

ASHLAND INC.

Form 4

December 19, 2005

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
Number: 3235-0287
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2005
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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
OBRIEN JAMES J /KY

(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)
12/15/2005

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)

Chief Executive Officer

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					5,340	D	
Common Stock					885 ⁽¹⁾	I	401(K)
Common Stock					3,871 ⁽²⁾	I	LESOP

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

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information contained in this form are not
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SEC 1474
(9-02)

number.

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. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)
Common Stock Units	\$ 0 <u>(3)</u>	12/15/2005		J <u>(4)</u>	479	<u>(4)</u> <u>(4)</u>	Common Stock 479	\$ 56.8

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
OBRIEN JAMES J /KY 50 E. RIVERCENTER BOULEVARD COVINGTON, KY 41012-0391	Chief Executive Officer

Signatures

David B. Mattingly,
Attorney-in-Fact 12/19/2005

**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).

(3) 1-for-1

(2) Shares accrued under Ashland's Leveraged Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of 12-15-2005.

(1) Based on Employee Savings Plan information as of 12-15-2005, the latest date for which such information is reasonably available.

(4) Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's Deferred Compensation Plan as of 12-15-05, 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.

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