

only practical alternate is rail to a central location and reship by truck to the customers.

The company said this alternative would increase transportation costs for fertilizer from a low of \$4.88 per ton, to a high of \$9.40 per ton. "This additional cost would have to be passed on to the customer in the form of higher fertilizer prices."

The elimination of branch lines would not only increase fertilizer costs but all equipment, chemicals and materials formerly transported by rail would undergo similar price increases.

Sulphur Price Rise Announced by Freeport

Freeport Minerals Company announced a general increase of \$5.50 per ton in its domestic prices for sulphur.

Also its charges for transportation, terminaling and insurance for delivery of the sulphur to its customers would be increased to reflect its costs of providing those services.

The increase makes Freeport's price for regular dark sulphur f.o.b. Port Sulphur, La., \$33.50 per ton, and in the Florida market, the largest sulphur-consuming market in the world, \$36.50 per ton, f.o.b. Tampa terminal. They did not announce specific prices in other markets but said that these prices

reflected the differences in transportation, terminaling and other costs to these destinations from Port Sulphur.

The domestic price schedule will apply as government price regulations and contract provisions permit.

U.S. Forest Service Plans Go-ahead for DDT

Last month the Environmental Protection Agency authorized the emergency use of DDT for control of tussock moth. The conclusion on probable need to use DDT is the subject of an analysis and final proposal developed by the Forest Service, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Interior's (USDI) Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Indian Affairs, Oregon State Department of Forestry, Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Idaho Department of Public Lands.

John R. McGuire, chief of the Forestry Service, said the final environmental statement on tussock moth control was filed recently in Washington, D.C., with the Council on Environmental Quality.

McGuire added that the analysis indicates the necessity to plan now to use DDT to control the outbreak, in order to prevent widespread damage to the forests and related resources. The conclusion is based on the latest count of natural occurring virus that kills the

caterpillar stage, the count of living eggs, consideration of all alternatives and public response to the statement.

The effects of natural factors will have to be determined by field observations in specific areas before spray plans are made final. Exact acreage figures, therefore, will not be available until the time that spraying must begin, in late May or June.

In addition to control efforts, field experiments and pilot projects will be conducted this year. Scientists have developed formulations of a natural virus and a bacterium which have shown control potential but further testing is needed.

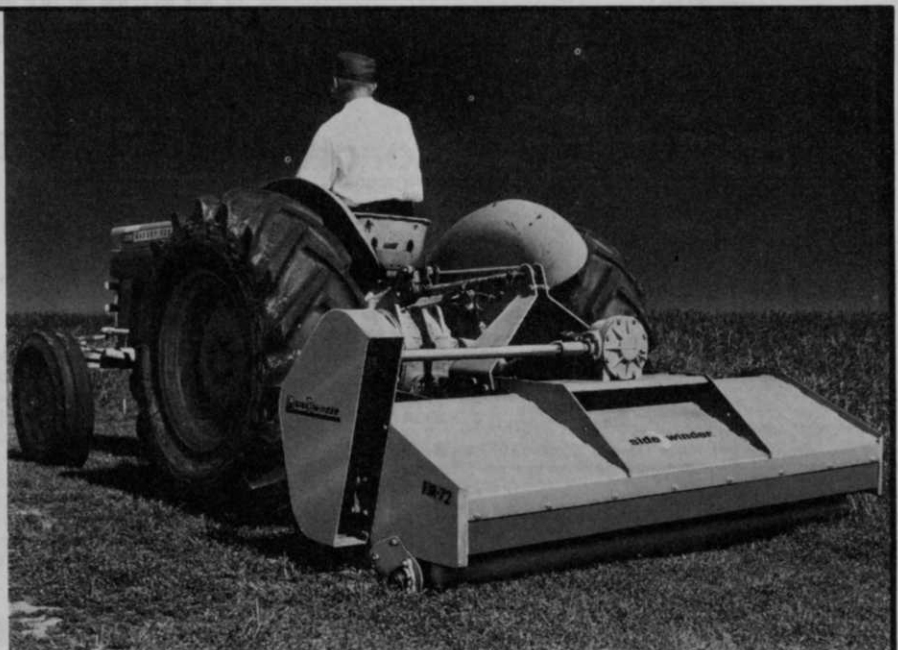
Congress is considering a request for \$3 million in supplemental funds to control the outbreak. It had earlier appropriated funds to expedite research and to salvage timber killed as a result of earlier defoliations by the tussock moth.

