Tax act costing clubs millions

Club managers in the United States project a $26.6-million loss as a result of the Tax Reform Act of 1986, according to a poll by Public Opinion Research, Inc., of Washington D.C.

The poll of Club Managers Association of America members, conducted in conjunction with the CMAA, said 29 percent of those polled noticed a slight reduction in usage of their clubs while 9 percent reported a considerable reduction. Greatest losses were reported in the South.

The random poll also found:

• Currently, 18 percent of the club workforce is being paid at the minimum wage. Managers estimate that a $1 increase in the minimum wage will cost the average club about $660 per week, or about $34,000 a year.

• Sixty percent of the sample reported increases in their insurance premiums; however, only 24 percent were able to give actual dollar amounts. The average increase reported was 39 percent a year.

• Twenty-six percent said the new immigration laws have made hiring more difficult. This difficulty, however, seems to be the law's only significant adverse economic effect on the clubs.

• Fourteen percent of the managers reported a case of AIDS either in the club's membership (4 percent) or labor force (10 percent).

• Total employment in the clubs served by CMAA members was reported as 265,957, up from 229,942 in 1986.

• Fifty-six percent of managers claim to have heard about the requiremnt to have a hazard commnicaiton program while 45 percent say they actuaslly have such a program. (See story on page 1.)

More information about the poll is available at CMAA's national headquarters at 301-229-3600.

GOVERNMENT UPDATE

IRS demanding that companies switch to accrual method

Several members of the American Seed Trade Association report Internal Revenue Service insistence that their accounting method be changed from cash to accrual.

The 1986 Tax Reform Act reortedly is the basis for IRS' position.

Certain exemptions under which a firm can continue the cash method were cited by ASTA legal counsel. For a copy, contact Terry Sullivan at the ASTA office.

Proposed FIFRA changes to be unveiled

Proposed revisions to occupational safety requirements under Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act will be made public in late June or early July when they are presented to the Office of Management and Budget.

A final ruling on the proposals is expected in October.

Some 40 to 45 people from the Council for Lawn Care Information attended a hearing on the requirements in Washington, D.C., in May.

The council was formed because of the adverse media attention and various concerned groups across the country, and also the Public Citizen report on health hazards associated with lawn care chemicals, many of which are used on golf courses.

PLCAA names state gov't affairs director

Thomas Delaney has jouned Professional Lawn Care Association of America as new director of state government affairs.He will work directly with state and local governments on lawn care issues.

With the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Division, the past 15 years, most recently as agriculture manager, Delaney's responsibilities have included administration of the pesticide application certification, recertification and licensing programs.

Delaney currently chairs the American Association of Pesticide Control Officials chemigation committee and represents AAPCO on EPA's Interagency Pesticide Usage Data Planning Committee.

CMAA has new home

Alexandria, Va., will be the new national headquarters of the Club Managers Association of America.

Relocation from its Bethesda, Md., will be completed Sept. 5. A grand opening isplanned Sept. 19 during CMAA's annual leadership conference.