

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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- (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.

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