If treatment is necessary, helicopters will apply DDT at the rate of ¼ pound in one gallon of fuel oil per acre, probably starting about June 1. Chief McGuire said all applications will be carefully supervised and monitored in a cooperative effort involving the Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and USDI's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Bureau of Land Management, and some 30 state agencies and organizations.

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Copies of the final statement have been mailed to various state, federal and local agencies and leading national organizations for review and comments. The statement will also be available for inspection about April 3, during working hours, at the office of the Chief of the Forest Service and at the following places: Forest Service regional offices in Portland, Ore., Ogden, Utah, and Missoula, Mont.; forest supervisors' offices in Pendleton, Baker and John Day in Oregon, Okanogan, Colville, and Wenatchee in Washington, McCall, Boise, Twin Falls, Grangeville and Coeur d'Alene in Idaho.

It will also be available for purchase from the National Technical Information Service, Department of Commerce, Port Royal Road, Springfield, Va. 22151. Cost per copy has not yet been determined.

Servis Equipment Co. Changes Name to Austin

Servis Equipment Co., Dallas, Texas, will now be operating under the new corporate name of Austin Products, Inc.

Austin will continue to market rotary cutters, utility blades, rakes, scrapers and other shortline implements under the "Servis" brand. Tillage tools will be marketed under the "Athens" brand.

The announcement of the name change was made following the annual directors and stockholders meeting.

Western Timber Exports Banned by USDA

Exports of unprocessed timber from National Forest lands in the west were banned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in line with new appropriations act language.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Robert W. Long also announced that no longer will timber from western National Forests be sold to replace timber cut on private lands and exported.

The changes affect the National Forests in the 48 contiguous states west of the 100th meridian, which runs from central Texas to central North Dakota. Language in the 1974 appropriations act called for a ban on sale for export of unprocessed timber from these forests and also for a prohibition on substitution of federal timber for exported private timber. Processed timber, which includes such manufactured products as lumber, construction timbers, plywood, pulp and pulp products, poles and pilings, may continue to be exported without restriction.

Previously, legislation had permitted annual sales for export of up to 350 million board feet of unprocessed timber from these National Forests. There were no regulations governing substitution.

The new regulation was first proposed last Oct. 26. In line with public comments and suggestions, the definition of "substitution" was changed to mean the purchase of National Forest timber or the export of private timber in amounts exceeding historic levels.

The definition of a cant as processed timber was not changed. A cant is a timber which is sawn on two sides and is no thicker than 8-3/4 inches. It is later re-manufactured into more finished products, such as boards.

"Many people advocated that a cant not be defined as processed timber, but many others were opposed to a change at this time," said Forest Service Chief John R. McGuire. "Since the evidence either for or against a change is not conclusive, the Forest Service will hold public hearings on the west coast in about three weeks to obtain more complete information on the question. If the hearings uncover evidence of the need for changes, they will be made."

Persons considering investments in plants for producing cants from National Forest timber would be advised to defer their decision, Chief McGuire cautioned.



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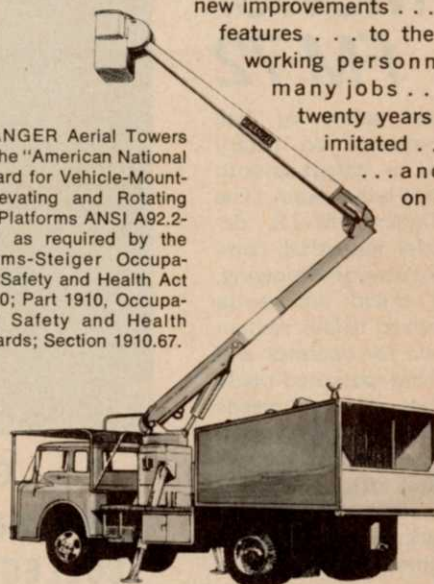
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