

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

Pettus, John F.

3499 Dabney Drive
 Lexington, Kentucky 40509

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Ashland Inc.

ASH

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

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4. Statement for Month/Year

December 1996

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)

() 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. 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						6,169 (1)	I	By Trustee
Common Stock						28 (2)	I	By Trustee
Common Stock	11-29-96	F (3)	5,566	D	\$48.00			
Common Stock	11-29-96	M	7,500	A	\$35.625			
Common Stock	11-29-96	F (4)	702	D	\$48.00	12,795	D	

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. 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
				Amount	A/D	Price						
Common Stock Units (5)			J	3,207	A			Common Stock Units	5,170	5,170	D	
Option (6)	35.625	11-29-96	M	1	D	9-15-89	10-15-98	Common Stock	1,875	0		
	35.625	11-29-96	M	1	D	9-15-90	10-15-98	Common Stock	1,875	0		
	35.625	11-29-96	M	1	D	9-15-91	10-15-98	Common Stock	1,875	0		
	35.625	11-29-96	M	1	D	9-15-92	10-15-98	Common Stock	1,875	0		
Option (7)	41.00					9-21-90	10-21-99	Common Stock	2,500	2,500	D	
	41.00					9-21-91	10-21-99	Common Stock	2,500	2,500	D	
	41.00					9-21-92	10-21-99	Common Stock	2,500	2,500	D	
	41.00					9-21-93	10-21-99	Common Stock	2,500	2,500	D	
Option (7)	30.750					9-20-91	10-20-00	Common Stock	3,000	3,000	D	
	30.750					9-20-91	10-20-00	Common Stock	3,000	3,000	D	

						92	-00												
	30.750					9-20-93	10-20-00	Common Stock	3,000		3,000		D						
	30.750					9-20-94	10-20-00	Common Stock	3,000		3,000		D						
Option (7)	30.50					9-19-92	10-19-01	Common Stock	5,000		5,000		D						
	30.50					9-19-93	10-19-01	Common Stock	2,500		2,500		D						
	30.50					9-19-94	10-19-01	Common Stock	2,500		2,500		D						
Option (7)	23.875					9-21-93	10-21-02	Common Stock	5,000		2,000		D						
	23.875					9-21-94	10-21-02	Common Stock	2,500		2,500		D						
	23.875					9-21-95	10-21-02	Common Stock	2,500		2,500		D						
Option (7)	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 (8)	35.875					9-15-95	10-15-04	Common Stock	5,000		5,000		D						
	35.875					9-15-96	10-15-04	Common Stock	2,500		2,500		D						
	35.875					9-15-97	10-15-04	Common Stock	2,500		2,500		D						
Option (8)	33.875					9-21-96	10-21-05	Common Stock	5,000		5,000		D						
	33.875					9-21-97	10-21-05	Common Stock	2,500		2,500		D						
	33.875					9-21-98	10-21-05	Common Stock	2,500		2,500		D						
Option (8)	39.00					9-19-97	10-19-06	Common Stock	5,000		5,000		D						
	39.00					9-19-98	10-19-06	Common Stock	2,500		2,500		D						
	39.00					9-19-99	10-19-06	Common Stock	2,500		2,500		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 11-20-96, the latest date for which such information is reasonably available, and includes transactions occurring on or after 9-30-96.
3. Shares surrendered in payment of option exercise price.
4. Shares withheld to satisfy tax withholding obligation.
5. Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's 1995 Deferred Compensation Plan as of 11-12-96 and includes transactions occurring on or after 9-30-96, 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 valuation dates has varied from \$39.567 - \$42.375.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
John F. Pettus
DATE

