Why the Tortoise Sometimes Wins



Presenter: Ron Mauer
Director Wisconsin Chapter

March 31, 2025



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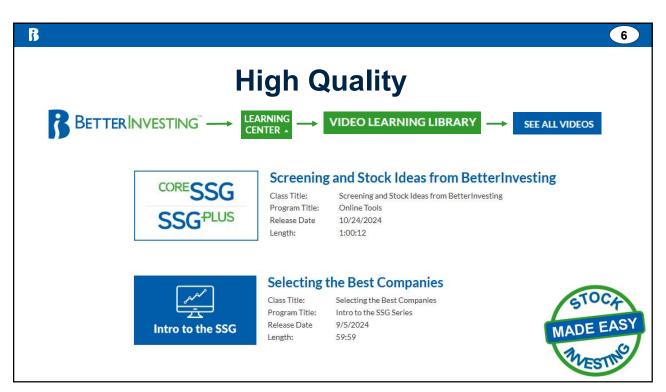
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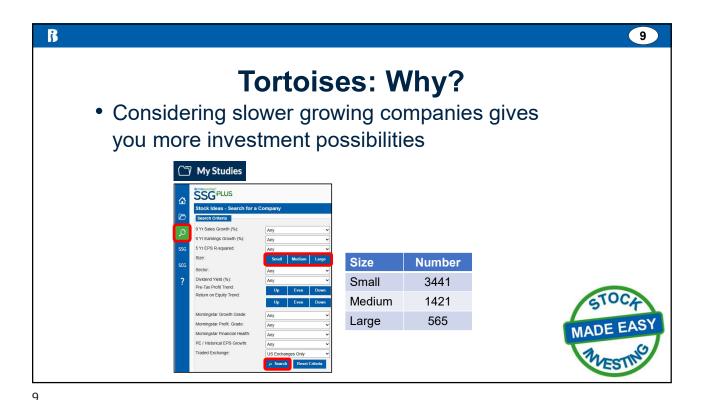
4 **Terminology** Sales and Revenue • Earnings, Profits, and Income • Equity, Capital, Equity Capital, and Book Value These terms may also be preceded by "Net" or "Total"







B 8 **Tortoises: Why?** • Can a company with only moderate growth prospects offer both high quality and good value? √ Absolutely! Size Annual Growth Revenue Small < \$1B > 12% Medium \$1B to \$10B 7 to 12% Large > \$10B => 5%



Slow And Steady

• Sometimes the tortoise, slow and steady, wins the race

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What Is Good Value?

- A stock investment is a good value because of the potential for it to be worth more in the future
- Total Return is used to measure value on the Stock Selection Guide (SSG)





