



Government News / Business

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is moving ahead on regulations that would affect agriculture and the Green Industry. Latest proposed rules would require guarding of farm field equipment and farmstead equipment. Not included are farm shop equipment or portable power tools. Most farm machinery is adequately guarded, anyway. OSHA would make it a law. This means that power take-off drives on all tractors and equipment must be guarded no later than April 1975. All other mechanical power transmission components must be guarded after Jan. 1, 1975; all equipment, regardless of manufacture date by Jan. 1, 1976. OSHA also proposes that operators be instructed in safe operation and servicing of all equipment.

What about seed supplies? Dr. Guy W. McKee, secretary of the Agricultural Experiment Station Seed Committee at Penn State University, says Pennstar Kentucky bluegrass and Pennfine perennial ryegrass is more available now than in previous years. Seed stocks seem to be good.

Acme Pesticide Division of Sherwin-Williams Company, Cleveland, Ohio, has been acquired by PBI-Gordon Corp. The line of Acme Lawn and Garden Products is considered to be one of the oldest leading pesticide lines. No disclosure was made as to the purchase price. The acquisition extends the Gordon operations to 49 states.

Public Comment is invited on a criteria document before OSHA on worker exposure to inorganic mercury. Specific views are needed on alternatives to recommendations, environmental impact, worker injury and illness experience with mercury, and estimated compliance costs.

Look soon for a ruling by the Environmental Protection Agency on the use of DDT for control of Tussock Moth. The last of the five public hearings was held in Washington D. C. in early February. At presstime, no ruling had been made yet.

71,441 billboards have met their demise, according to the Department of Transportation. Secretary Volpe, who heads the Outdoor Advertising Removal Program, hasn't been cooling his heels with the Highway Beautification Act of 1965. To date, 112,587 small political posters have been removed in addition to the billboards. Colorado leads the states in the removal program with 11,267, followed by South Dakota with 11,237; Georgia, 7,090; Wyoming, 3,444; and Montana, 3,327. Volpe said that with the help of the new "Sign Cost and Depreciation Schedules" developed recently, "we expect that the removal of unsightly billboards will be greatly accelerated in the future."

Velsicol Chemical Corporation is expanding its line of industrial vegetation control chemicals with the addition of the Vegatrol herbicide series. This line includes formulations of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T amines and low volatile esters. The company continues to manufacture and market Banvel.

Sales forecast for Hahn, Inc., Evansville, Ind. is for a 25 percent increase in 1974. Last year's increase in sales was 28 percent. The company has just completed a quarter million dollar equipment modernization program. This will enable Hahn to step up production for all three divisions.