

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

() Form 3 Holdings Reported
 () Form 4 Transactions Reported

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 Farley, James B.

Villa D'Este
 2665 North Ocean Boulevard
 Delray Beach, Florida 33483

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
 September 30, 1997

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

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

7. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (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. Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	A/ D	Price	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Common Stock						2,000 (1)	D	
Common Stock						400 (2)	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) Amount	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) A/ D	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title and Number of Shares	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Common Stock Units (3)	1-for-1		J	146	A	Common Stock 146	(3)	12,215	D	
Option (4)	37.50				7-28-94	1-28-04	Common Stock 1,000	1,000	D	
Option (4)	33.00				7-27-95	1-27-05	Common Stock 1,000	1,000	D	
Option (4)	43.125				7-30-97	1-30-97	Common Stock 1,000	1,000	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Represents shares of restricted common stock acquired pursuant to Ashland's stock incentive plans as approved by the shareholders and exempt pursuant to Rule 16b-3.

2. Jointly with wife.

3. Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's Deferred Compensation and Stock Incentive Plan for Non-Employee Directors, payable in cash or stock upon termination in service, and exempt under Rule 16b-3. The acquisition dates range from 1/1/97 to 9/30/97 and the price of the Common Stock Units on applicable dates has varied from \$40.250 to \$54.375.

4. Stock options (represents a right to buy Ashland Common Stock) granted pursuant to Ashland's Deferred Compensation and Stock Incentive Plan for Non-Employee Directors.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

James B. Farley

DATE

October 14, 1997