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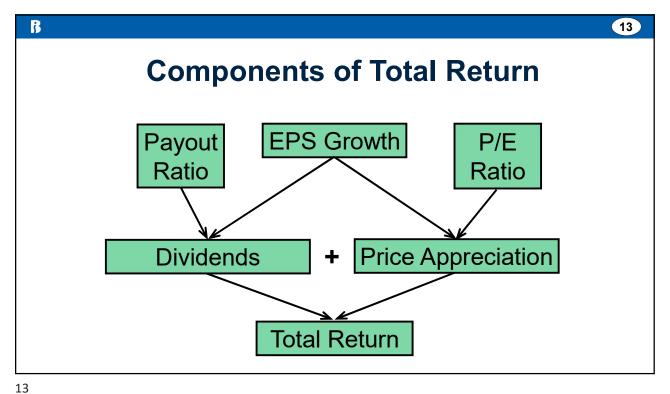
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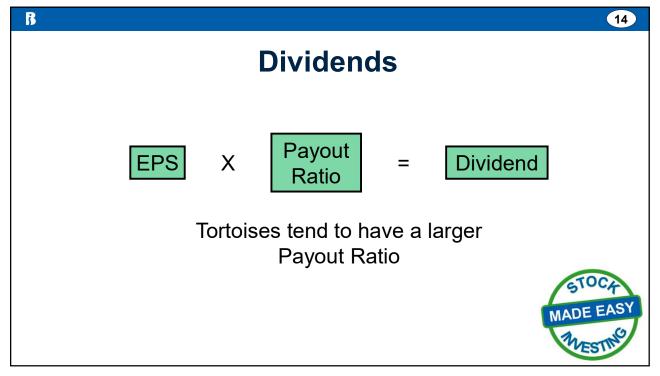
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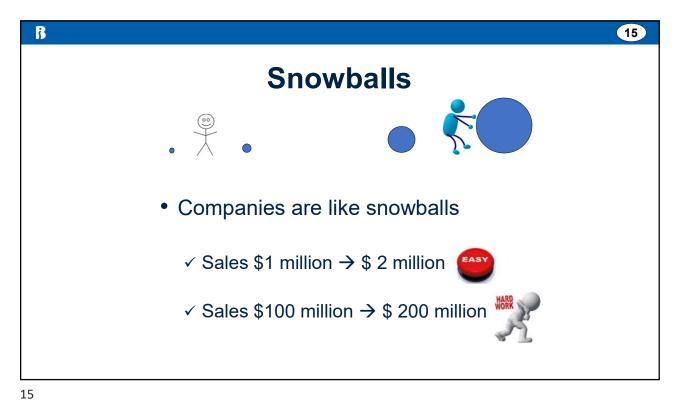
Total Return Comes From ...

- Dividends driven by:
 - √ Earnings growth (EPS)
 - ✓ Earnings Payout ratio (the percentage of earnings paid to shareholders as dividends)
- Price Appreciation driven by:
 - ✓ Earnings growth (EPS)
 - √ P/E ratio (optimism about the future)









Dividends

• Dividends tend to have a more significant role in Total Return for Tortoises

• Tortoises tend to have a larger payout ratio

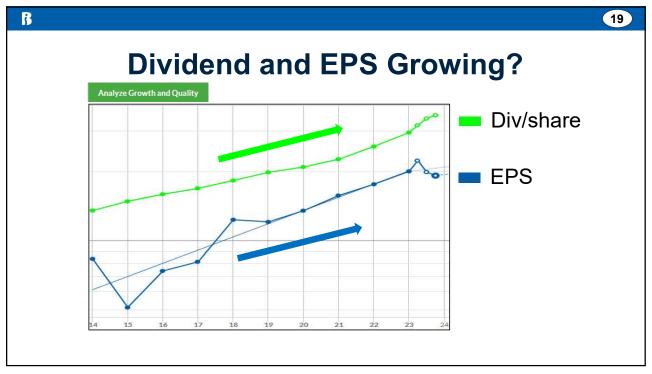
✓ More of EPS used to pay dividends

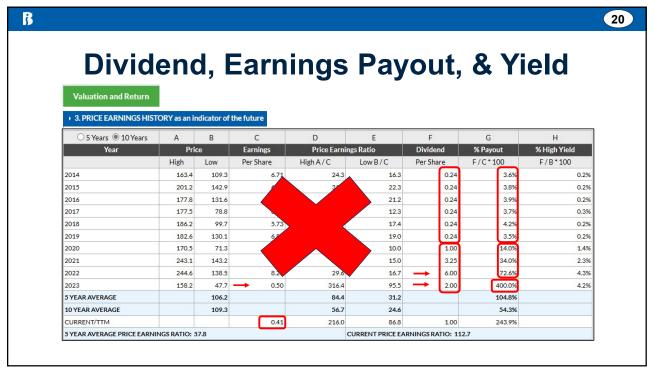
✓ Less of EPS used to fund future growth

