

AMERUS GROUP CO/IA

Form 4

January 05, 2006

FORM 4
UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
Number: 3235-0287
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burden hours per
response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
PESTER JACK C

(Last) (First) (Middle)

699 WALNUT STREET, SUITE
2000

(Street)

DES MOINES, IA 50309

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol
AMERUS GROUP CO/IA [AMH]

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

01/03/2006

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)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Stock	01/03/2006	01/03/2006	A		389	A	\$ 0 16,138
							D

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
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(9-02)

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

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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 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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
				Code V (A) (D)		Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount or Number of Shares
Non-Qualified Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 56.61	01/03/2006	01/03/2006	A	3,500	<u>(1)</u> 01/03/2016	Common Stock 3,500

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
PESTER JACK C 699 WALNUT STREET SUITE 2000 DES MOINES, IA 50309	X

Signatures

/s/ Jeananne M. Celander, attorney-in-fact for Mr.
Pester 01/05/2006

__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) Grant of option exempt under Rule 16b-3. The option becomes exercisable in increments as follows: 1,167 on 01/03/2007; 1,166 on 01/03/2008; and 1,167 on 01/03/2009.

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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