



THE GRASS ROOTS



an official publication of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume XVI, No. 1

January/February 1989

AG 29 — What's All the Talk About?

By Monroe S. Miller

There has been a flood of conversation of late about "AG 29" and the changes coming in the future that are going to affect us and how we do business on our golf courses. Like many WGCSA members I've visited with, I've been uninformed on what this all means.

When a person needs to know something, nay **anything**, about agricultural policy and legislation in Wisconsin, the person to talk to is Russell Weisensel, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Agri-Business Council. According to Russ, AG 29 governs the use and control of pesticides, the licensing of pesticide manufacturers and labelers, the registration of commercial applicators and sellers, and the storage, sale and display of pesticides. The authority for this rule is from the Wisconsin State Statutes (Wisconsin Pesticide Law). The rule hasn't been revised since 1983 and is undergoing that process now.

The proposed rule changes include some which are straight forward, appropriate and non-controversial. Other changes, especially those that will affect the lawn care industry and possibly golf courses, are more controversial. The purpose of the amendments

is to accomplish the following objectives, according to DATCP officials:

1. Reorganize and clarify existing rules. The proposed rule package includes definitions for terms that previously have not been defined in the rule. The inclusion of chemigation in the rule necessitated definition of several terms. Other sections of the rule are being modified to reflect statutory changes in the Pesticide Law. For example, an uncertified applicator may no longer apply pesticides even under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. Therefore, current reference in AG 29 allowing this practice must be corrected.

2. Provide notice about pesticide application to the consumer. Several sections of the rule address this issue. The purpose of these changes is not only to inform the consumer, but also to eliminate application on the wrong property and to reduce exposure to pesticides. While applicators must provide more information for the consumer, they may not make safety claims about the pesticides they're applying such as "safe" or "harmless". Consumers are demanding that they be provided with detailed information so that they are able to make informed decisions. The department believes that consumers have a right to know the identity and amount of pesticides that are to be applied, as well as all precautions that should be taken to avoid exposure. The rules contain provisions for applicators to notify property owners prior to application of a pesticide.

The revision proposal also includes requirements for notification through posting. The applicator would be re-

quired to post notice when making a commercial application to control pests on turf, ornamentals or in and around structures. Several lawn care companies have already contacted the department about this issue. They believe that the proposal should also apply to homeowners who apply pesticides to their lawns. We anticipate that this topic will generate a great deal of discussion during the ad hoc committee meetings.

3. Expand information base on use of restricted-use pesticides. The department believes that enforcement of the rules pertaining to use of restricted-use pesticides by inappropriate individuals is important. At the present time, very little information other than "kinds and amounts" must be recorded about sales or distribution of restricted-use pesticides. The revision

Continued on page 5

AG 29	1
President's Message	2
Editorial	3
Jottings From the Golf Course Journal	7
Editorial	11
Reminiscing 1988	12
Green Section Activities	15
WTA Turf Conference Moves to the Country Inn	17
Wisconsin Pathology Report	21
Meet "SARA"	24
O.J. NOER CENTER for TURFGRASS RESEARCH Honor Roll	25
Wisconsin Soils Report	27
The Sports Page	31
The Computer Corner	32
Reinders Turf Conference Approaches	35
An Optimistic Forecast	35
Election Results	35

ECKHOFF AWARD
For Excellence In Golf Journalism

