

WOODS APPOINTS MILLER IN SD

OREGON, Ill. — Woods Equipment Co. has appointed Daniel L. Miller to the post of operations manager at its Sioux Falls, S.D. facility. Formerly production manager at Woods' main manufacturing facility here in Oregon, Miller will manage the 200 personnel who produce Woods-Du-Al tractor loaders.

•••

Woods has created a second toll-free number (1-800-31-WOODS), available to Woods dealers as a secondary customer service number to be used for detailed product and order inquiries only.

Seed trade association backs bill now in Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Seed Trade Association "feels good" about the Plant Variety Protection legislation in Congress, according to Vice President of Governmental Affairs Leslie Cahill.

"It's been a long haul and a difficult process," Cahill said. "But, we've had an opportunity to work very closely with farm and commodity groups, and I think we've demonstrated a very good case."

"Plant breeders will certainly benefit from this, and they will enjoy the reciprocity that comes with having good, strong protection and rewarding incentive and ingenuity... All this goes back to yield and performance. That's the only

reason you select a particular variety. If that window — of introduction of new varieties — is interrupted, then farmers will be forced to use older varieties that are less drought-, pest- and disease-resistant. That comes at a cost in two ways. One, you're probably not going to be as good a steward because you'll be using more inputs. Secondly, that itself will add to production costs."

"We're on a roll here with intellectual property rights," Cahill added. "The U.S. has become a very strong advocate and supportive voice [in that regard], and that's referenced in agreements like GATT [General Agreement on Tariff and Trade], NAFTA and, most recently, the biodiversity treaty."

PVP legislation

Continued from page 45

to pass the Senate bill in total, but with some fine-tuned language concerning prompt payment, according to Leslie Cahill, vice president of government affairs for the American Seed Trade Association here.

The Senate added a clause that if a grower contracts with an owner of a plant variety, it must be paid within 30 days of the date set on the contract, or by May 1 — whichever comes first. "We're discussing what happens to the dispensation of the seed if the contract is still not met," she said. "We would prefer this be brought up under contract law. A number of states have arbitration boards. I'm not sure this [PVP Act] is the right vehicle, but if that's where it will be, we certainly want to be accommodating."

Besides the VNS exemption for grass, red clover and alfalfa, Cahill said other changes have been made since the PVP measure was introduced last August:

- Language further clarifying the role of the conditioner. "Basically, the original language said conditioning in and of itself was an infringement, and that's not true because you recognize that there is a provision for legitimate farm-safe seed," she said. "It has to be cleaned. The change says if you're knowingly conditioning seed for unauthorized use, it is an infringement."

- Removing all gender references.
- Striving for prompt payment.
- Including potato varieties, which are now unprotected.

"A number of states are looking at VNS right now," Cahill said.

Officials hope to address disputes involving seeds with somebody at the state level before they get to court.

"The advantage of arbitration is, it is a relatively quick process, less expensive than court, and you can have legal counsel. With an arbitration panel, you are also dealing with people who know something of your business," Cahill said.

She said ASTA hoped both the House and Senate would pass the bill in time for the July recess, which began July 1.

•••

The UPOV treaty deals with other issues as well. USDA PVP Office Commissioner Ken Evans said it would extend plant variety protection, including turfgrass, from 18 to 20 years, and for woody plants from 18 to 25 years.

Tom Salt, plant variety protection examiner with the USDA, added that under the old version of UPOV, "your rights were to the propagating material. No one could reproduce, by seed, your variety. Under new guidelines, that would be extended to reproducible material, plant parts and harvested material..."

The new PVP also addresses Essentially Derived, which casts an eye toward biotechnology.

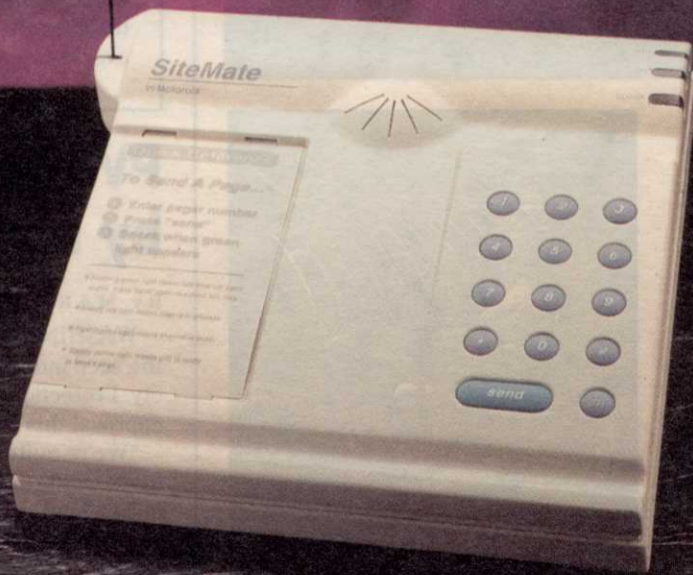
If a breeder uses another person's protected plant in order to develop

Continued on next page

Introducing SiteMate

by Motorola

an exciting new communications system for low cost customer owned paging



The Motorola SiteMate is the perfect unit for in-plant and immediate area communication requirements. Selective tone and voice paging, ease of installation and simplicity of operation make the SiteMate the ideal system for many applications in hospitals, schools, hotels, motels, restaurants, business and industry.

Absolutely no hard wiring is required to install the SiteMate. This high-quality, uncomplicated unit simply plugs into any AC outlet for instant communication with key personnel. The paging system can accommodate up to 60 pagers. The transmitter comes complete with its own indoor low profile antenna system and power supply.

The stylish, compact receivers are made of high impact plastic with sturdy clips that attach to a belt or pocket. The battery life of the pocket pagers is about four weeks on two AAA alkaline batteries. The SiteMate Base and Pagers carry a one year warranty on parts and labor.

For more information about SiteMate, call
nationwide toll-free
1-800-527-1670

11545 Pagemill Rd. Dallas, TX 75243
214-680-9750 Fax: 214-349-8950

PAGE.COM