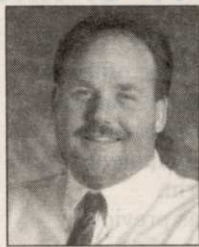


Drake and Ferguson promoted at Ransomes America

LINCOLN, Neb. — Ransomes America Corporation has announced the appointment of Kirk Drake to the position of marketing coordinator.

In his new position, Drake will assist in the development of print and audiovisual materials for advertising and dealer training. He will work with each of the company's three divisions: Turf, Professional Lawn Care, and Industrial & Commercial. His responsibilities also include coordi-



Kirk Drake



Dave Ferguson

nating trade shows.

In other Ransomes news, Dave Ferguson has been named training coordinator for Ransomes America Corp.

In his new position, Ferguson will implement dealer sales training programs in North America and work with training personnel in the United Kingdom. Ransomes America Corp. currently holds yearly dealer sales training sessions in Lincoln, Neb.; Johnson Creek, Wis.; and Long Boat Key, Fla.

Ransomes' Florida dealer expands

Golf Ventures, a Lakeland, Florida-based dealer of Ransomes America Corporation's line of turf maintenance equipment, has expanded its sales and service territory in the state. Golf Ventures' new territory will encompass Ft. Myers, Jacksonville, Naples, Orlando, St. Petersburg, Tampa and Tallahassee.

Founded more than eight years ago, Golf Ventures has grown to be one of Florida's leading turf grass equipment and supply dealers. According to Jim

Sartain, chief executive officer of Golf Ventures, the expanded sales territory means that the firm will distribute Ransomes America Corporation's entire line of Cushman, Ransomes and Ryan turf maintenance equipment to nearly 75 percent of the state. Golf Ventures serves approximately 600 golf courses in Florida.

Sartain added that the firm plans to build a new sales and service office in the Jacksonville area to accommodate the increased sales volume.

EPA fast track

Continued from page 1

their pesticide should be considered safer. If we [EPA scientists] agree, we put the pesticide at the front of the queue," Leslie said. "This year, we probably won't look at anything other than the safer ones."

The pilot biopesticide division "was created particularly to demonstrate how streamlining will work in the government," Leslie said. The fact biopesticides are exempt from a number of regulations speeds up registration naturally. Yet the timing is fortuitous since so many of the new ingredients being tested are biologicals.

"We have seen a big change," Leslie said. "In the last two years about 50 percent [of new registrations] have been biologicals. Before then, maybe two or three of the 30 pesticides registered a year were biologicals."

According to an EPA report, its Office of Pollution Prevention registered 31 new pesticide active ingredients in 1994, more than half of which are considered "reduced-risk pesticides." Reflecting the recent trend, 15, or nearly half, were biological pesticides, according to the report.

Biologicals include microbial pesticides, which are bacteria, viruses, or other micro-organisms. Biochemical pesticides include pheromones, insect or plant growth regulators and hormones.

Creation of the Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division is a major change among several upcoming at the EPA. A comprehensive reorganization plan was expected to be submitted by end of March and to be implemented in 1996, Leslie said.

Meanwhile, the federal EPA hopes to sign formal agreements with their state colleagues similar to the one they signed with the California EPA's Department of Pesticide Regulation "to harmonize federal and state pesticide registration activities."

The agreement will "fast-track" registration of new biological pesticides. The first fruit of the California pact is registration of the pesticide Bio-Save, marking the first anniversary of the agreement to harmonize federal and state pesticide registration activities.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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