John Deere launches Turf Tech scheme

A major new training scheme for the UK groundcare machinery industry is being launched by John Deere Limited, in conjunction with Brookesby Melton College in Leicestershire, with the approval of BAGMA and the City & Guilds of London Institute, and the support of the Learning & Skills Council.

The only scheme of its kind in the groundcare industry, the John Deere Turf Tech apprentice engineering training programme has been developed to assist dealers and their service departments in the recruitment and training of suitably skilled technicians. It is based on a similar John Deere scheme that has already been operating successfully in agriculture since 1992, and which won a National Training Award at the end of 1997.

Turf Tech is a four-year block release course at Brookesby Melton College, leading to the BAGMA City & Guilds of London Institute 4024 Agricultural / Groundcare Service Engineer NVQ2 Level 2 & 3 Certificates, and the John Deere Turf Tech Certificate.

The standard three year apprenticeship will cover all the normal engineering principles and systems, and include regular sessions at the John Deere Training Centre in Langar. During the additional fourth year, the trainee works at the sponsoring John Deere dealership, and attends at least three service schools at the John Deere Training Centre.

Successful completion of the fourth year of the scheme also qualifies technicians for Associate Membership of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers, and registration as Eng Tech with The Engineering Council.

The first intake of students, who need to be resident in the UK, sponsored by a John Deere dealer and aged 16 or over, is planned for September 2002. Anyone interested in applying will be able to obtain a brochure outlining the scheme from Brookesby Melton College, area careers offices, John Deere Limited at Langar, Nottingham, and John Deere dealers nationwide.

Trilo buys Long Equipment range

MJT Contracts Ltd and Trilo have added the Long Equip range to their own range of Trilo Vacuum Sweepers. All production has been moved to the factory in Holland with MJT continuing to supply parts and machines to the UK. The range has been "thinned down" to the successful collectors and sand spreaders, other machines may be made on request as all drawings are held by Trilo. The company is hoping that the reputation of both TRILOs and Long machines will go hand in hand for a stable future and ask customers to bear with them while we gear production of machines and parts up to the standard expected by existing Trilo customers. They are holding their own range of Trilo Vacuum Sweepers.

Great news for Woodlands

The Forestry Commission has changed its Woodland Improvement Grant giving more opportunity to golf courses to access grant aid for the management of their woodland.

The grant is split into three units: WIG1 for Public Access, WIG2 for Undermanaged Woodland and WIG3 for Biodiversity. It is WIG 2 and WIG3 that are generally of interest to golf clubs, previously uneconomic thinning was not applicable for grant aid under WIG2. This has now changed and therefore golf courses with woodland should now be eligible for 50% of the agreed costs to bring their woodland back to environmentally acceptable levels. This grant has a ceiling limit of £10,000 in grant aid. WIG3 has also been restructured with a new ceiling limit of £50,000 in grant aid. This is available to clients wishing to improve the biodiversity of their woodlands providing it is in accordance with either, the National or Local Biodiversity Action Plan, a Habitat Action Plan or a Species Action Plan. The grant gives a 50% contribution towards agreed costs. For further information please contact John Nicholson Associates at:-

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