• A secure dividend may add some safety for slower growing stocks



B 18 Dividend, Earnings Payout, & Yield 3. PRICE EARNINGS HISTORY as an indicator of the future ○ 5 Years ● 10 Years D F G High Per Share High A/C Low B/C Per Share F/C*100 F/B*100 Low 108.7 3.77 28.8 2.04 2015 111.3 82.4 2.32 48.0 35.5 2.24 96.4% 2.7% 2016 117.8 82.4 3.34 35.3 24.7 2.40 71.9% 2.9% 2017 116.5 3.66 31.8 27.8 2.55 69.6% 2.5% 2018 114.6 89.1 5.58 20.5 16.0 2.76 49.4% 3.1% 2019 162.2 5.46 29.7 18.5 2.99 54.8% 3.0% 2020 161.8 109.9 6.11 26.5 18.0 3.15 51.6% 2.9% 2021 7.11 27.3 3.41 48.0% 242.6 7.96 48.7% 2.0% 2022 190.9 30.5 24.0 3.87 2023 178.8 9.06 30.5 19.7 4.46 49.2% 2.5% 5 YEAR AVERAGE 144.8 28.9 20.1 50.4% 10 YEAR AVERAGE 116.8 30.9 22.8 59.4% CURRENT/TTM CURRENT PRICE EARNINGS RATIO: 20.3 5 YEAR AVERAGE PRICE EARNINGS RATIO: 24.5







FCF Payout Ratio = $\frac{Dividends Paid}{FCF}$

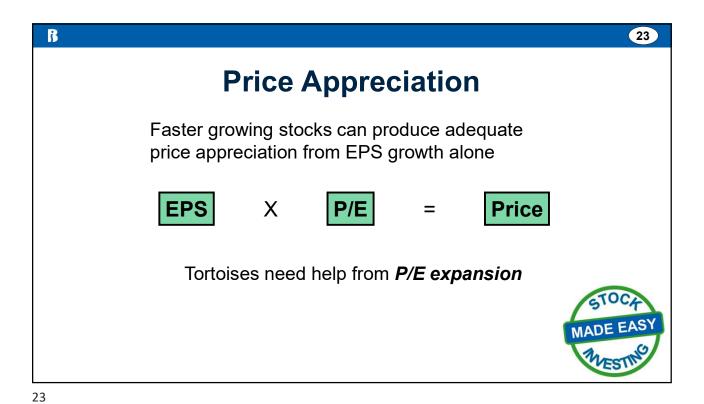
Earnings and FCF – both are important!



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Price Appreciation

• Potential for future P/E to be higher is critical for tortoises

· Stock price tends to follow earnings growth
· With a constant P/E ratio, slower growth produces less price appreciation

• Especially important for tortoises
· Buy when P/E ratio is below average

P/E Expansion

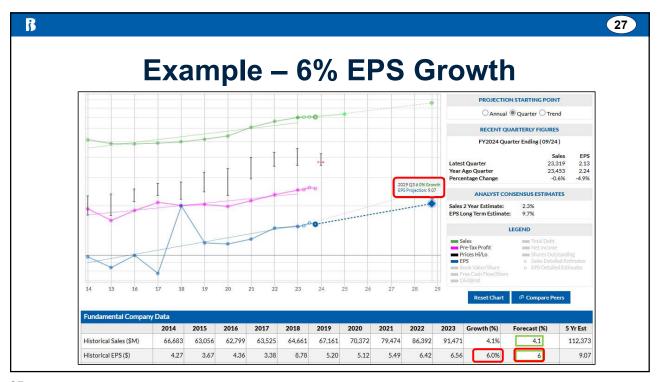
- P/E expansion means ...
 - ... the Price-to-Earnings ratio moves higher than when you bought the stock
- Buying when there is potential for P/E expansion is always important — even more so for tortoises

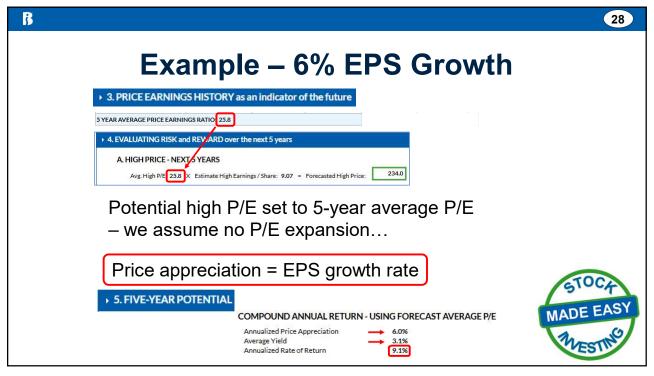
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P/E Expansion is Limited

