

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

() Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.
 Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 Potts, Charles F.

Tower Place - Suite 600
 3340 Peachtree Road
 Atlanta, Georgia 30326

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 Ashland Inc.
 ASH

3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
 ###-##-####

4. Statement for Month/Year
 April 30, 1997

5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)

6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 () Director () 10% Owner (X) Officer (give title below) () Other
 (specify below)
 Senior Vice President

7. 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	2. Transaction Date	3. Transaction Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			Amount	A/D	Price			
Common Stock						1,000	D	
Common Stock						4,736 (1)	I	By Trustee
Common Stock						1,373 (2)	I	By Trustee

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Option (3)	35.625				9-15-89 - 10-15-98	Common Stock 750		750	D	
	35.625				9-15-90 - 10-15-98	Common Stock 375		375	D	
	35.625				9-15-91 - 10-15-98	Common Stock 375		375	D	
Option (4)	41.00				9-21-90 - 10-21-99	Common Stock 750		750	D	
	41.00				9-21-91 - 10-21-99	Common Stock 375		375	D	
	41.00				9-21-92 - 10-21-99	Common Stock 375		375	D	
Option (4)	30.50				9-19-92 - 10-19-01	Common Stock 2,000		2,000	D	
	30.50				9-19-93 - 10-19-01	Common Stock 1,000		1,000	D	
	30.50				9-19-94 - 10-19-01	Common Stock 1,000		1,000	D	
Option (4)	33.125				9-16-94 - 10-16-03	Common Stock 5,000		5,000	D	
	33.125				9-16-95 - 10-16-03	Common Stock 2,500		2,500	D	
	33.125				9-16-96 - 10-16-03	Common Stock 2,500		2,500	D	
Option (5)	35.875				9-15-96 - 10-15-03	Common Stock 5,000		5,000	D	

							95	-04											
							9-15-96	10-15-04		Common Stock	2,500		2,500					D	
							9-15-97	10-15-04		Common Stock	2,500		2,500					D	
Option (5)							9-21-96	10-21-05		Common Stock	5,000		5,000					D	
							9-21-97	10-21-05		Common Stock	2,500		2,500					D	
							9-21-98	10-21-05		Common Stock	2,500		2,500					D	
Option (5)							9-19-97	10-19-06		Common Stock	5,000		5,000					D	
							9-19-98	10-19-06		Common Stock	2,500		2,500					D	
							9-19-99	10-19-06		Common Stock	2,500		2,500					D	
Common Stock Units (6)	1-for-1	3-31-97	A	V	81	A				Common Stock	81	(6)							
Common Stock Units (7)	1-for-1	3-31-97	I	V	478	A				Common Stock	478	40.250	8,242					D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Shares accrued under Ashland's Leveraged Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of 3-31-96, the date of the final allocation to this account.
 2. Based on Employee Savings Plan information as of 4-25-97, the latest date for which such information is reasonably available, and includes transactions occurring on or after 1-21-97.
 3. Employee stock option (represents a right to buy Ashland Common Stock) granted pursuant to Ashland's Amended Stock Incentive Plan. The employee stock option includes a tax withholding feature pursuant to the plan.
 4. Employee stock option (represents a right to buy Ashland Common Stock) granted pursuant to Ashland's Long-Term Incentive Plan. The employee stock option includes a tax withholding feature pursuant to the plan.
 5. Employee stock option (represents a right to buy Ashland Common Stock) granted pursuant to Ashland's 1993 Stock Incentive Plan. The employee stock option includes a tax withholding feature pursuant to the plan.
 6. Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's 1995 Deferred Compensation Plan as of 3-31-97 and includes transactions occurring on or after 12-31-96, payable in cash or stock upon termination of service and exempt under Rule 16b-3(d). The price of the Common Stock Units on applicable acquisition dates varies from 40.250 - 43.125.
 7. Intra-plan transfer in Ashland's 1995 Deferred Compensation Plan and exempt under Rule 16b-3(f).
- SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
Charles F. Potts
DATE
May 6, 1997