

RANDOLPH ROBERT KIRK
 Form 4
 December 19, 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 *
 RANDOLPH ROBERT KIRK

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 900 ASHWOOD PARKWAY,
 SUITE 700
 (Street)

ATLANTA, GA 30330

(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
 ___X___ Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)
 Vice President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 ___X___ 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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Restricted Stock | | | | (A) or (D) Price | 7,500 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | (A) or (D) Price | 32 ⁽¹⁾ | I | 401(k) |
| Common Stock | | | | (A) or (D) Price | 1,783 ⁽²⁾ | I | LESOP |

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

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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 ⁽³⁾ | 12/15/2005 | | J ⁽⁴⁾ | 64 | ⁽⁴⁾ ⁽⁴⁾ | Common Stock | 64 \$ 56.87 |
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|----------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| RANDOLPH ROBERT KIRK 900 ASHWOOD PARKWAY, SUITE 700 ATLANTA, GA 30330 | | | Vice President | |

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. 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.