



Government News / Business

Chalk up another goal met by the American Sod Producers Association. The Department of Labor has ruled that sod production and installation are an "agricultural enterprise." This means that OSHA regulations which apply to agricultural activities will also cover sod. Previously, the law was somewhat vague as to whether sod production and installation would be agricultural or construction or just what.

Purchase of the inventory and name of the F. W. Bolgiano & Co. by the Vaughan-Jacklin Corporation is now completed. Gager T. Vaughan, president, says V-J has also agreed to acquire the Michigan State Seed Company. Terms and acquisition price of neither transaction were disclosed.

Retail and wholesale price increases on Agrico consumer lawn and garden products have been announced by the Bishop Company, effective Jan. 1. Reason? The sharp jump in the costs of urea and diammonium phosphate, both basic ingredients. Pre-season bookings will be filled from inventories of products purchased and manufactured at lower cost, says Agrico.

Club Car, Inc. of Augusta, Ga. has been acquired by Johns-Manville Corporation. It will become part of J-M's agri-turf business.

Demand for heavy-duty co-extruded plastic shipping and storage bags will increase by 10 percent in 1974, forecasts Arthur A. Kukla, general manager of U.S. Industrial Chemicals Co. Much of the increase will go to agricultural and chemical packaging. Demand is bullish in bags for fertilizer, bark chips, ammonium nitrate, peat, gravel, compost and other products.

Another purchase...American Motors Corporation of Detroit has agreed to purchase all of the outstanding stock of Wheel-Horse. An undisclosed amount of Am. Motors capital stock and cash is part of the deal. Wheel-Horse will be operated as a subsidiary of the number four automobile manufacturer.

A speeded-up depreciation schedule on new machinery can be used to good advantage if you expect future annual earnings to fall short of earnings in 1973. According to John O. Early, an ag. economist from Idaho, new machinery bought in 1973 may gain a tax savings by claiming a first-year depreciation amounting to as much as 36 percent. Might be a good idea to discuss double declining balance (DDB) with accounting and tax wizards.

Point to Ponder. It's been said we save two to four percent of our nation's energy by moving the clock one hour ahead into Daylight Savings Time. Could we save double that amount of energy if the clock were moved ahead two hours?