Shannon Michael J Form 3 February 06, 2006

FORM 3

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

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person * Statement ASHLAND INC. [ASH] A Shannon Michael J (Month/Day/Year) 01/26/2006 (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) 5200 BLAZER PARKWAY (Check all applicable) (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) Director 10% Owner _X_ Form filed by One Reporting _X__ Officer Other Person DUBLIN, OHÂ 43017 (give title below) (specify below) Form filed by More than One Vice President Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial 1. Title of Security 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Ownership Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Form: (Instr. 5) Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) D Â Common Stock 200 Â Restricted Stock 6,200 (1) D Common Stock 4,192 Ι 401(K) (2) Common Stock 1,617 I LESOP (3) Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially SEC 1473 (7-02) owned directly or indirectly. Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security 2. Date Exercisable and (Instr. 4) 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Conversion Ownership Beneficial

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	(Month/Day/Year)	Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		ecurity	or Exercise Price of	Form of Derivative	Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Derivative Security	Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
Common Stock Units	(5)	(5)	Common Stock	1,983	\$ 0 (4)	D	Â
Stock Appreciation Right	09/16/2005	10/16/2014	Common Stock	6,670	\$ 45.19 (6)	D	Â
Stock Appreciation Right	09/15/2006	10/15/2015	Common Stock	15,000	\$ 58.5 (6)	D	Â
Stock Options (Right to buy)	09/19/2003	10/19/2012	Common Stock	1,365	\$ 23.2 (7)	D	Â
Stock Options (Right to buy)	09/18/2004	10/18/2013	Common Stock	2,426	\$ 28.04 (7)	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
Shannon Michael J 5200 BLAZER PARKWAY DUBLIN. OH 43017	Â	Â	Vice President	Â		

Signatures

David B. Mattingly, Attorney-in-Fact 02/06/2006

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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).
- (6) Stock Appreciation Right granted pursuant to Ashland's Amended and Restated Stock 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.
- (4) Converts to common stock on a one-for-one basis.
- Employee stock option (represents a right to buy Ashland Common Stock) granted pursuant to Ashland's Amended Stock Incentive Plan (7) 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.
- (2) Based on Employee Savings Plan information as of 1-26-06, the latest date for which such information is reasonably available.
- (5) Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's Deferred Compensation Plan as of 01-26-06, 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 1-26-06.
- (1) 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.

Reporting Owners 2

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