

UNITED NATURAL FOODS INC  
 Form 4  
 January 19, 2006

**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 \*  
**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 Ownership: Beneficial or Indirect (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.

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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)	
				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.