

## FarmLinks

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"Toro will be the key corporate partner on this," Pursell said. "They saw the value in bringing end-users down here and we are giving them full autonomy to do what they want with equipment and irrigation." Toro will also be able to conduct research and demonstrate its products for superintendents.

According to Pursell, structuring these deals helped to defray the total cost of the project. "The golf course will cost around \$6 million," he said. "We are getting a lot of deals on things that would certainly add to the cost. Plus, we owned the land already, so we are getting an awful lot for that amount."

### ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS

FarmLinks will also serve as an environmental proving ground.

*'We were able to put the holes where they fit best.'*

— Dana Fry

For example, there will be environmental monitoring stations on the course that will track water quality and chemical leaching. These facilities will be the basis for educational programs for local schools, said Pursell.

Moreover, there will be different test sites for various turf varieties, and the layout will feature USGA, push-up, and California greens.

During the grow-in phase of construction, Pursell plans to test one application of PTI's controlled-release fertilizer against the traditional method of multiple, high-rate applications of soluble fertilizer.

"We want to measure both the environmental effects of nitrogen leaching and the economics of a single application of our product versus multiple applications of fertilizer," Pursell said.

### ON THE COURSE

Landscapes Unlimited is already fully deployed at FarmLinks and is working on the rough shaping and clearing. The 18-hole course and First Tee course are due to be completed by spring 2003.

"We expect to have rough shaping done this summer," said Pursell. "There is a minimal amount of clearing and earthwork to be done because we designed the course with the land."

Dana Fry, of Hurdzan, Fry Golf Course Design said FarmLinks is one of the best sites the firm has ever had. "We were able to put the holes where they fit best," he said. "The course sits in a valley and plays into the foothills, so there is some good topography."

The layout will occupy 500

acres and will be what Pursell calls a "purist" course. "There is no O.B., the holes are spread out, and there are no houses," he said. "It will be just you, the cows, the corn and a little white ball."

### OPEN FOR LIMITED PLAY

FarmLinks will be a daily-fee course but will only be open for limited public play in order to protect the layout's research and business mission. The course

will host less than 15,000 rounds a year, and will be managed by Birmingham-based Honours Golf.

"The objective of this course is not to make money on the business of golf. That is secondary," Pursell said. "It is a showcase for our products and those of other companies. And it is a learning opportunity for the whole industry in terms of the environment." ■

## Clopyralid herbicide expands control

BURRIDGE, Ill. — Riverdale has launched Millenium Ultra Plus, a broadleaf weed herbicide that offers expanded control capabilities. The product contains a combination of proven herbicides MSMA, 2,4-D and Dicamba along with a new broadleaf herbicide, Clopyralid.

"We've added Clopyralid, a

new ingredient that provides excellent control of clover and other more difficult broadleaf weeds," explained Roger Bechle, Riverdale's product manager. The product can control such weeds as clover, spurge, ground ivy, oxalis, plus nutsedge, goosegrass, crabgrass and other grassy weeds.



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