

Environmental Committee Update

By Kevin Clunis, Stillwater Country Club

As reported in an earlier edition of *Hole Notes*, the Environmental Committee was formed to help our organization better understand the environmental considerations for golf courses.

Presently we are putting the final touches on a compliance guideline to governmental regulations for golf courses. The committee, made up of several golf course superintendents, university personnel and associate members, focused on five areas of concern. The areas we researched were Aboveground Storage Tanks, Underground Storage Tanks, Pesticide Laws, Pesticide Spills and Hazardous Wastes.

When you receive your copy of this guideline, please take time to look through it. Included in each of the chapters are phone numbers of the various state agencies along with MGCSA Superintendents. If you have questions, do call the people listed.

There is so much information in this guideline that it is difficult to summarize. But here are a few points to take note of:

- You must keep pesticide records for **five years**.
- A new Restricted Use Pesticide list is included.
- Storage of pesticides away from seed is discussed.
- You must store pesticides in their original container.
- When filling your spray tank, you **must** have a backflow preventer in line.
- The Department of Agriculture will be running inspections of golf courses this year.
- You **must** report spills of all pesticides on non-target areas, no matter the size.
- Eligibility for 90% reimbursement on reported spills is reviewed.
- On USTs installed before 1988, you must have corrosion protection and spill/overflow prevention installed by 1998.
- On all USTs installed before 1974, you **must** have leak detection now; on tanks installed between 1975-1979, you have until 1992 to install leak detection; on tanks installed between 1980-1988,

you have until 1993 to install leak detection.

- You **must** register all UST and Aboveground Storage Tanks (AST) with the State of Minnesota.
- Only requested tanks are eligible for the Petro Fund.
- Hazardous wastes will soon be collected by the state of Minnesota under a new program.

This guideline is for superintendents by superintendents. This is a professional document to help you and your club achieve compliance with environmental regulation. We will be revising chapters and adding new ones as time goes on.

Another matter of concern to golf courses is a proposed ban on mercury fungicides. The House of Representatives introduced a bill (House File 160) that would ban the use of mercury fungicides

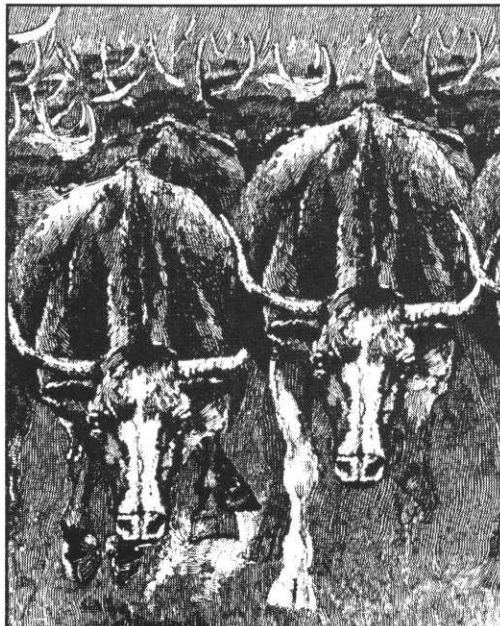
on golf courses by January 1, 1992. Dr. Ward Stienstra and myself testified to the House Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources in behalf of the MGCSA in opposition to the ban. The testimony went well, but the committee passed the bill anyway. As of this writing, the bill is in the Appropriations Committee seeking funds. Our best chance is that this bill will die in committee. It also doesn't have support of our governor, so he could veto it unless it gets stuck onto some conglomeration of a bill package.

I will keep you informed as more information comes along. But in the meantime, some alternative snow mold prevention measures should be considered. Even if we survive this episode of a proposed ban on mercury, the future of the product is, at best, clouded.

STOLEN

Three (3) Mower decks & Three (3) Verticutters for a Jacobsen Greens Mower were stolen from Sleepy Eye Golf Course over the weekend of March 23-24.

Any information or questions, please call Dave Rubey, Sleepy Eye Golf Course at (507) 794-7802.



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