- P/E expansion can't continue forever!
- After P/E has moved up to 'normal', future Total Return is limited by future EPS growth rate!
- When you run out of potential for P/E expansion you should consider selling





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Let's Review

- Slower growing stocks can produce good returns
- Total Return comes from:
 - ✓ Dividends + Price Appreciation
- For Tortoises (vs. faster growing Hares)
 - ✓ Dividends are a bigger factor
 - ✓ Potential for P/E expansion is even more important



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Questions



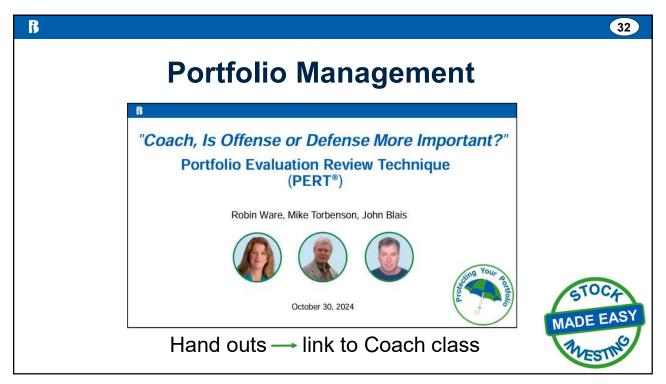
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Portfolio Management Importance

- For slower growing stocks, more active Portfolio Management can improve return
- If you just buy and hold, what is the <u>very long-term</u> potential for Total Return?
 - ✓ EPS growth rate + dividend yield
- Might be inadequate for slower growers



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Portfolio Management

- BI embraces concept of Defense/Offense
 - ✓ Defense = Quality
 - √ Offense = Value
- Defense don't own poor quality stocks
 - ✓ Maintain a good average level of quality
 - ✓ Sell stocks that are clearly poor quality



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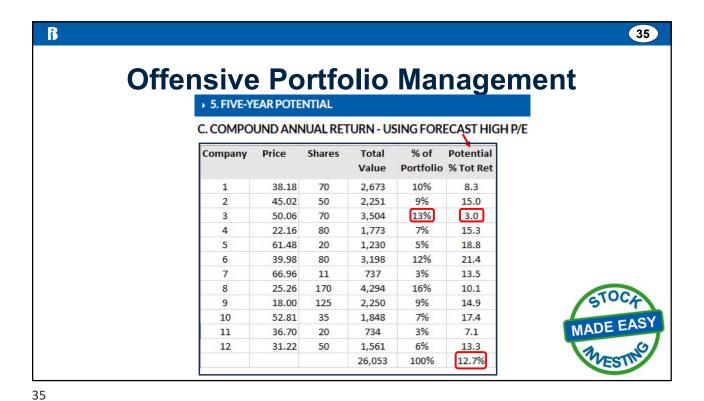
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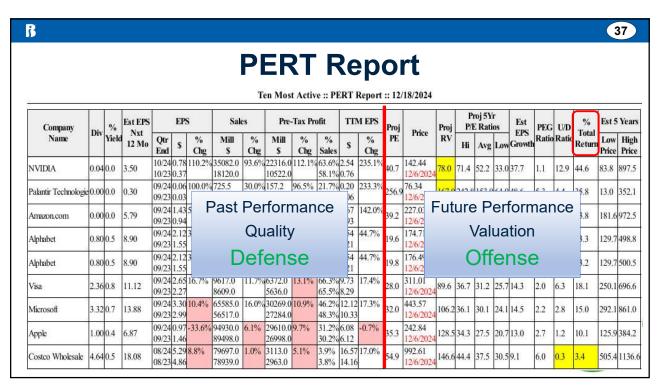
Portfolio Management

- Offense monitor Total Return to determine value
 - ✓ Maintain an adequate average Total Return level
 - ✓ Replace low Total Return stocks as you identify significantly better opportunities
 - ✓ <u>Very</u> important for slower growers!





