Indoor — and movable — pre-fab building an excellent idea

By TERRY BUCHEN

ALENA, Ohio — Impressed with the pre-fabricated pesticide storage buildings being marketed the last few years, we purchased one for our new golf course during construction. We ordered it with spill containment for 150 gallons under the removable flooring; adjustable fiberglass shelving; an explosion-proof, glass-covered 150-watt light fixture; an automatic fire-protection sprinkler; a 24-hour-a-day exhaust fan; and appropriate safety signs inside and out.

Laws vary from state to state. Although it may change soon, in Ohio we are not yet required to have a separate pesticide storage building located a minimum distance from the maintenance building, or any building for that matter.

When we built an addition to our maintenance building, we made provisions to house the pre-fabricated pesticide storage building inside our maintenance building.

It had its own garage door, heating system, safety shower and safety eye-wash shower. Outside, we have provisions for the sprayer to be filled up with water immediately next to the pesticide storage area.

The main reason to have a building within a building was to keep a low profile with the community, while still planning for the future when storage laws will probably change.

Once law requires that we have a separate structure a specified distance from the maintenance building, we will merely have to move the pre-fabricated building with a forklift. We can then run an electric line for the thermostatically controlled heater and a water line for the fire-protection sprinkler.

Also, we will move the safety shower, safety eye wash and hose bib to fill up the sprayer over to the new location. The 24-hour-a-day exhaust fan will have to have a self-opening and closing louver added as well. Heavy landscaping and/or tall wooden fencing can keep this pre-fab building as inconspicuous as practical.

In our situation, we felt it was better to do it this way then to build a separate pesticide storage building separately. Once the pre-fab is moved away from the maintenance building, we can use the separate garage area for additional storage of maintenance equipment and supplies.