

ASHLAND INC.
Form 4
July 19, 2005

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
ESLER SUSAN B

(Last) (First) (Middle)
50 E. RIVERCENTER BOULEVARD
(Street)

COVINGTON, KY 41012-0391

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
ASHLAND INC. [ASH]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
06/30/2005

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

___ Director ___ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)
Vice President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock	07/17/2005		A ⁽¹⁾	1,050 A \$ 0	1,892	D	
Common Stock	07/17/2005		F ⁽²⁾	405 D \$ 60.05	1,487	D	
Common Stock					627 ⁽³⁾	I	401(K)
Restricted Stock	07/17/2005		J ⁽⁴⁾	1,050 D \$ 0	1,950	D	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. P... Der... Sec... (Ins...	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Common Stock Units	\$ 0 ⁽⁵⁾	06/30/2005		J ⁽⁶⁾	1,269	⁽⁶⁾	⁽⁶⁾	Common Stock	1,269
Common Stock Units	\$ 0	07/17/2005		J ⁽⁷⁾	141	⁽⁷⁾	⁽⁷⁾	Common Stock	141

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
ESLER SUSAN B 50 E. RIVERCENTER BOULEVARD COVINGTON, KY 41012-0391			Vice President	

Signatures

Linda L. Foss,
Attorney-in-Fact

07/19/2005

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
 - ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Common Stock acquired pursuant to the lapsing of the restrictions on Restricted Common Stock acquired pursuant to Ashland's Stock Incentive Plans as approved by the shareholders and exempt pursuant to Rule 16b-3.
 - (2) Payment of tax liability by withholding incident to the receipt of the vesting of shares of Restricted Common Stock acquired pursuant to Ashland's stock incentive plans as approved by the shareholders and exempt pursuant to Rule 16b-3.

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- (3) Based on Employee Savings Plan information as of 7-18-2005, the latest date for which such information is reasonably available.
- (4) Reflects the lapsing of restrictions on Restricted Common Stock acquired pursuant to Ashland's stock incentive plans as approved by the shareholders and exempt pursuant to Rule 16b-3.
- (5) 1-for-1
- (6) Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's Deferred Compensation Plan as of 6-30-05, and exempt under Rule 16b-3(d). (One (1) Common Stock Unit in the Deferred Compensation Plan is the equivalent of one (1) share of Ashland Common Stock.)
Payment of tax liability by withholding incident to the receipt of the vesting of Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's
- (7) Stock Incentive Plan as of 7/17/05, and exempt under Rule 16b-3(d). (One (1) Common Stock Unit in the Deferred Compensation Plan is the equivalent of one (1) share of Ashland Common Stock.)

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.