B 36 Offensive Portfolio Management **▶ 5. FIVE-YEAR POTENTIAL** C. COMPOUND ANNUAL RETURN - USING FORECAST HIGH P/E % of Company Price **Shares** Total Potential Value Portfolio % Tot Ret 38.18 2,673 10% 1 45.02 50 2,251 15.0 New 50.06 3,504 13% 17.0 70 7% 15.3 22.16 80 1,773 18.8 61.48 20 1,230 6 39.98 3,198 12% 21.4 66.96 13.5 8 25.26 4,294 16% 10.1 170 9 18.00 125 2,250 9% 14.9 10 52.81 1,848 7% 17.4 35 11 36.70 20 734 3% 7.1 12 31.22 1,561 6% 13.3 14.6% 26,053 100%





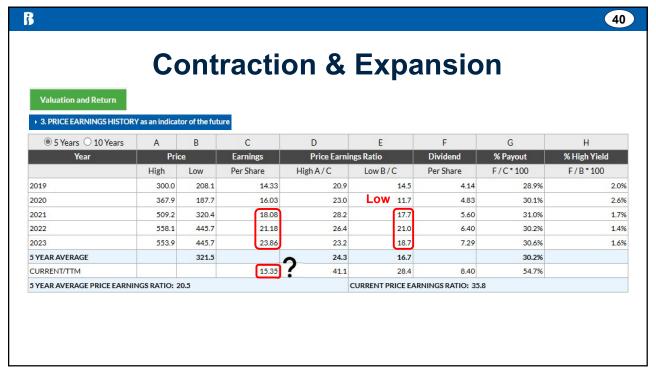
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Let's Review Again

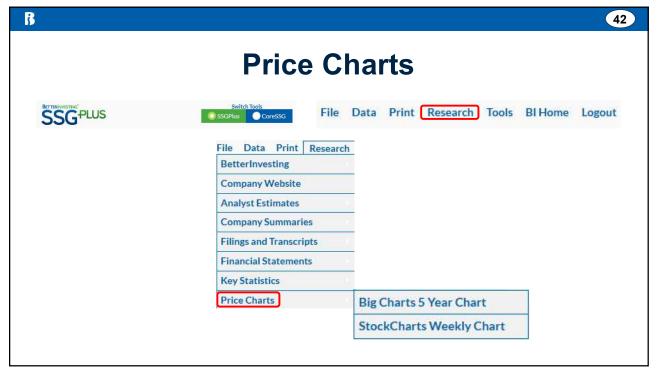
- Total Return comes from:
 - ✓ Dividends + Price appreciation
- For Tortoises:
 - ✓ Dividends are a bigger factor
 - ✓ P/E expansion is critical for adequate price appreciation
- P/E expansion can't continue forever!
- Offensive Portfolio Management key to success



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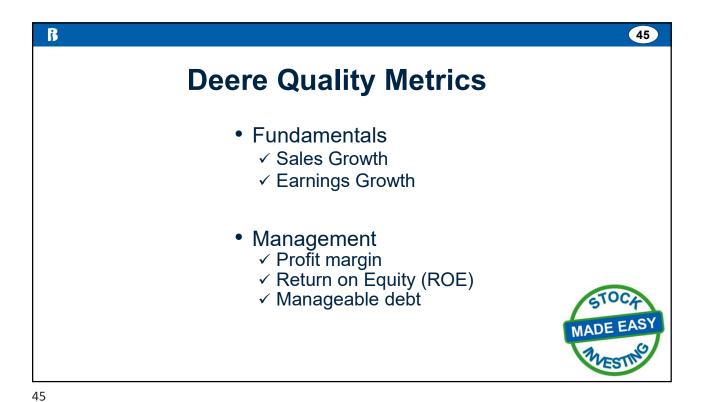








