

ASHLAND INC  
Form 4  
March 17, 2005

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 \*  
**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)  
**03/15/2005**

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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price

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

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SEC 1474  
(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	2. Conversion or Exercise	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative	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
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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Instr. 5)					
Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
	Common Stock Units	\$ 0 <u>(1)</u>	03/15/2005	J <u>(2)</u>	333	<u>(2)</u>	<u>(2)</u>	Common Stock	333	\$ 66.6

## 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

Linda L. Foss                      03/17/2005

           \*\*Signature of                      Date  
Reporting Person

## 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) 1-for-1
- (2) Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's 1995 Deferred Compensation Plan as of 3-15-05, and exempt under Rule 16b-3(d).  
(One (1) Common Stock Unit in the 1995 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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