

ESLER SUSAN B  
Form 4  
June 17, 2005

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**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)  
06/15/2005

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 or Price (A) or (D)		
Common Stock	06/16/2005		M		500 A \$ 36.38	D	
Common Stock	06/16/2005		M		1,125 A \$ 28.13	D	
Common Stock	06/16/2005		M		1,500 A \$ 34	D	
Common Stock	06/16/2005		S		3,125 D \$ 69.97	D	
Common Stock					614 <sup>(1)</sup>	I	401(K)

Restricted Stock 3,000 <sup>(2)</sup> 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)	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Options (Right to buy)	\$ 28.13	06/16/2005		M <sup>(3)</sup>	1,125	09/19/2003	10/19/2012	Common Stock	1,125
Stock Options (Right to buy)	\$ 34	06/16/2005		M <sup>(3)</sup>	1,500	09/18/2004	10/18/2013	Common Stock	1,500
Stock Options (Right to buy)	\$ 36.38	06/16/2005		M <sup>(3)</sup>	500	09/20/2002	10/20/2011	Common Stock	500
Common Stock Units	\$ 0 <sup>(4)</sup>	06/15/2005		J <sup>(5)</sup>	24	<sup>(5)</sup>	<sup>(5)</sup>	Common Stock	24

## 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

Jami K. Suver,  
Attorney-in-Fact

06/17/2005

\_\_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) Based on Employee Savings Plan information as of 6-15-05, the latest date for which such information is reasonably available.
- (2) Represents 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.  
Employee stock option (represents a right to buy Ashland Common Stock) granted pursuant to Ashland's Amended and Restated
- (3) Incentive Plan which vests in three annual installments: 50% after the 1st year, the next 25% the 2nd year and the remaining 25% the 3rd year. The employee stock option includes a tax withholding feature pursuant to the plan.
- (4) 1-for-1
- (5) Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's Deferred Compensation Plan as of 6-15-05, 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.