

AMERUS GROUP CO/IA  
 Form 4  
 September 09, 2005

**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 \*  
**HEITZ MARK V**

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 ONE AMVESTORS PLACE, 555 S.  
 KANSAS AVENUE  
 (Street)

TOPEKA, KS 66601-2039

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 09/07/2005

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)  
 President&CEO AmerUs Annuity

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 Ownership (Instr. 4)		
				(A) or (D)	Price				
Common Stock	09/07/2005	09/07/2005	S	2,800	D	\$ 57.55	31,783	D	
Common Stock	09/07/2005	09/07/2005	S	274	D	\$ 57.57	31,509	D	
Common Stock	09/08/2005	09/08/2005	M	26,105	A	\$ 19.15	57,614	D	
Common Stock							11,338.4473	I	401 (k) Plan

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)	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 19.1478	09/08/2005	09/08/2005	M	26,105	<u>(1)</u> 03/28/2006	Common Stock	26,105

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
HEITZ MARK V ONE AMVESTORS PLACE 555 S. KANSAS AVENUE TOPEKA, KS 66601-2039			President & CEO AmerUs Annuity	

## Signatures

/s/ Jeananne M. Celander, attorney-in-fact for Mr. Heitz  
Date: 09/09/2005

\_\_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 became exercisable in increments as follows: 52,404.1664 on 12/31/1996; and 5,221.8584 on each of the following dates - 12/31/1997; 12/31/1998; 12/31/1999; 12/31/2000.
- (2) Price not applicable.

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.