly, all 2004 share amounts have been adjusted to reflect the stock split.

Dividends received on the investment in Community Bank System, Inc. common stock amounted to \$577,893 and \$525,798 for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively. The Plan sold 212,964 and 164,375 shares of Community Bank System, Inc. common stock during 2005 and 2004,

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respectively, and purchased 191,567 and 191,968 shares of Community Bank System, Inc. common stock during 2005 and 2004, respectively.

E. Income Tax Status

The Plan obtained its most recent determination letter in July 2003, in which the Internal Revenue Service stated that the plan, as then designed, was in compliance with Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter, however, the Plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.

F. Plan Merger

On May 14, 2004, the Company acquired First Heritage Bank and merged the First Heritage Bank 401(k) Plan into the Plan. Accordingly, total plan assets of \$884,184 were transferred to the Plan.

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Community Bank System, Inc.  
 401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
 Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)  
 (Schedule H, Part IV, Item (i))  
 December 31, 2005

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(a)	(b) Identify of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value
	Mutual Funds	
	American Funds Washington Mutual Investors Fund Class A	Mutual fund - 260,192 shares
	Managers Special Equity Fund	Mutual fund - 39,540 shares
	Federated Total Return Bond Fund	Mutual fund - 303,778 shares
	T. Rowe Price Blue Chip Growth Fund	Mutual fund - 93,494 shares
	American Funds EuroPacific Growth Fund Class A	Mutual fund - 88,537 shares
	Dreyfus S&P 500 Index Fund	Mutual fund - 67,978 shares
	Federated Mid-Cap Index Fund	Mutual fund - 88,897 shares
	Common stock of plan sponsor	
*	Community Bank System, Inc.	Common stock - 718,396 shares
	Collective Trust Fund	
	SEI Stable Asset GIC Fund	Collective trust fund - 12,095,89
	Loan Fund	
	Participant loans	Loan, 5.0% - 10.5%
	Self Directed brokerage	
	TD Waterhouse IDA Account	Self-directed brokerage

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ReservePlus Money Market	Money Market Fund	Money market fund - 134,568 shares
Total investments		

\* - Denotes party-in-interest