

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
 Thomas, Richard P.
 Ashland Inc.
 P.O. Box 391
 50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard
 Covington, KY 41012-0391
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, 2000
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)
 Vice President:Secretary
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	4-26-00	S	604	D	\$33.813	966	D	
Common Stock	4-10-00	A	51	A	\$32.047	5,746 (1)	I	
Common Stock						4,033 (2)	I	

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)	35.875				9-15-97 - 10-15-04	Common Stock	1,000	1,000	D	
Option (3)	33.875				9-21-97 - 10-21-05	Common Stock	1,000	1,000	D	
	33.875				9-21-98 - 10-21-05	Common Stock	1,000	1,000	D	
Option (3)	39.00				9-19-97 - 10-19-06	Common Stock	2,000	2,000	D	
	39.00				9-19-98 - 10-19-06	Common Stock	1,000	1,000	D	
	39.00				9-19-99 - 10-19-06	Common Stock	1,000	1,000	D	
Option (4)	53.375				9-18-98 - 10-18-07	Common Stock	2,500	2,500	D	
	53.375				9-18-99 - 10-18-07	Common Stock	1,250	1,250	D	
	53.375				9-18-00 - 10-18-07	Common Stock	1,250	1,250	D	
Option (4)	48.00				9-17-99 - 10-17-08	Common Stock	4,000	4,000	D	
	48.00				9-17-00 - 10-17-08	Common Stock	2,000	2,000	D	
	48.00				9-17-01 - 10-17-08	Common Stock	2,000	2,000	D	

Option (4)	36.625					9-16-00	10-16-09	Common Stock	10,000		10,000	D	
	36.625					9-16-01	10-16-09	Common Stock	10,000		10,000	D	
	36.625					9-16-02	10-16-09	Common Stock	10,000		10,000	D	
	36.625					9-16-03	10-16-09	Common Stock	10,000		10,000	D	
Common Stock Units (5)	1-for-1	J		316	A			Common Stock	316		751	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- Shares of Ashland Common Stock accrued under Ashland's Leveraged Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of 4-30-00. The Report reflects the allocation of Ashland Common Stock resulting from the sale of Arch Coal, Inc. Common Stock by the Trustee. The Arch Coal Common Stock was acquired by the Trustee in a taxable spinoff by Ashland of Arch Coal Common Stock to Ashland's shareholders.
- Based on Employee Savings Plan information as of 5-1-00 and includes transactions on or after 11-15-99.
- 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.
- Employee stock option (represents a right to buy Ashland Common Stock) granted pursuant to Ashland's 1997 Stock Incentive Plan. The employee stock option includes a tax withholding feature pursuant to the plan.
- Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's 1995 Deferred Compensation Plan as of 4-28-00 and includes transactions on or after 10-29-99, 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 \$29.313

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\$35.00.
SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
Richard P. Thomas
DATE
May 9, 2000