

Off The Fringe

Business briefs

FTC approves Bayer acquisition

In May, the Federal Trade Commission approved Bayer AG's acquisition of Aventis CropScience subject to certain conditions. Clearance had already been given by the European Commission in April.

The FTC's approval is conditional upon the divestment or outlicensing of a number of products marketed in the United States, including the insecticide fipronil. The global business in fipronil for agricultural uses must be divested. Bayer may market the product for nonagricultural uses through a co-exclusive license, except in Europe. The FTC also requires that Bayer divest the insecticide acetamiprid in Europe and North America.

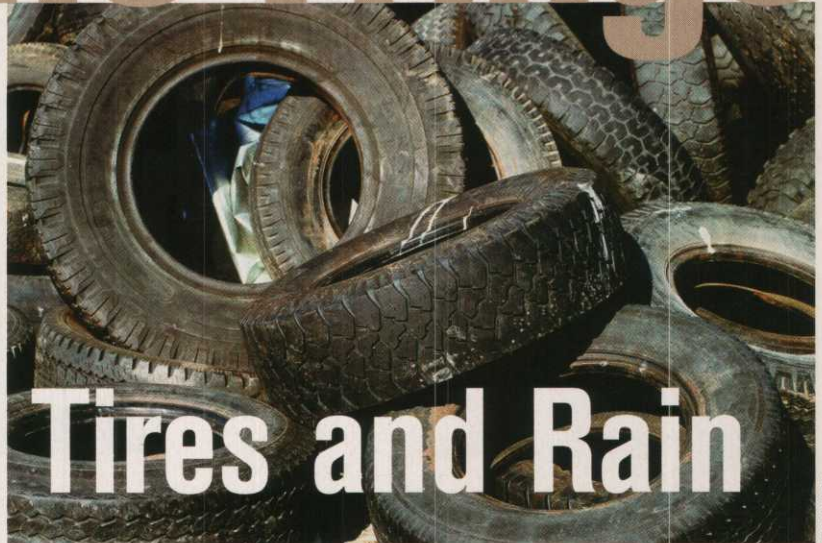
"We're glad that closing — the actual transfer of the business — can now take place soon," said Jochen Wulff, designated Management Board Chairman of Bayer CropScience. "The important thing now is to quickly and efficiently integrate the ACS operations with Bayer's crop protection business and to foster employee and customer awareness of our new corporate identity as Bayer CropScience."

MicroBio assumes Becker Underwood name

Becker Underwood says the Canada and United Kingdom-based MicroBio Group, which it acquired in 2000, has assumed the Becker Underwood name and its global brand-positioning program. "We've been working to function as a singular global company since the acquisition took place," said Becker Underwood President Peter Innes.

Yamaha opens new plant

Yamaha Golf-Car Co. opened its new state-of-the-art golf car and utility vehicle manu-
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Tires and Rain

EYEWIRE

INVENTOR HOPED 'IRRIGATION SYSTEM' WOULD TAKE THE INDUSTRY BY STORM, BUT SO FAR HIS IDEA IS A WASHOUT

By Bruce Allar

You know the old saying, "Build a better mouse-trap, and the world will beat a path to your door." Well, Bob Hendershot of

Sarasota, Fla., built what he thought was a better "rain trap," and the golf world beat a path to the exits, he says.

"We've kind of given up on it," Hendershot says of his Rain Trap System, patented seven years ago. "It's an excellent idea, but the resistance is too strong. Nobody wants to be the first [to try it]."

"The first," in this case, means a superintendent who's willing to place old tires under his golf course's fairways and roughs. Henderson's Rain Trap System features used tires cut in half-bagel style that are laid flat-side down in rows 15 inches under the grass surface where they capture and retain rainwater — or excess irrigation — that's normally lost to plants as it percolates deeper into the soil. The water that pools in those bi-

sected Goodyears, according to Hendershot, represents nearly five days of additional water supply within capillary distance of grass roots.

The water trapped in the tires is above the water table and can't run underground. The water is close to the surface so it's available to the soil and the grass roots that pull moisture from the tires through capillary action. The water level in the tires goes down as it's drawn up to the roots between rains.

Hendershot claims the Rain Trap System can save an average-size golf course of 150 acres about 60 million gallons of pumped water a year.

A proponent of the Rain Trap, Stuart A. Hoenig, a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at the University of Arizona, says the cost of tire-trapping a golf course would be about \$4,500 an acre.

"I tried the Rain Trap System on campus in a grassy area and it cut water use by 50 percent to 60 per-

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facturing facility in June. "We see this expansion as not only an expansion of employees and facilities. We see this as an expansion of customer commitment," said Bill Szarowicz, the company's vice-president.

Institute hopes to open facility

The California Water Institute, an irrigation research facility at Fresno (Calif.) State University, announced it hopes to open an International Center for Water Technology by 2006. The institute would be a consortium of researchers at three state universities in the San Joaquin Valley in California that would focus on researching improvements in irrigation for agricultural, municipal and commercial uses, including golf courses and landscaping.

Toro beats estimates

Bloomington, Minn.-based The Toro Co. said its net second-quarter earnings beat its previous estimates and allowed the company to revise its full-year estimate upward.

Excluding a one-time tax benefit, Toro reported an 11.6-percent increase per share of \$36.4 million or \$2.78 per dilutive share compared to \$32.9 million or \$2.49 per dilutive share. Net sales increased 2.3 percent compared to last year and 1.1 percent compared to the first half of 2001.

Deere's profit jump

Moline, Ill.-based Deere & Co. reported an 11-percent increase in its worldwide net income for its second quarter ended April 30. Net income was \$141.8 million or \$.59 per share compared to \$103.6 million or \$.43 per share last year. Still, the company predicted flat results for the year.

Report urges nitrogen, phosphorous reduction

A National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council report urges the federal government to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous pollution in the nation's waters by at least 25 percent in the next 25 years. From 1960 to 1990, nitrogen content doubled with fertilizer use accounting for more than 50 percent of the increase, the report stated.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Jack Collection

MUSEUM CELEBRATES GOLDEN BEAR'S MYRIAD ACHIEVEMENTS

By Larry Aylward, Editor

You know you've made it when they build a museum in your honor. Well, Jack Nicklaus, winner of 100 golf tournaments around the world (including 18 Majors), "made it" a long time ago. But now the greatest golfer ever (until Tiger or anyone else unseats him) has a building with more hardware than a Home Depot to celebrate his feats.

Nicklaus officially cut the ribbon on the Jack Nicklaus Museum on May 20. The museum is located, appropriately, on The Ohio State University campus in Columbus, Ohio. The Golden Bear, of course, was born and raised in Columbus and shined as a collegiate golfer at Ohio State.

During the private grand-opening celebration of the museum, Nicklaus said he was humbled by the bricks and mortar that housed everything from his birth certificate to a green jacket for winning one of his record six Masters.

"It's one thing to play a game and maybe think you did pretty well at

(Above) Jack Nicklaus scans a few of the many trophies he has won during his illustrious career at the museum in his honor.

it," the 62-year-old Nicklaus said. "But to stand in front of a building that represents everything that happened to you through the years and is going to be here a long time beyond my golf game and my lifetime is something pretty special."

It's downright scary how many trophies, plaques and ribbons Nicklaus has won for playing golf like few people can. He joked that there's nothing left to display in his house. But there's no way all the hardware could fit in his house. "I'm lucky that my mother and wife are pack rats," he said.

The trophies include Nicklaus' first for winning the Scioto Club Juvenile Tournament when he was 10 and his last Major title for winning the 1986 Masters when he was 46.

Of course, there's a ton of brass
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