

UNITED NATURAL FOODS INC
 Form 4
 January 19, 2006

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 *
TOWNSEND STEVEN H

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
UNITED NATURAL FOODS INC [UNFI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
C/O UNITED NATURAL FOODS INC, 260 LAKE ROAD
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
01/19/2006

____ Director
 ____ Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
Former President, CEO & COB

DAYVILLE, CT 06241

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

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 Ownership (Instr. 4) | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---------|---|--------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 01/17/2006 | | M | | 16,230 | A | \$ 11.4 | 76,424 | D | |
| Common Stock | 01/17/2006 | | M | | 132,032 | A | \$ 12.55 | 208,456 | D | |
| Common Stock | 01/17/2006 | | M | | 76,556 | A | \$ 18.655 | 285,012 | D | |
| Common Stock | 01/17/2006 | | S | | 219,458 | D | \$ 28.0199 | 65,554 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 28,655 | I | See footnote |

(1)

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

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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 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) | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount Number Shares |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 11.4 | 01/17/2006 | | M | 16,230 | 10/21/2005 | 03/31/2006 | Common Stock | 16,230 |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 12.55 | 06/06/2005 | | M | 132,032 | 10/21/2005 | 03/31/2006 | Common Stock | 132,032 |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 18.655 | 06/03/2005 | | M | 76,556 | 10/21/2005 | 03/31/2006 | Common Stock | 76,556 |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

TOWNSEND STEVEN H
C/O UNITED NATURAL FOODS INC
260 LAKE ROAD
DAYVILLE, CT 06241

Former President, CEO & COB

Signatures

Mark Shamber, power-of-attorney
in fact

01/19/2006

__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).

Includes (i) 3,380 shares of common stock allocated to Mr. Townsend under the United Natural Foods, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of January 17, 2006, (ii) 1,693 shares of common stock allocated to Mr. Townsend under the United Natural Foods, Inc. 401(k) plan's UNFI Stock Fund as of January 17, 2006 and (iii) 23,582 shares of common stock owned by Mr. Townsend's wife and children.

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.