B 44 **Deere First Cut** First Cut Stock Study Report Company Name: DE Deere Ticker: 7/29/2024 \$ 386.55 Date of Study: Price: Your Name: Sofia Bitela Email address: sofiabetterinvesting@gmail.com State: FL City: Plantation Chapter Name (if applicable): South Florida



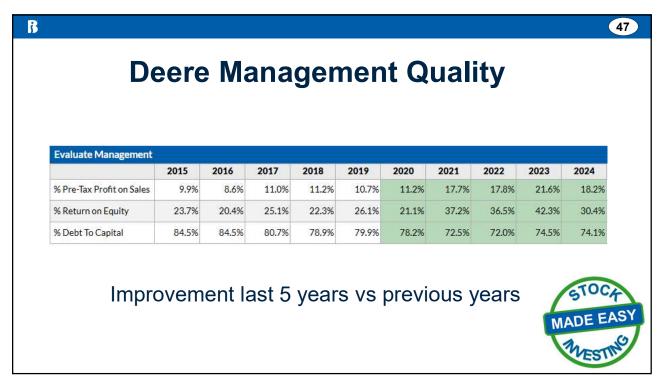
Deere Fundamental Quality

Analyze Growth and Quality

Company: Deere (DE) Study Name: DE 12/21/24

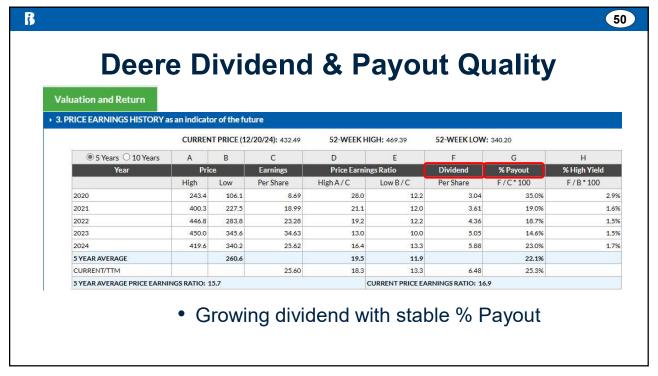
Sales

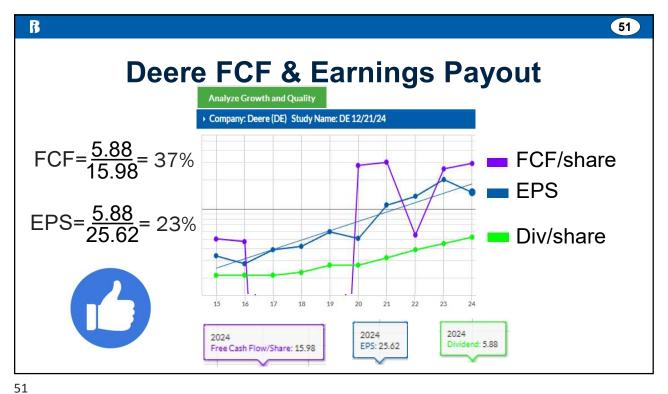
Earnings



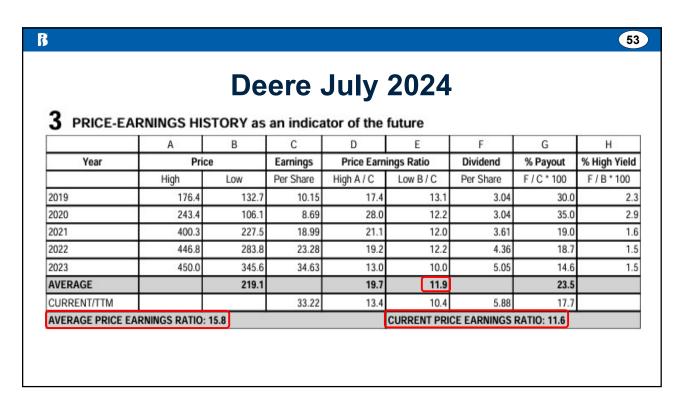


