

ASHLAND INC.  
Form 4  
March 16, 2006

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 \*  
WATERS FRANK L

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
5200 BLAZER PARKWAY  
(Street)

DUBLIN, OH 43017

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
03/15/2006

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)
Common Stock				(A) or (D)	156 <sup>(1)</sup>	D	
Common Stock				(A) or (D)	1,848 <sup>(2)</sup>	I	401(k)
Common Stock				(A) or (D)	814 <sup>(3)</sup>	I	LESOP

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

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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)		
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Common Stock Units	\$ 0 <sup>(4)</sup>	03/15/2006		J <sup>(5)</sup>	95	<sup>(5)</sup>	<sup>(5)</sup>	Common Stock	95	\$ 67.69

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
WATERS FRANK L 5200 BLAZER PARKWAY DUBLIN, OH 43017			Vice President	

## Signatures

David B. Mattingly,  
Attorney-in-Fact

03/16/2006

\*\*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).

(4) 1-for-1

(1) 27 of these shares are held in Ashland's Open Enrollment Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan as of 3-15-06.

(5) Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's Deferred Compensation Plan as of 3-15-06, 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.)

(3) Shares accrued under Ashland's Leveraged Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of 3-15-2006.

(2) Based on Employee Savings Plan information as of 3-15-2006, the latest date for which such information is reasonably available.

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.