

JOHNSON JOEL W  
Form 4  
January 17, 2012

**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 \*  
JOHNSON JOEL W

(Last) (First) (Middle)

THE HORMEL  
FOUNDATION, 301 N. MAIN  
STREET

(Street)

AUSTIN, MN 55912

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
ECOLAB INC [ECL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
01/13/2012

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
Common Stock	01/13/2012		M	A	\$ 42.905	98,661.96	D
Common Stock	01/13/2012		F <sup>(1)</sup>	D	\$ 59.59	96,077.96 <sup>(1)</sup>	D
Common Stock	01/13/2012		M	A	\$ 42.905	98,229.96	D
Common Stock	01/13/2012		F <sup>(1)</sup>	D	\$ 59.59	96,680.96	D
Common Stock	01/13/2012		M	A	\$ 42.905	98,608.96	D

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Common Stock 01/13/2012 F(1) 1,388 D \$ 59.59 97,220.96 D

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

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(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 Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 42.905	01/13/2012		M	3,590	05/04/2007 05/10/2012	Common Stock	3,590
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 42.905	01/13/2012		M	2,152	05/04/2007 05/10/2012	Common Stock	2,152
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 42.905	01/13/2012		M	1,928	05/04/2007 11/01/2012	Common Stock	1,928

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
JOHNSON JOEL W THE HORMEL FOUNDATION 301 N. MAIN STREET AUSTIN, MN 55912	X			

## Signatures

/s/ David F. Duvick, as Attorney-in-Fact for Joel W.  
Johnson

01/17/2012

\_\_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) Reflects the reporting person's payment of the exercise price and withholding taxes for a stock option issued in accordance with Rule 16b-3 by withholding shares of Ecolab 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.

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