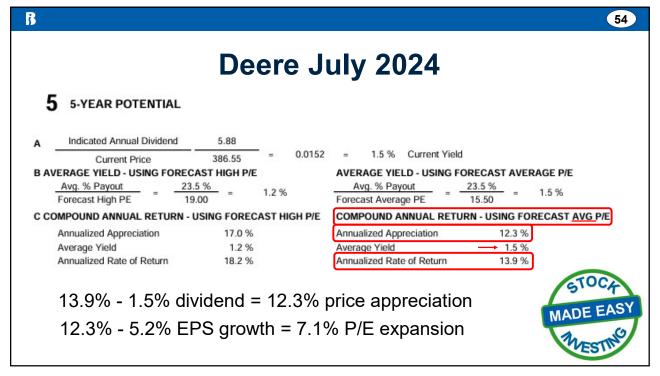


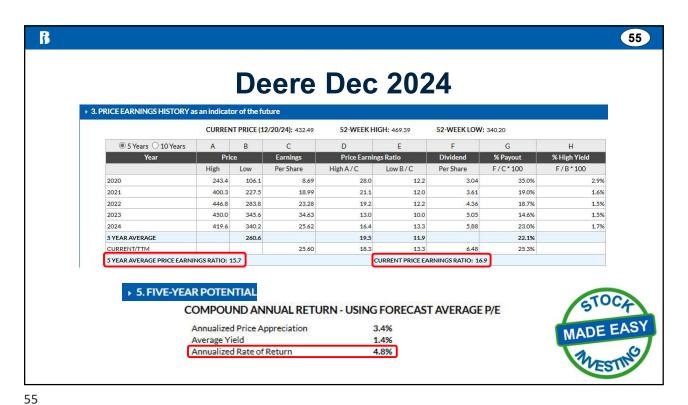




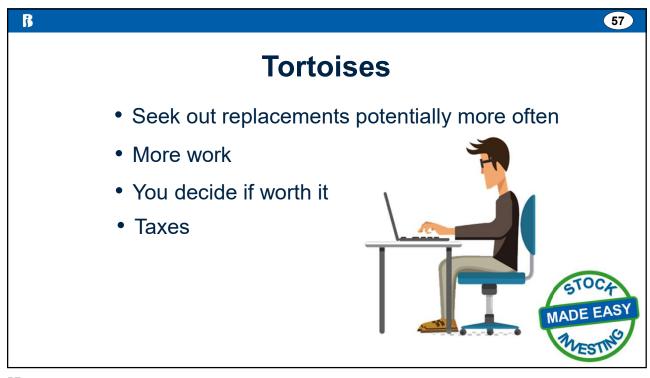












Summary

• Slower growing stocks can make sense

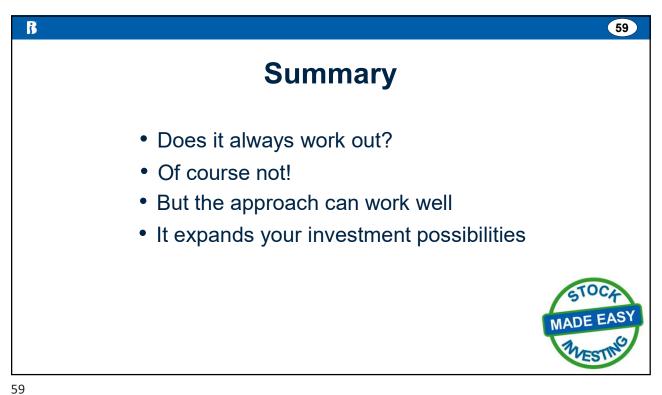
• One approach to investing in tortoises:

✓ Buy quality stocks when P/E is below average

✓ Consider selling when future Total Return is inadequate

✓ Current P/E = or > average P/E

• If satisfied with lower return, hold. It's up to you!



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