

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)

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4. Statement for Month/Year

January 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)

( ) 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	1-14-97	M	1,000	A	\$33.375			
Common Stock	1-14-97	F(1)	759	D	\$44.00			
Common Stock	1-14-97	F(2)	101	D	\$44.00			
Common Stock	1-14-97	S	140	D	\$44.00			
Common Stock	1-14-97	M	4,000	A	\$30.75			
Common Stock	1-14-97	F(1)	2,795	D	\$44.00			
Common Stock	1-14-97	F(2)	488	D	\$44.00			
Common Stock	1-14-97	S	717	D	\$44.00			
Common Stock	1-14-97	M	10,000	A	\$23.875			
Common Stock	1-14-97	F(1)	5,426	D	\$44.00			
Common Stock	1-14-97	F(2)	1,621	D	\$44.00			
Common Stock	1-14-97	S	1,953	D	\$44.00	1,000	D	
Common Stock						4,736 (3)	I	By Trustee
Common Stock						1,208 (4)	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	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
Common Stock Units (5)	1-for-1	12-31-96	A	461		Common Stock	39.567-44	7,683	D	

Option (6)	33.375	1-14-97	M		1	D	9-17-88	10-17-97	Common Stock	500		0		
	33.375	1-14-97	M		1	D	9-17-89	10-17-97	Common Stock	250		0		
	33.375	1-14-97	M		1	D	9-17-90	10-17-97	Common Stock	250		0		
Option (6)	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 (7)	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 (7)	30.75	1-14-97	M		1	D	9-20-91	10-20-00	Common Stock	2,000		0		
	30.75	1-14-97	M		1	D	9-20-92	10-20-00	Common Stock	1,000		0		
	30.75	1-14-97	M		1	D	9-20-93	10-20-00	Common Stock	1,000		0		
Option (7)	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 (7)	23.875	1-14-97	M		1	D	9-21-93	10-21-02	Common Stock	5,000		0		
	23.875	1-14-97	M		1	D	9-21-94	10-21-02	Common Stock	2,500		0		
	23.875	1-14-97	M		1	D	9-21-95	10-21-02	Common Stock	2,500		0		
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 used to satisfy option exercise price.

2. Withholding of shares to satisfy tax withholding obligation.

3. Shares accrued for my account under Ashland's Leveraged Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of 3-31-96,

the date of the final allocation to this account.

4. Based on Employee Savings Plan information as of 1-27-97, the latest date for which such information is reasonably available, and includes transactions occurring on or after 11-20-96.

5. Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's 1995 Deferred Compensation Plan as of 12-31-96 and includes transactions occurring on or after 11-12-96, payable in cash or stock upon termination of service and exempt under Rule 16b-3(d).

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

Charles F. Potts

DATE

February 4, 1997