

ASHLAND INC.  
Form 4  
December 17, 2008

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN 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 Person \*  
SCHAEFER GEORGE A JR

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
851 DELAWARE RIDGE LANE  
(Street)  
CINCINNATI, OH 45226  
(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
ASHLAND INC. [ASH]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/15/2008

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

6. 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 (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Code V Amount (D) Price   |  |                                   |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|--|
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|--|

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|                              | Derivative<br>Security |            | Securities<br>Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed<br>of (D)<br>(Instr. 3,<br>4, and 5) |           | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title           | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |         |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------|---|-----------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--|---------|
|                              |                        |            | Code  | V (A) (D) |                     |                    |                 |  |         |
| Restricted<br>Stock<br>Units | <u>(1)</u>             | 12/15/2008 | J   | (2) 28    | <u>(2)</u>          | <u>(2)</u>         | Common<br>Stock | 28                                     | \$ 10.1 |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| SCHAEFER GEORGE A JR<br>851 DELAWARE RIDGE LANE<br>CINCINNATI, OH 45226 |               |           | X       |       |

## Signatures

David B. Mattingly,  
Attorney-in-Fact

12/17/2008

Signature of Reporting Person                      Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(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).
- (1) Each Restricted Stock Unit represents a right to receive one (1) share of Ashland Common Stock.  
Restricted Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors as of 12-15-08 and
- (2) exempt from Rule 16b-3. (One (1) Restricted Stock Unit in the Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors is the equivalent of one (1) share of Ashland Common Stock.)
- Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.  
Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.