Ameris Bancorp Form 4 May 18, 2006

## FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

**SECURITIES** 

**OMB** Number:

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

information contained in this form are not

required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control 3235-0287

Expires:

January 31, 2005

0.5

Estimated average burden hours per

response...

**OMB APPROVAL** 

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

Check this box

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

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

LEWIS CINDI H

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*

See Instruction

		Ameris	Bancorp [ABCB]	(Check all applicable)			
(Last) (First) (Middle) P.O. BOX 3668		, ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	of Earliest Transaction Day/Year) 2006	Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title Other (specify below) EVP & Director of HR			
MOULTRI	(Street) E, GA 31776		endment, Date Original nth/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person			
(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tab	le I - Non-Derivative Securities Acq		, or Beneficial	ly Owned	
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Dat (Month/Day/Year)		3. 4. Securities Acquired Transaction(A) or Disposed of (D) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)  (A) or Code V Amount (D) Price	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)	
Common	05/16/2006		A 3,000 A \$ 20.76	18,358.0703	D		
Common				658	I	Spouse	
Reminder: Rep	port on a separate line	e for each class of sec	urities beneficially owned directly or	•	tion of SI	EC 1474	

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

number.

(9-02)

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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 proof Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercis Expiration Dat (Month/Day/Y	e	7. Title and A Underlying S (Instr. 3 and	Securities	8 I S (
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Stock Option Award	\$ 20.76	05/16/2006		A	4,000 (1)	01/31/2011	01/31/2016	Common	4,000	

# **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

LEWIS CINDI H P.O. BOX 3668 MOULTRIE, GA 31776

EVP & Director of HR

## **Signatures**

Cindi H. Lewis, by Cara P. Horne, Attorney-In-Fact

05/18/2006

\*\*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).
- (1) Options issued under Ameris Bancorp Omnibus Stock Ownership and Long-Term Incentive Plan. Up to 20% of the total option grant amount may vest annually based upon the achievement of annual performance benchmarks.

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.

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